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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, October 19, 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

The House met at 10:00 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of HR, Mr. Abernethy.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 58-17(3):
2012 SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to report that the Government of the Northwest Territories hired 308 students this past summer. This was an increase of 9 percent from 2011, when 286 students were hired. Of the 308 students hired, 54.6 percent were indigenous Aboriginals.

The summer student employment is an investment in our future and our youth. Through this program, northern students gain valuable work experience to complement their formal education and test drive the GNWT as a future employer.

At the end of the summer, we asked the students about their experiences. The feedback we received was very positive. One student responded by saying the best thing about working for the GNWT was the autonomy: having a supervisor who believed the staff could handle their responsibilities. We want these students to come back next summer and apply what they've learned. They'll get increasingly complex duties and develop as individuals. We want them to have fulfilling careers after they graduate and consider a career with the public service.

This year we made changes to the summer student orientation to ensure that students understand their job duties and our expectations of them. We held three full-day orientation sessions in Yellowknife, and one each in Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Inuvik. Students had the opportunity to hear about work and life in the GNWT from all levels of management. I had the chance, at one session, to explain our expectations and promote the public service as an employer. While fielding questions, I

was very impressed by the intelligence and enthusiasm of this bright group of students.

Students also heard from GNWT employees who had recently taken advantage of the summer student and internship programs to start their careers in the public service. Peer feedback on how experience complements formal education helps ensure that our youth are equipped for a positive and successful career after graduation.

Our investment in summer students is paying off. Our public service workforce is growing older, and so we rely on student programs and internships to transfer knowledge from one generation to another. To quote another student, "there are many benefits to returning to the GNWT after graduation; it is one of the best places to start as a newly graduated person for the experience and responsibilities that you are given." The GNWT has just been recognized as one of Canada's top 100 employers for 2013, and our efforts to recruit and retain students and interns contributed greatly to that recognition. I was proud to see the Globe and Mail coverage included an interview with a former student who is now a senior manager in our government.

Mr. Speaker, it was a very successful summer for the employment of students. I would like to thank department and agency managers for the incredible work they do with the students and to all others who support this program. Summer students are a good investment in the public service of the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 59-17(3):
SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, Small Business Week is from October 14th to 20th. Small Business week gives us the opportunity to celebrate the contributions and achievements that Northwest Territories entrepreneurs make to all our communities. I would like all of us to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our small business owners and operators. They keep our economy strong, employ residents and supply us with necessary goods and services.

When I talk to entrepreneurs throughout the territory, I am impressed with their determination, resilience and hard work. Our economy is constantly changing and our small business owners evolve right along with it to keep on top of this ever changing business climate.

The world's economy has taken a hit over the past couple of years and is still recovering; the Northwest Territories was also not immune to the impact of the global economic crisis. However – and in true testament to our Northern resilience – it is during difficult times that small businesses get creative.

Time and time again, NWT small business owners leverage this creativity into successful ventures.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is dedicated to reducing administrative “red tape” for small businesses. The GNWT Program Review Office works with departmental staff to ensure efficiency, determine program effectiveness and report on achieved results. In addition, several initiatives are also in place. These include BizPal, a one-stop on-line resource to learn about all permits and licences required to operate a business in the NWT, our manufacturing policy which simplifies and reduces red tape for manufacturers selling their products to the GNWT, and our regional offices which are available to provide assistance and support to all NWT businesses.

We will continue to provide support for entrepreneurs so they can continue to operate successful businesses, strengthen and diversify our economy, and keep our communities strong.

To show support for our small business owners and entrepreneurs, I encourage people to buy local to show support for our northern businesses and ensure money stays in the territory, this week and every week of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT COSTS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a response Wednesday to my written questions to the Minister of Transportation's climate change adaptation statement of May 31st. It contains some startling cost figures and is clearly a prophesy for the future.

I asked for information on a number of topics, including cost impacts on the road systems. A five-year-old conservative estimate sets the impact on roads to \$1.2 million every year. Five-year-old

figures aren't too useful when Arctic sea ice melt estimates are withering faster than the ice.

Elsewhere the response tops up the bill: \$300,000, for ferry ice spray equipment, \$1.5 million for Highway No. 3 test strips and \$100,000 for a vulnerability assessment, \$700,000 to extend openings at three ferry crossings, \$852,000 to repair shifting highways. The report goes on: \$230,000 for Climate Change Adaptation Plan development, \$140,000 for ice penetrating radar, \$90,000 for ice road adaptation projects, \$860,000 for improved de-icing facilities at the Yellowknife Airport.

Mr. Speaker, I asked for information on the Inuvik Airport when their plane slid off the runway, but that wasn't supplied.

In all, over \$6 million in increased costs just for the specifics I asked for. Remember, this is only the Department of Transportation budget. It doesn't even touch the costs to all other departments for damage to infrastructure, increased costs of maintenance, or impacts on cost of living for all of our citizens for shrinking roads, impacts on different structure, et cetera, damage to their property.

As the Minister's May 31st statement said, the facts are daunting and pose a new level of uncertainty. So what's the response? Well, the proud news release of last week confirmed we hope to limit NWT greenhouse gas emissions of 2020 to a 66 percent growth over 2005 levels. As our current highways degrade and soak up increased maintenance dollars, we plan to drive new roads across some of the worst construction conditions in the world.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: We may be able to build the Inuvik-Tuk highway and Mackenzie Valley Highway but can we maintain them? Just ask my colleague Mr. Menicoche about Highway No. 7.

So what would be an appropriate response, Mr. Speaker? We clearly need to recognize our situation and provide the leadership so needed on this pervasive issue. Let's put in place the policies that lead aggressively to a low-carbon economy in ways that build new industries, provide new jobs, strengthen our local economies and generate the environmental benefits we all want so much.

Such action would attract the people we want to come north and join our society as we lead the way. I will be asking questions later during question period, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The renewal of the Wildlife Act is a high priority for this government. Updates to existing legislation are long overdue and additional provisions to modernize the act are equally needed. The renewal of the Wildlife Act has been a long journey, a trail that hasn't ended yet.

First Nations governments have lingering concerns about how this legislation, when passed, will affect their traditional lands and how they will be able to manage the resources that have sustained their lives for centuries. In spite of assurances that the rights guaranteed to the Aboriginal people in the Canadian Constitution will prevail over the act, members of our First Nations communities remain concerned about how their rights will be upheld.

One of the greatest areas of conflict when the Wildlife Act was introduced in the last Assembly was membership in the Conference on Wildlife Management. If we want a stable and effective wildlife management system, this source of disagreement must be resolved before legislation is passed. Our approach to serious issues affecting wildlife will only be as strong as the consensus reached among stakeholders on basic wildlife management structure. That emotion will also impact wildlife management.

I caution Cabinet that many people in the Northwest Territories still feel that the Devolution Agreement-in-Principle and the new Wildlife Act are undermining their treaty and Aboriginal rights. What we can do right now is agree to work together.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has deferred the introduction of the new act for a few more months in order to continue to address some of the divisive issues in the legislation that was introduced in the 16th Assembly. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources conducted further consultation this summer and has made an effort to meaningfully engage all stakeholders. The general public and, in particular, First Nations must be fully engaged in the development of this important act.

Members on this side of this House look forward to working with Cabinet to pass a sound piece of legislation that works in the best interest of wildlife and the rights and interests of all people in the Northwest Territories.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TRANSITIONAL AND PUBLIC HOUSING
NEEDS IN YELLOWKNIFE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke yesterday in my statement of a number of issues

raised during the Yellowknife municipal election, but time did not permit me to list them all.

Another election concern mentioned many times during the campaign was the cost of living, and a huge contributor to Yellowknife's cost of living is housing. This city lacks both affordable housing and enough housing for the homeless, including the homeless who couch surf.

Mr. Bromley spoke yesterday of lengthy waiting lists at all of the local housing authorities, Yellowknife included. If you're a single person in Yellowknife looking to get into public housing, you won't. There are not enough units and the policies place singles as an absolute bottom priority for public housing.

There's one particular wait list that I'm especially concerned about and that is the waiting list at Rockhill, the only transitional housing facility in Yellowknife. I was shocked to hear last week that their waiting list is at 150 families and increasing daily. That is in addition to the applications for public housing at the Yellowknife Housing Authority.

Yellowknife is a magnet community and many NWT residents move to Yellowknife from their own community to access the programs and services that are offered here. Yellowknife needs more public housing and more transitional housing.

Because this is a large community compared to others in the NWT, because there are many single family homes and a thriving rental market here, it is assumed, wrongly, that anyone living in Yellowknife can find housing for themselves and their families. This works for most, but low-income families are seriously struggling.

As I said, there are over 150 applicants on the waiting list at the YWCA transitional housing. Why such a long list? Because people can't afford the rent charged for market housing. The current vacancy rate of less than 1 percent favours landlords, and public housing units are just not available.

Yellowknife needs more public housing and more transitional housing. The NWT Housing Corporation has about 2,400 public housing units throughout the NWT, and that's in 23 of our communities. How many of those public housing units are in Yellowknife? Yellowknife has only 289 units. That means 12 percent of the total public housing units in the NWT are in Yellowknife. Twelve percent to serve 50 percent of the NWT's population. That's not enough and the Housing Corporation must act to fill Yellowknife's urgent need.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
"PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY" CONFERENCE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that. Last week in Yellowknife I had the pleasure of attending the Northern Governance and Economic Prosperity Conference that brought together indigenous northern government, business leaders, policymakers, social activists and economists under the theme Pathways to Prosperity.

The premise of the conference was to reflect on northern political institutions that could change to better adapt to various governance authorities while balancing the social and economic challenges. This was a tall task, but I must praise the work of the conference co-chairs, Mr. Willard Hagen, Dr. Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox and our former Premier Mr. Stephen Kakfwi for an outstanding job.

Both our Premier and Minister Ramsay had keynote addresses to the conference delegates. One key line that resonated well by Premier McLeod was: "We want a territory where strong northern governments work together in the best interests of all people of the Northwest Territories, while exercising their own authorities and respecting each other's jurisdiction." I commend the Premier for his consistent and strong message on behalf of the 17th Assembly.

I was also taken back by the size and the scope of the conference topics such as social suffering, managing and creating capacity, fracking, resource management and economic wellness. It was clear that the overarching theme of finding pathways to prosper was indeed befitting, given the economic setbacks faced by many in the Northwest Territories. One particular session I attended was called "Can territorial government foster economic wellness". Particularly interesting was the premise that one could measure our economy by virtue of its wellness or social wellness. In essence, these governments that strive for strong social wellness behaviour had a much better capacity for achieving a stronger economic future; a simple message but a very meaningful outcome.

Finding ways to balance amidst poverty, political development and economic opportunity is no small feat. Yet, I believe this conference captured quite nicely all the major roadblocks at work while keeping a lens on prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, again, my congratulations for all the hard work behind the scenes in preparing for such a large-scale and successful conference. The delegates have all returned home and I know that many of them are using their newly minted tools for a better Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FORT SIMPSON MUNICIPAL ELECTION

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to congratulate the newly elected Village of Fort Simpson councillors and the DEA council. But firstly, congratulations to Mr. Mayor Sean Whelley, who was acclaimed as mayor of Fort Simpson. It shows the confidence residents have in him by returning him for a second term. Congratulations to the newly elected Village of Fort Simpson council members: Mr. Larry Campbell, Mr. Robert Hanna, Mrs. Leah Keats, Ms. Marie Lafferty, Mr. Ron McCagg, Mrs. Stella Nadia, Mrs. Renalyn Pascau-Matte and Mr. Tom Wilson.

I also commend those who were not elected, for putting their name forward, and a big thank you to those councillors not re-elected, who dedicated their time and effort in serving the Village of Fort Simpson for the past three years.

Congratulations to DEA members elected and re-elected: Mrs. Elizabeth Hardisty, Mrs. Mary Isaiah, Ms. Tanya Klassen, Ms. Martina Norwegian, Ms. Marion Storm and Mr. Rock Matte. I wish you every success in your term. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PERMANENT NURSE IN TSIIGHEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Mackenzie River will soon be freezing and Tsiigehtchic will be cut off from Inuvik by road, and Fort McPherson too, for that matter. We love this time of year, and not just because it's the only period that a nurse is stationed in Tsiigehtchic. I wonder how many years my predecessor and I have been asking for that nurse to stay put in Tsiigehtchic year round. It seems that our pleas and that of the local leadership are falling on deaf ears.

I'm willing to give the current Health Minister the benefit of the doubt, since he's only been in the office for a year. He could become famous in the Mackenzie Delta if he finds a way to station a permanent nurse in Tsiigehtchic. The Minister probably remembers that the idea made its way into the Health and Social Services 2010-11 business plan, only to be forgotten ever since.

A local nurse would improve health care in Tsiigehtchic and reduce the need for so much travel to Inuvik and beyond. I think a local nurse would help people get attention to their medical needs earlier, before they become critical. This is one of our main goals for improving our health care system.

Back in May I said that housing is no longer a problem, Mr. Speaker. The community has set aside housing for a nurse.

We're coming up to next year's budget and I want to go on record today. I'm urging the Health Minister to please include funds for a nurse in Tsiigehtchic. The allocation would go to the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority which has been administered by his department for some years now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
REGIONAL SERVICES FOR
HOMELESSNESS AND DRUG TREATMENT

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday my colleagues had the opportunity to speak about treatment centres and day shelters, homeless shelters here in Yellowknife. I do agree with them; Inuvik does have an issue and it's something that needs be addressed. In Yellowknife here, you just need to walk down to the corner to see the issues that present themselves to the capital of the Northwest Territories. We all have to work together to find solutions to these problems of homelessness, addictions, mental health, but we can't forget about the regional centres and we can't forget about the communities.

I had the opportunity to attend a panel discussion here in Yellowknife about a month ago when we were going through our business sessions. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear about all the services that are provided in Yellowknife. Although we have a big population here, the services that are provided here don't exist in the small communities or the regions. I am just going to list off a few here; the YWCA at Rockhill, the Salvation Army, Centre for Northern Families, the John Howard Society, the youth centre ministries, also known as SideDoor Youth Centre, the Bailey House and the Betty House, just to name a few. I'm sure there's more.

If we go to the communities, Fort Simpson, Hay River, Norman Wells, we don't have those types of infrastructures or services to provide to our people that need it. We can't forget about the communities or the regional centres who are dealing with issues like this.

Mr. Speaker, I made my statement today because it did sound like Yellowknife has a really big issue and they do and we need to find solutions and support them. But outside of Yellowknife, we have 32 other communities that do need the help too.

When it comes to implementing services such as detox centres, treatment centres and homeless shelters, service providers from the communities want to hear more of a commitment rather than a maybe yes, maybe no answer to these much needed services in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DECENTRALIZATION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to talk today a little bit on one of my favourite topics: decentralization.

We've been talking about this a lot and I'd like to thank the Premier and Minister Ramsay, who recently took the time to meet with a delegation from Hay River, including MLA Bouchard, myself, the then-acting mayor and representative from the Chamber of Commerce, and the town SAO who came up to Yellowknife and discussed several issues, but one of them, and one of the very important ones, of course, was decentralization.

I don't need to tell people I've been around this place a long time, and although this has been the cry of Members from outside of Yellowknife for many years, I am very pleased to report that we are starting to see some sincere and concrete commitment and movement on the part of this Cabinet to realize some decentralization of some of the programs, services, positions and activities that normally would occur in the capital to the other regions.

I can't go into detail at this time, of course, because some of these things haven't been announced yet, but I think I can safely say there's been some groundwork done in terms of determining the capacity that communities outside of Yellowknife have to accommodate workers. They've looked at office space, they've looked at housing, they've looked at space in schools. This government has begun to look at those things and we are expecting to see some early results from some of that work that's been done.

You know, decentralization isn't just about government jobs and government departments. It's the mindset of the government, that when they're planning anything, that they think of how we can benefit and fairly distribute those activities outside of the capital, even things like holding meetings. There are a lot of meetings that go on that are undertaken by government departments. I mean, even that is decentralization, if smaller gatherings can be sent out to be held in the communities.

I'd like to thank Minister Abernethy for choosing Hay River as the location of the first gathering of the anti-poverty roundtable, and they came down to Hay River and subsequently met in Inuvik. These are the concrete kinds of things that I think this government can do to demonstrate that they do care about sustainable, vibrant communities outside of the capital. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ON-LINE SERVICES FOR
MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATION
AND DRIVERS' LICENCE RENEWALS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many of us have sat in the waiting room at the motor vehicle office watching Food Network while we're waiting to renew our driver's licence or vehicle registration? And only if you're from a large centre do you get that chance, because if you're from a small centre you don't have the chance to sit and watch the Food Network while you sit for a long period of time to get that driver's licence renewed.

Quite frankly, this is a service that should be moving to go on-line. In many provinces across Canada, residents, in the comfort of their own homes, in front of their own TVs and computers can renew their own licences, cancel their vehicles, licence, registration, schedule road and knowledge tests, request driver records, discard vehicle and cancel temporary licence and registration. They can change the address on their driver's licence, make payments of any other motor vehicle service, request drivers' abstracts and even, in some cases, replace drivers' licences and IDs, and that's all on-line.

The province of Ontario even offers mail service to send you the stickers for your licence plates to do your updated renewal. Even provinces with limited numbers of services provide these types of services to their residents because they feel on-line services are important.

This is the type of information we should be working towards to convey to our citizens. We live in a day and age where we shop on-line, we pay our bills and taxes on-line, we read the latest newspapers, and we even book flights to exotic locations. Some of us have applied to university on-line, and heck, in cases like myself, I've even bought paints on-line. But I have no doubt that people are even watching the proceedings of the House on-line from, again, the comfort of their desktop, laptop and even, in some cases, mobile phones.

So with all these fantastic services all provided on-line, it's time that we move to simple services such as driver abstract options on-line. I think the Department of Transportation could be looking at this on a serious note. Frankly, the issue I see right now is a lot of good citizens here don't have 45 minutes or longer to go sit down at the DMV for simple services. And if you live in a community, should you be forced to drive an hour just to go get your civil services through the DMV? I think this would be a great leap forward to the citizens of the Northwest Territories and I would think that it would demonstrate that we're tuned in to territorial issues,

this being simply one of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to welcome a couple of visitors from Norway: Marthe Svensson and Gaute Svensson and their son Edgar. They may be back and forwards from the lobby there. Also, John Stephenson, a constituent of Weledeh. The visitors from Norway are, of course, staying in Weledeh. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Today I'm happy to have my wife present here today. It's not too often she gets to come down and be here. So it's good to have you here.

Moving on, item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Blake.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 188-17(3): NURSE IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my opening statement, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. One of the benefits I mentioned earlier in my statement, what would it really cost to station a nurse in Tsiigehtchic? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we were to station one nurse in Tsiigehtchic, I would assume that just the cost of the salary would be approximately \$120,000 with all the benefits and everything, but we would not be able to station just one nurse in Tsiigehtchic.

MR. BLAKE: What savings does the Health department estimate there would be as a result of reducing travel and some lowering of the need for critical care?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: According to the integrated service delivery model we are using and have been using for a while that we are updating, there would be a savings of travel, that's true, of medical travel and so on. To what degree I don't have that information here with me, because we haven't tested that to the degree where we are trying to put a service in Tsiigehtchic, but we haven't cost out to what degree that would save by having a registered nurse in Tsiigehtchic at this time.

MR. BLAKE: Will the Minister station a licenced practical nurse in Tsiigehtchic on a full-time basis as a pilot project?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We are actually looking at that. What we are doing with the integrated service delivery model is determining what service is most often needed in each of the communities, going right from the smallest community to the largest community, and what is the most common service that is required. Within that model what we do is determine how much service, how many nurses are needed in each community. Then we have the issue of safety, and within that issue the Canadian Association of Nursing has one criterion, I suppose, in as far as the amount of population that would be needed to accommodate a nurse. What they're saying is that because there is, we are not allowed to place one nurse in a station by themselves due to safety reasons, that we need at least two nurses and you have to have a population of at least 250 people in one location in order to accommodate two nurses, whether they are registered nurses or LPNs.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister budget for one nurse and one LPN in Tsiigehtchic as part of the budget for 2013-2014?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: As I indicated, we are looking at that. We need to determine the needs by how using that integrated service delivery model will, again, determine the scope of practice that is presented to every community through all the of physician fields. With that model we have to make that decision to use our resources where they have the greatest impact. We're not pleased that we have communities that do not have nursing, there's no question about it, but we have to make the right decision. It's very difficult to pay people on a full-time basis for doing nothing. That's what happens sometimes when you have a population base that's too small and too many resources to respond to that population base.

However, we've talked about the idea if you do have individual nurses in Tsiigehtchic, they're 20 minutes away on the road to a larger populated area, being Fort McPherson. So we may actually have to work with both communities in order to try to accommodate a nurse being located in Tsiigehtchic. Again, working with the authority and the department, we're trying to look at all those models. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 189-17(3):

WAIT TIMES FOR DRIVER TESTING

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Hawkins brought up earlier about the department of motor vehicles and I particularly like the Food Network and it makes the wait feel less long. The people at DMV are great, once you get to work with them.

I have a constituent concern that came forward to me about a son of a constituent who was told that there was a three-month waiting list to get their road test. This was confirmed by the office of the Department of Transportation. The unfortunate thing is that not everyone passes their first road test. So in this situation here, we may have people in Yellowknife here and the surrounding area that use our services here for motor vehicles, that it could be up to a six-month waiting list to get a driver's licence. I think this is something that doesn't make a lot of sense.

My question for the Minister of Transportation is: Why is this happening in Yellowknife motor vehicles office?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there are wait times. The department has been looking at a way to address this.

About 60 percent of all drivers' examinations in the Northwest Territories are done in Yellowknife and that was by one driver examiner. Recently, the department has centralized the management structure of the transport compliance section and moved the driver examination program to that area. This has given the department some additional flexibility to deal with the significant demand that we've seen in that area.

Staff are working on a plan right now to reduce the waiting times in Yellowknife by training and utilizing highway transport officers to enhance that program, especially during vacations and other issues that may arise. I thank the Member for bringing up that concern.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I'd like to remind our visitors in the gallery to shut the ringers off on your cell phones. Mr. Dolynny, oral questions.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for replying. It sounds like there are some measures that are going to be coming forward to decrease these wait times in Yellowknife.

How are these measures going to be monitored so that we know, as Members, that constituents' needs are being addressed here for Yellowknife?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We've recognized that; the department's recognized that. As I've

mentioned earlier, we're taking steps to address that.

In terms of monitoring, I'm an MLA, I've got constituents, as well, and the Member's got constituents and we hear from our constituents whether or not the level of services is up to par. If it's taking longer than three months to receive a driver's licence, we're going to hear about it.

Certainly, we're paying attention to the issue and we're taking steps so that the wait times aren't what they've been in the past and they will improve.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do appreciate the Minister's response, I just don't like using constituents as a means for a testing ground for inadequacies in our programs. I'm hoping the department has their own measures placed inside. Which leads me to another question.

We don't talk about employment. Sometimes driver's licences are required for employment. Employers who desperately need drivers sometimes are now in the same boat, where they've got to wait three months, potentially, for drivers to come on board for employment.

What is the department doing to address the employment component of employees and employers having to wait now for these three months? Will these measures address this sector?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Certainly, the department's heard the concerns and we are going to address those concerns. Especially when it's a time sensitive thing and it deals with employment, I mean, that's why we need to ensure that the wait times aren't what they've been.

We are, again, certainly taking the steps to ensure that we are going to improve the wait times when it comes to receiving a driver's licence and getting the driver examination here in Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final supplementary, Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we are talking today about issues in the Yellowknife DMV office and there could be potential issues throughout the territory.

Would the Minister come forward to the House and maybe provide a comprehensive review of our services in comparison to what you would expect across Canada? Would the Minister provide that for Regular Members as an overall review?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I could commit to providing Members with that information. In some of the other communities in the Northwest Territories, the wait times aren't what we see here, in Yellowknife. Some of the statistics that I have and have provided to the Member, would indicate that they're not near what they are in Yellowknife. Once we get the information and compile it, we'll share it with the Members.

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

QUESTION 190-17(3):
ON-LINE SERVICES FOR DRIVERS' LICENCES
AND REGISTRATION RENEWAL

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about asking the Department of Transportation to move what I would define as simple or regular services to on-line, and certainly give our consumers or constituencies opportunity to do that. If you live in Liard or maybe in another type of small community like that, you have to go to Fort Simpson to do your licence plate renewal for your vehicle. That's something you could do on-line. If you're busy in Yellowknife and you don't have an hour to go sit down just for a quick renewal, you could process it on-line.

My question is such: What's holding the Department of Transportation from moving forward on an on-line service option that would help our citizens or constituents to do business a little better and more efficiently?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will look at this. It's an issue and I appreciate the Member bringing it up here in the House today. It's certainly an issue that the department takes seriously and if there's a way that we can provide services better to the public, that's something that we're interested in doing. If it's on-line, that is something that we will look at.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the answer from the Minister. In Saskatchewan, to name one, Ontario, to name two, and there are several others, they're quite aggressive and provide kiosks and public advertisements all over the place saying you could do this type of service.

Quite frankly, what does "we'll look at it" mean? The general public hears that answer almost the same as maybe yes, maybe no. It doesn't really have an answer. What does his answer mean by "we'll look at it"?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again I thank the Member for bringing up the question of on-line services provided by DOT. I'm not sure if I wasn't clear enough, but the answer was yes, we will look at it and we will provide Members with an update as we move forward with plans to provide on-line services.

MR. HAWKINS: Quite simply the question really is built around the factors are we going to look at it and see if we can do something this year, is it something that's on the wish list that someday we'll talk about it. That's the type of answer I'm looking for, because constituents are following our

proceedings on-line or ask us in person and will want to know what does “we’ll look at it” mean. We need something a little more specific.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I committed to the House and to the Member that we will entertain on-line services by the Department of Transportation, and as to a timeline, I will get back to the Member and to the other Members with a timeline on how we’re going to do that.

There is some work that has to be done and we will get to doing that work. I can assure the House that the work will begin and we’ll hopefully have an answer for the Member on an implementation date sooner rather than later. I’d just be guessing here today and I don’t want to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: No, thank you.

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

QUESTION 191-17(3):
PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this morning I gave an overview in terms of just the initiative on the proposed Wildlife Act changes. My question for follow up is for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

Can the Minister comment in terms of the update of the progress of the proposed changes to the Wildlife Act?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a major gathering planned for the early part of November where the working group members are going to come into town, and hopefully the Aboriginal leaders, to have a discussion amongst themselves, and then with ourselves and myself as Minister and the department officials, to look at the issue of the conferences the Member talked about. We’re hoping, at that point, to come to consensus on the way forward.

We’ve been working, as well, with the stakeholders, the Wildlife Act advisory group, and the feedback they’ve provided us, and we want to be able to respond to the SWAAG, as well, on a go-forward basis. The intent now is to be able to conclude the work and be able to come forward in February to introduce this bill. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Can the Minister comment on the outcomes of public consultations that were held last spring and summer?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The consultation feedback has gone well. The bill has been reviewed and the bill was substantially the same as what was before the House in the last Assembly. The issues that have come up, there have been some technical issues, there have been some issues of processes for ongoing feedback. For example, for groups like the SWAAG. But overall, we’ve concluded all the reviews. The one contentious issue that is really out there is the structure of the conference, and as well, we want to give a full and comprehensive response to the concerns put forward and recommendations put forward by the stakeholders, the Wildlife Act advisory groups.

MR. NADLI: I’d like to thank the Minister for that. There are two major initiatives happening right now. One of them is devolution, of course, and the other one is the proposed changes to the Wildlife Act. They touch on the very core of fundamental treaty rights and Aboriginal title, so I wanted to ask the Minister how will the devolution negotiations affect the proposed Wildlife Act.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Wildlife Act discussions have been going on for well over a decade, into the last century, so I can recollect it all the way back to the 13th Assembly. This will be done and is being done independent of devolution. Even if there was no devolution, the Wildlife Act would go forward. It’s been identified as a priority by nearly all the Aboriginal governments, by this government, by people in the Northwest Territories as long overdue. They will be compatible at the end of the day. They reaffirm the respect and recognition of Aboriginal rights, both the Wildlife Act and the work being done with devolution. In that regard, there’s clear consistency. But the Wildlife Act is a piece of legislation that this government, this territory has to look at and it’s been intent on getting done now for a long time and stands on its own as a separate initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is being done to address the Aboriginal people’s concerns about the new Wildlife Act in terms of its potential effects on treaty rights and Aboriginal title? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Wildlife Act is a unique piece of legislation that has, in fact, been drafted in partnership with the Aboriginal governments. We’ve had the working group members comprised of members from Inuvialuit, Gwich’in, Sahtu, Tlicho, Metis, as well as seats at the table for the Akaitcho and representatives from the Dehcho First Nation, should they choose to attend and when they choose to attend. It has been that collective that has worked to draft the Wildlife Act, a unique process in this country of Canada, a

unique bill that has no equal in this country. We have made tremendous efforts to involve the Aboriginal governments, including the First Nations, and we will continue that commitment. We reflect that practice in a whole host of areas with our discussions on devolution, with our discussions on water, and the Wildlife Act is indicative of that kind of commitment to process as well.

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

QUESTION 192-17(3):
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER TESTING

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened with interest to my colleagues from Yellowknife talking about the wait times for driver testing. I understand that there is urgency sometimes for people to get their driver's licence, and it is a concern. I'd like to put a little different spin on it.

About 40 years ago next week I was turning 16 and I wanted to get my driver's licence on my birthday, so I didn't stay in the small town or go to the city where you had to wait. I went to this other small town where they issued driver testing and driver's licences. I got my parents to drive me to that town, and I passed my learners and I got my driver's licence on my 16th birthday.

But, Mr. Speaker, the wait time in Hay River isn't three months. I understand it's less than two weeks, so I have a suggestion for people in Yellowknife that maybe they'd like to just take a quick flight over the lake, come down to Hay River. We've got a small company there that does driver training. I'm sure they'd give you a quick orientation and you could probably, for a small fee, use their car and take your driver testing.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation: A driver's licence issued in any community in the Northwest Territories is good anywhere to drive anywhere, I trust? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. A Northwest Territories driver's licence issued at any community in the Northwest Territories is good anywhere in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Could the Minister, after the research he did for my colleagues, confirm that the wait time for Hay River is less than two weeks to take a test?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The stats that I've received from the department would indicate that wait times in Hay River for a driver's licence and road test would be one to two weeks. Yes.

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

QUESTION 193-17(3):
PUBLIC AND TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING IN YELLOWKNIFE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation and following up on my Member's statement and the need for housing in Yellowknife.

The corporation, to its credit, did a shelter policy review within the last year to two years, and the results of that review were a report, and basically, I believe that that report is a plan for the future for the NWT Housing Corporation. I'd like to ask the Minister, relative to the report that came as a result of the shelter policy review, and in light of the need in Yellowknife for both public housing units and transitional housing, how this plan, in particular, addresses the needs for more public housing units in Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct; there was a report done. One of the recommendations that came out of the report, Yellowknife, I think the biggest issue was affordability, and that's one of the reasons that the Rent Supplement Program came into play.

There is a need for public housing all across the Northwest Territories; Yellowknife and some of the larger centres because they're market communities, it's a little harder to get more public housing in there. We do have 311 public housing units in Yellowknife. I think there are 169 of our own, plus we have some lease units, as we do in most communities. But affordability was one of the major issues, according to the report, as far as Yellowknife goes.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for the response. I have to totally agree with him. That's the point of my statement. Affordability is absolutely an issue. The rental market in Yellowknife is such that people cannot afford to rent in Yellowknife, and we don't have enough public housing, which would give them some opportunity to lower their rental costs.

I'd like to know from the Minister, in terms of addition of public housing units to communities, I'm sure there's a priority list. I'd like to know from the Minister where Yellowknife and the addition of public housing units in the city of Yellowknife sit in terms of priorities of adding units to the Housing Corporation stock.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Because of our limited infrastructure budget, we were fortunate. In the last

two years we've had a huge investment from the federal government. But we're back to our original number of \$17 million. A lot of it's for public housing replacement units. I can assure the Member that Yellowknife's very high on the priority. I believe there are about 61 units that may have been built or started in 2012-13, and my understanding is Yellowknife was probably getting about 23 of these units. In some cases we buy units that we can convert into public housing instead of building. That way we get more value for our dollar.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate that Yellowknife's not on the bottom of the list. That's good to hear.

My other point that I was trying to make, and thus my question to the Minister, has to do with transitional housing and the need for transitional housing here. I'd like to know where that sits in terms of the shelter policy review and the report that came from that. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We've heard the argument on a number of occasions about Yellowknife being a magnet community. We do have a lot of folks from outside come into Yellowknife. Yellowknife is very fortunate. They have some very good groups here in town that work on these situations. As far as their transitional housing goes, I think they're in better shape than all of the 32 communities across the Northwest Territories. We just made a sizable contribution to Betty House and we do help with Rockhill with an in-kind donation, plus some money to help with utilities and that. As far as the rest of the Northwest Territories goes, Yellowknife is in very good shape. It could be improved all across the Northwest Territories, not only the capital. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am really glad the Minister recognizes that there's room for improvement. I have to say to the Minister that he may consider Yellowknife to be in good shape, but to have 150 or more people on a waiting list for transition housing is not good shape, in my mind.

Members are often asking Ministers to visit their community and talk to people. I'd like to know from the Minister if he'd be willing to sit down with our local authorities, non-government organizations, who do provide transition housing, and talk to them and work with them for solutions. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I would be glad to visit the Member's constituency and talk to some of the NGOs there, as I would extend that invitation to all Members here, because it helps us as a corporation to do our job better with some planning, so we can hear from folks out in the communities who have to deal with some of the situations they find themselves in. I will commit to the Member, if

we can line up a meeting, I'd be happy to attend. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 194-17(3):
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TARGETS
AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT COSTS

MR. BROMLEY: I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement earlier today and follow up with the Minister responsible for climate change. I assume that would be the Minister of Environment.

According to a number of statements made by the Premier and the Finance Minister the last couple of days, we have a strong commitment in addressing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Using only a partial look at the Department of Transportation costs, they are obviously significant. Yet, commitments to reducing emissions are that we are going to allow a 66 percent increase. Greenhouse gas intensive development activities are beginning to climb once again. We know about the oil play in the Sahtu and so on, despite recent gains due to the recession.

In the face of this, I'd like to ask is the Minister prepared to set more ambitious targets for all of the NWT and GNWT, for that matter, and the means to actually lead the charge in reducing climate change now.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a complex issue, as the Members know. Late in the last government, we passed a revised and revamped Greenhouse Gas Strategy that set new targets. There's built-in review periods built into that strategy that we will look at as we go forward. We also know, for example, that one of the planned projects has been deferred further, which is going to contribute to greenhouse gases, which is the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. So while it's still a critical project, it's not imminent on the horizon.

At the same time as we talk about standards, we have to look at the tens of millions of dollars we're investing at limiting our emissions. Things like the Biomass Strategy, the work we've done on solar, the expansion of hydro, the building standards, the Capital Asset Retrofit Program with the government, the rebate programs, the money we've invested to help people make their houses energy efficient and putting in more energy-efficient appliances.

So there are two things to do here. We can set standards and then we can actually get on the ground and do the right things, which is where the most immediate benefit is. We are already paying the highest prices for energy in the country.

When you look at companies like Diavik, they are investing about \$33 million in wind energy that's going to repay itself in five years. They deserve full commendation for that commitment. It's those types of things that we are doing in addition for the setting of standards with the renewal of the Greenhouse Gas Strategy late in the 16th Assembly. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for those remarks. The Minister certainly is dead on there. We are doing lots of things. I think we are one of the most progressive jurisdictions.

Of course, we also have some of the greatest costs. I appreciate the Department of Transportation's frankness in responding to some of my questions about what those costs are, recognizing that those are only partial costs if they are conservative, admittedly conservative costs, that they ignore the costs to the public and so on and that those costs are accelerating year to year.

I want to talk a little bit about the context. This was only one department, \$6.5 million. Clearly, it's worth comparing the net fiscal benefits of devolution, for example, estimated recently by the Premier to be \$60 million. So I anticipate that with these sorts of information, we are going to erode all of those fiscal benefits through the impacts of climate change. That's an important context to have.

The Minister of Environment brings climate change concerns to the table. Can he assure us that the obvious need for greenhouse gas reductions will be a key consideration in the environmental reviews that we have before us, for example, for the Inuvik-Tuk highway and so on? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: It's not a future tense, but that issue has been driving us, as the Member said. We are dealing with it; we are adapting to this on an ongoing basis. There are things happening that are the new reality. There is endangered species, there are the fire seasons that are increasing in addition to all the things that Transportation has talked about. That reality is there and we are making and are committed to managing our greenhouse gas emissions.

We have to keep in mind that we live in a cold climate. We are carbon-intensive users and we do have some of the highest prices for energy right now and we have to manage all that. I think we're doing that and the demonstration of the practical application of our commitment, I think, is where the rubber hits the road, if I may use that term, in all the things I listed in my previous answer. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the remarks from the Minister, although I would say he's clearly wrong. We are not managing emissions of anybody but ourselves, the GNWT, and yet we have the authority to do that. That's exactly the point I am talking about.

The Minister did outline the many costs; for example, residents who experience the startling pace of land slides, erosion into streams affecting fish populations, contaminant loads, damages to homes, shorelines moving communities such as your own, Mr. Speaker, and so on. We need to know what we're dealing with here to provide this context.

Will the Minister collect across-government data needed, and direct and indirect financial costs of climate change across our government operations, and to estimate the costs inflicted on our public and report his conclusions to the House? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I would suggest that the budget that we bring before the House and its component pieces with the various departments and the \$1.5 billion we do have captures what money we have available to deal with the pressures. We have identified, for example, in terms of infrastructure, we have about a \$3 billion infrastructure debt that we build up for various reasons. A lot of that is going to be to deal with some of the issues that are tied directly to climate change.

There's a clear line relationship. We have \$1.5 billion in the government to manage. We know that there are things that we could easily spend that money on and more, just on infrastructure, let alone all the program needs. I think that is the litmus test. That is where you capture the money.

We could say and we could build or pull together projections and say we need \$10 billion if we wanted to put solar in every community and we want to expand all the hydro, we wanted to do all the other work that needs to be done in Inuvik with the gas, and Norman Wells with their situation. Is that attributable to climate change and is that a place where we want to spend all of our time and energy arguing over that, or do we want to actually stay focused on the ground in terms of limiting our emissions and the practical application of all the programs we've put in place over the last number of years? Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a response to my question for a commitment to estimate the costs to government and the public. I'd still like that commitment. We clearly need to recognize our situation.

I'd like to know, in recognizing that the federal government has abandoned Kyoto and so on, can the Minister tell us what efforts he is making in partnership with other provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments to push forward combined subnational efforts and I'd also like that commitment. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. I recently returned from a meeting of the Environment Ministers and over supper we were talking about whatever success Canada has in terms of managing their emissions. My observation, which was agreed to by all the folks around the table, was that the federal government in fact has benefitted from the work of the subnational provinces, territories, states, and the Northwest Territories is a perfect example.

We've spent tens of millions of dollars; we're doing ground-breaking work on things related to biomass, alternative fuels like biomass, its application across the land, the use of our own existing energy sources like hydro for things like electricity and for power and for heat, what we want to do with helping the private sector on wind. We are going to be taking care of our own business and that's where it has to be done.

That was recognized in Copenhagen, as well, that the work that's going to be done on climate change, greenhouse gas emission control, it's going to be done at that level, because the national governments cannot get organized enough to in fact make the decisions necessary. So we are committed to that, and the Member has been in this Assembly long enough to see all the work that we've done and the fruits of those labours. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 195-17(3):
HIGHWAY NO. 7

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to have to talk about Highway No. 7 in my question. I notice that the Department of ITI just recently released preliminary tourism reports about how well the parks have done this year. I was wondering if the Minister of Transportation has some preliminary numbers for tourists that travelled down Highway No. 7 and toward the Blackstone Park. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the exact figures with me, but I'd be more than happy to provide those to the Member when I do get them. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. I just wanted to make the point that it was exceptionally dry this year and the highway was in good shape. I'm pretty sure that the tourism numbers are up on Highway No. 7. I just want to make the point that with continued effort and working on Highway No. 7 with reconstruction, we can continue to have a good highway system with Highway No. 7.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he can give me those tourism numbers as well as a commitment about some kind of strategy to advise tourists about Highway No. 7. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I thank the Member for bringing up Highway No. 7 again today and I also thank him for earlier this summer the trip we had between Liard and Simpson on Highway No. 7. Certainly, it was a dry year and all indications are that travel on that road by tourists was up. Again, I've committed to get the member some figures on the numbers and I will do that.

But certainly, we have to ensure that there's a long-term plan for Highway No. 7 and I believe that there is. We need to look at some capital dollars going forward for the maintenance and rehabilitation of that road and I've mentioned it before in the House. It's in the magnitude of \$250 million. That is what would be required to totally rehabilitate the road. Obviously, we don't have \$250 million today, but what we can do is come up with a plan to maintain and rehabilitate what we can over the next 10 years or so and we plan on doing that. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. The Minister spoke about a long-term strategy. I'd certainly like to see any of that preliminary work that he has, if he has any. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again, I will provide the detail to the Member, but we also recently signed an MOU with Canadian Zinc and the Prairie Creek Mine on how industry and the government can work together on improvements to Highway No. 7 and the Nahanni access road, and that's certainly something we also look forward to completing as well. I think that's an important step forward, too, as we realize some resource development and some jobs and some opportunities in the Deh Cho and the Nahendeh riding. So we've got some things in front of that that look very, very good and we intend to keep moving forward with Highway No. 7, its maintenance, its rehabilitation and the future of that road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think part of the strategy, of course, is to include Highway No. 7 in the Tourism Strategy, if the Minister can also work toward that. Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: It is there, it has been there in the past with the Deh Cho Connection, the Deh Cho Trail. Certainly, it is part of our highway system here in the Northwest Territories. We have some beautiful parks located on there and some beautiful communities as well. So, certainly, that is part of the Tourism Strategy as we move forward. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 196-17(3):
ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES
OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to follow up to my Member's statement that I made earlier today in terms of treatment centres. I had mentioned all the infrastructure and services that are in the capital of Yellowknife here, and all of those groups do a lot of really good work for the Northwest Territories and people that do come into Yellowknife. My question for the Minister is for the Minister of Health today.

Can the Minister provide me with a list of any infrastructure, if any at all, in the 32 other communities outside of Yellowknife that do provide treatment for addictions? Can he provide me with that infrastructure? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be able to provide that information for the Member. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Yes, specifically, can the Minister let this government know of any other programs, specific programs outside of Yellowknife that are being offered in any of the other communities, the regional centres and the small communities, specific programs that he can let us know today in the House that are going on in the 32 communities outside of Yellowknife that deal with addictions and treatment? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We have a treatment facility on the Hay River Reserve, Nats'ejee K'eh. The department spends about \$2 million annually on that facility to run it. Including Yellowknife, there is a counselling program, a community counselling program where we have \$6 million. Then we have the on-the-land programs, which their allocation is approximately \$25,000 per community. So off the top of my head, those are the programs that are available today. There is no other infrastructure outside of Nats'ejee K'eh that's available for residential treatment. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Under our priorities for the 17th Legislative Assembly, one of our priorities is to enhance addiction treatment programs using existing infrastructure. Can the Minister inform us if his department has gone out throughout the Northwest Territories and identified any existing infrastructure that can be used for treatment programs throughout the Northwest Territories outside of Nats'ejee K'eh and any new infrastructure that he's recognized.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The department has not identified specific infrastructure that could be used for residential treatment; however, it is one of the mandates of the Minister's Forum on Addictions to

look at as they travel from community to community having meetings with the communities. One of their other mandates is to determine what type of treatment would be required in which location, and once they've made that recommendation to the department, the department will look at trying to match the infrastructure that exists in those locations.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I heard is there is this group that's going throughout the Northwest Territories and their mandate is to identify infrastructures. So if they've already travelled to some of the communities, I don't see why we wouldn't have some infrastructure on the list already.

In terms of the priorities that we do have, enhancing addictions treatment programs using existing infrastructure, when can we start to see this taking place, as we've already completed one full year of this Assembly? When can we start to see this taking place and a timeline in getting this addressed, as it is a big priority in the Northwest Territories and our big cost-driver in Health and Social Services?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: As the Member is aware, we essentially started the new budget three months into this fiscal year. Within that budget is where we are funding this forum. The forum has not travelled yet. Their first function will be to come together in one central location. From then on they will travel to two or possibly as many as four communities in each region, the four different forums, and they will come back together with their recommendations. Once they come with their recommendations, we will be matching what is needed. In addition to that, we are reviewing the one residential treatment centre that we do have for its effectiveness and how well it fits into what is needed as far as residential treatment goes.

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

QUESTION 197-17(3):
USE OF CURRENT HAY RIVER HOSPITAL
AS DRUG TREATMENT CENTRE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to the most recent set of questions here, in three years' time a new hospital will go on stream in Hay River. The old hospital is being replaced. For different types of facilities there are all different kinds of building codes and building requirements. We know secure facilities have a certain code, hospital facilities have a certain building code they have to adhere to, and they cost different amounts of money. We will be using the

Hay River hospital up until the day that we move everything over to the new hospital.

The day after, I find it interesting if this government would consider that hospital ready for the wrecking ball. We are desperate for infrastructure in this territory for different things. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he would begin a process now to begin to think about the Hay River hospital, which has just received the top accreditation you can receive for a hospital, would he begin some process of assessing that hospital to see if that facility would be suitable as a residential treatment or treatment centre of any kind in the future.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: When you replace a facility like a hospital, one of the main reasons for replacing a facility is not for what you see physically, it's for how the building functions and how the building operates. The guts of the building are what get outdated and have to change. That in the H.H. Williams Hospital has gone beyond its date of good economic use. That is one factor. However, we would be prepared to take a look at using portions of that building if we thought that a treatment facility located in Hay River was the best value for our money.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: The current Hay River hospital was built in two stages. There's a much older wing and then there is a much newer part, which was very modern and cutting edge in its time when I think we cut the ribbon in 1975. I would like us to examine all possibilities for how we as a government could not retire that infrastructure but somehow re-profile it and put it and keep it in service for something. I would like to ask the Minister if he could confirm that – I know what he's saying about the mechanical and all that – that the code for construction or utilization for a hospital would be different than it would be for a treatment centre.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, the codes are much different. In a hospital we have to have different types of air exchanges. For example, I find out that if you have an operating room, you have to exchange air 20 times an hour. So you don't need to have that type of air exchange in a treatment facility, of course. So, much different.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Would it be the Department of Health and Social Services that would, perhaps, review options for putting this facility into service in some capacity, or would it be the Department of Public Works and Services who acts as a central agency for the different client departments? Would it be the work of PWS to begin to do this assessment or would it be the work of Health and Social Services?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I understand that in order to continue to use a facility that may have reached the end of its life, we would have to coordinate that with a technical department like Public Works and Services so that if there are upgrades necessary, we need to determine the costs of continuing to use the facility regardless of what it would be used for. We would have to do some sort of technical evaluation to determine whether or not we would be better off just to build something new.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: If I were the Minister of Health and Social Services and I were managing a department in the Northwest Territories that did not have a single youth treatment for drug and alcohol addiction bed available, I would be all over the Hay River hospital idea. I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit today to at least examine that possibility of re-profiling what will be the former Hay River hospital in three years' time as a youth treatment centre.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I think the most youth we send out for treatment in one fiscal year would be five. Youth treatment is an interesting thing because most youth treatment isn't voluntary, it would be youth treatment that's forced upon the youth to go for treatment. Very few youth at their age would admit that they have an addiction issue or would need some treatment. They don't recognize that until much later in life. Most youth that are treated are actually forced to go to treatment. We do that approximately, like I said, to a maximum of about five per year. We really have to determine the value of money for this type of situation.

There is some cost to treating youth in the South, we recognize that; a very high cost. We know that because we go for supps when we do the youth treatment money. I would say that we would look at something, possibly, but the likelihood of us having a full facility to treat that few people, we probably would not do it. We may set up a program that can go into another facility.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to get a few parents in the Northwest Territories who are struggling with teenagers that are involved with drugs and alcohol and I'd like them to weigh in on the subject. That we only have five youth in the Northwest Territories every year that volunteer to go for treatment? I know we can't force them, but there is, if you just look at our statistics, we have got to recognize as a government that there is a need to make something available. Maybe if there was something available, maybe they would come. Maybe there would be interventions by families that say, look, we need to address these situations. If the government does not see the way clear, could we put out some kind

of a call to a non-government organization that is involved in this type of work that might like to see the need in the Northwest Territories and participate in meeting that need by looking again at such a valuable piece of infrastructure, in my opinion?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I think part of our business is to try to... We are looking at having an actual youth treatment program. An example of something we looked at was having a summer program in, say, Nats'ejee K'eh. If that was the facility we chose to continue to fund, then maybe having one program per year where we would treat youth.

Youth – I think I was not clear – are usually court ordered or forced to go to treatment by their parents. There are very, very few that ever volunteer. That's anywhere in the country. There are very few youth that actually volunteer to go to treatment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 10-17(3): ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment provide the following information on how the \$1.8 million allocated for the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative is being distributed?

1. How the funding is distributed to the regions;
2. A breakdown of funding being distributed to each of the 33 NWT communities;
3. Funding actually allocated to the Aboriginal Student Achievement committee initiatives; and
4. Funding being spent by the department on their own campaign on the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a good constituent of Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Willard Hagen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank my colleague for going back to this number. As well, I'd like to recognize, actually, Mr. Willard Hagen, chair of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, as well as Richard Edjericon, chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Thank you for coming and spending time in the Assembly.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize Mr. Richard Edjericon, a resident of Weledeh.

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

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 73-17(3): ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR GNWT RESPONSE TO CR 1-17(3), REVIEW OF NWT INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER'S 2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled Additional Information for GNWT Response to Committee Report 1-17(3) to Review the NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2010-2011 Annual Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 64-17(3), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2013-2014; Bill 2, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2012; and Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What's the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ. Thank you, Madam Chair. The committee would like to consider Tabled Document 64-17(3), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2013-2014.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. We will commence then with a break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): ...Works and Services. I would like to ask Minister Abernethy if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes please, Madam Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I'd like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he would please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Abernethy, for the record, could you please introduce your witness?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. With me today is Paul Guy, the deputy minister of Public Works and Services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Members, if you would please now turn to page 5-2, which is the activity summary, which we will stand down until we've dealt with the detail. Department summary, then. Turn, please, to page 5-4, Public Works and Services, activity summary, asset management, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$19.2 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. No questions? Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Regarding in the assets management, and I'm hoping we're on 5-5. Are we there, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): We're on 5-4 right now, oh, and 5-5. Sure.

MR. DOLYNNY: Yes. Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Part of the project listing there includes the 6,000 square metre general purpose office building that's being constructed in Yellowknife. We know

that work is underway and I believe that this project is being spread out over a number of capital budgets over the next number of years. Could we maybe get an update as to what the total cost is projected upon completion? I'm talking a full, whole asset of this project when this project will come to full completion date. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The completion date is April 2015, and we expect to start moving people in shortly thereafter. The project is gone out for RFP, a contractor has been selected and the contract has been awarded. Total contract construction costs, including all design and tenant improvements, is \$25.143 million, which works out to about a square foot cost of about \$378.66 per square foot. Keeping in mind that this does include tenant improvements and specific stuff for whichever departments happen to be going in there. If you take out the tenant improvements, the total cost is around \$20.019 million, which is \$301.49 a square foot.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister's detailed numbers here. The question I have here with, I guess, fair market value for what I believe is a Class A space building. Going rate within the territory capital is in the \$450 per square foot range. How is the Minister and department coming in at substantially lower, almost 25 percent below what Class A grade per square foot is being done in today's market?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'm not sure where that particular number of the market comes from, or the GNWT's construction. We build a wide variety of types of buildings. Speciality buildings have different costs than other more generalized buildings. I do have to say that this building is being built to a high standard. We have certain codes within the GNWT that we, as a government, have already accepted as far as building practices, efficiencies. This is going to be a state-of-the-art building. We have gone out for an open competition. We have gone to the market and these are the prices that have come in. We are confident that we are going to get a building that is worth what we pay.

MR. DOLYNNY: Those numbers are coming from recent construction in the downtown sector from reputable companies for that \$450.

I guess the next question I have has to do with remediation or site preparation for that building. There was a demolition. There was a take-down and site preparation. Does this amount of money for that remediation, was that added into the costs of this project or was this separated out as an operational cost? Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We got the property where the new building is going to be located. It was an empty lot. We did have to tear down a building in the adjacent lot to make the lot that will take up the entire building. The destruction or demolition of the Tapwe Building, I believe it is called, is included in this entire budget cost. The demolition of the church that was there previously, that wasn't a government cost. We...(inaudible)...

MR. DOLYNNY: From what I can gather, a portion of that lot was decommissioned or under remediation, and that amount of money for that demolition will be included in the whole component cost of that project as we move forward for capital depreciation and amortization.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, we own the lot that the Tapwe Building was on previously. We are using that property and the property that we obtained where there used to be an old church. We obtained those properties, so we are responsible for, and the price of taking down the Tapwe Building, decommissioning it, disposing of it, is included in this budget.

MR. DOLYNNY: Will this demolition, remediation work, site preparation, a portion that the Government of the Northwest Territories was responsible for, will this amount be part of the whole component cost and will be capitalized and amortized accordingly?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, all costs related to the construction of this building, including the demolition of the Tapwe Building and the site remediation, are included in the budget.

MR. DOLYNNY: I will take that as a yes from the Minister. Thank you. I have no further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Any further questions on page 5-4, asset management, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$19.2 million? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to ask, first of all, with respect to the 6,000 square metre general purpose office building, what the heating options are for the building. I know there is interest in the community energy system for which there still is some uncertainty. I understand there are options for sharing heat with other government buildings. Can I just get a summary on where we are at with those options? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We are intending to use the facilities, the new building, to help provide heat or to provide heat to the two existing buildings. It is the Stuart Hodgson Building and the Laing Building. We will save 785 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually by

the option that we have selected, biomass for the new building.

The Member has mentioned the district heating and any options that we have there. I said it before, I will say it again, we haven't finalized the plans. We still have a small window where we can switch to, in construction, a district heating. If it was to come forward to us, we have asked the city to provide us with a business plan showing us the economics of this. It is something we are interested in. Unfortunately, we have awarded a contract on this building. We do have to pursue that and continue to move forward. That window is going to close. Does it mean we can't go back later? Of course it doesn't, but we would really love to have that information before we move forward, because it would be economies of scale and might be able to save money on construction and design, but that window is closing rapidly.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the Minister's comments there. I have a couple of questions. Does the city know the timing within which they need to respond to the government for the potential to pursue things? What sort of deadline was given to them? The other two buildings are Stuart Hodgson and the Laing. Would they also be part of Yellowknife community energy system according to the folks of the city if they came back with a positive response to government questions?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes, they have been notified of our window, and we have encouraged them to please get us a business plan so we can see the economies of what they are proposing. We have no idea when they are going to get that to us, but we do have limited time before we actually have to finalize the heating system.

The other question with respect to the other two buildings, the answer is yes. If the district system heating comes forward and we accepted and we become a partner, we would be able to tie in all of those buildings.

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, thanks again to the Minister. The other part of that question was: What date has been given to the city for the deadline for the GNWT to know and make their decision?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We indicated that we need to know as soon as possible, because as we move forward with construction, we are pouring the foundation, we are doing that work. We are getting ready to move into other parts of the construction. Once we finalize the look of the boiler room or the heating room, the utility room, we run out of options. We have to be ready to put in our biomass system or another system. A month or two.

MR. BROMLEY: What other energy efficiency measures are being taken with this building? I understand the structure of it; it is a nice block

which is a nice sort of energy efficient start, but we know that our electricity rates are soaring, and I am just wondering if there are efficiencies being gained in that area as well as effective use of the heating that we do put into the building. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, we have gone with a very efficient layout. The building is going to be energy efficient with an energy efficient envelope. The envelope design is going to exceed by at least 10 percent of the required energy consumption level of the National Energy Code for building as required by the Good Building Practice for Northern Facilities Guidelines. Energy-efficient fixtures and equipment will be incorporated. Daylight harvesting technologies will be incorporated. Energy-efficient fluorescent and/or LED lighting will be included. As I indicated before, we hope to save 785 tonnes of greenhouse gases annually. There will be heat recovery on the ventilation system. Domestic water will be reduced by 30 percent through efficiencies. Those types of things are things we are looking to do. Recycled carpeting, interior partitions manufactured from recycled materials, those types of activities, Madam Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, those all sound great. It is good to hear we are putting some intention to that sort of detail.

The other part, I know the Minister is a big supporter of the arts. I am sure he recognizes the opportunity here to support the arts community. Especially in light of the lack of an arts facility other than NACC community structure, what is the Minister putting in place for the display of art from Yellowknife and the NWT? Is there a policy in place to assure 1 percent of the wall space or something is available for display of arts products, activities? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, the Member asked a similar question in I think it was business main estimates last year and I committed to having the department go and do an analysis of the space available where we could actually hang pictures or display art, with parameters being it has to be the public area in the buildings rather than, say, office areas or areas that aren't open to the public.

The department is doing that analysis. We have some early numbers. There is not as much public space as you might imagine, so we are just trying to explore our definition of what is public space.

Once we have that analysis done and we have a sense of the space, we were going to approach some of the different art organizations in the Northwest Territories to have some discussions on what they are thinking. What do they want to have displayed? Where do they want to have it displayed? Who would be responsible for hanging

it? What are the insurance requirements in case things get damaged?

Before we go to them, we want to have a sense of how much space we're talking about. We don't want to give anybody false hope that there's a lot of space. Frankly, right now we still don't have our heads completely around what space would be considered public on our walls in places that we rent and/or own. So we are working on it. It's going forward.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks again to the Minister. I'm very happy to hear that that analysis is being done. I also asked and pointed out where there were some possible federal resources for putting, say, 1 percent of the space available on the ground floor level so that the public and visiting public can experience northern art. That did not include the sale of art but it did include the performance, some small performance venues and this sort of thing. Has the Minister pursued those opportunities?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We're not convinced that there's 1 percent. There might be more, there might be less. We need to really assess the space, the public space.

As far as the performing arts, I don't recall that and I haven't directed the department to look at the performing arts side of things. I apologize for that. I would say that it would fall under the same category of art.

Once we talk to the arts associations in the Northwest Territories, I think we'll get some good input from them, but I'm not prepared to go to them until we have some sense of how much space is available.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks again for the Minister's response there. I do have other questions but I see I'm running out of time, so rather than get onto my next set of questions, maybe I'll see if somebody else wants to go next and you can put my name back on the list.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a couple quick things. The first thing was, we're backwards on the art proposal for the art policy or allowing art to be displayed in public areas. Will that policy be coming to Members prior to going to the public? In other words, if Public Works comes up with a policy in some form, will they be coming to Members for advice in advance of going out to, let's say, arts organizations to build up expectations in advance of us reviewing it? I would think that would be very important.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Obviously, we would be going through

committee for some discussions around that but we also need to approach the arts community themselves to get a sense of what their expectations might be. Their input into the development of a policy would be valuable as well.

There are a number of different organizations that we could approach just to get ideas, not necessarily to have them draft or work on the draft with us, but we need to get some ideas from them on what they would like to see as performing artists, graphic artists, painters, photographers, any of those individuals. We do need to get some sense from them, but like I said, I'm not really comfortable going to different arts organizations until we have a sense of space, because we would hate to give them some false expectations. We may need to take it to Cabinet and FMB as well. We'd certainly involve committee, absolutely.

MR. HAWKINS: I would like the assurances and commitment that the Minister will ensure that I'm copied in some way on this particular initiative as this policy gets developed. The reason being, there are a number of institutions, businesses, that is, that sell art in this community and they would view this as competing directly with them. I would want to make sure that their concerns are being represented. If it is to be on display, as I continue to maintain, I have no issue with art being on display, but the issue is that all of a sudden the assumption that while people are viewing it for potential sale and whatnot, then we're providing free space to folks to sell their art when we have art galleries or other types of business that are trying to make money at this particular thing. Then we seem like we're providing a space for free and they're trying to charge and make money, and it's a bad position to be in.

I'd like the Minister to commit to me that he will ensure that I get a copy of the policy well before it's implemented so that I can have some input, as well as speak to the constituents who do have businesses in this area.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Member shares exactly the same concerns I have with this same process. We still need to get a sense of space. There may not be as much and it may not be appropriate for all purposes. We certainly aren't a retail outlet for art and we don't want to be a retail outlet for art. We don't want to challenge or compete with those outlets that are involved in selling art. It's about displaying local artists. It shouldn't be too complicated to figure out, but we will, absolutely, work with our colleagues.

MR. HAWKINS: I didn't hear him say yes, he would ensure that I get copied on this if for some reason I'm out of the loop.

The other thing is the insurance requirement. Just as my opinion, I would think that this would be the artists' problem. My concern is I wouldn't want the

GNWT to take on some type of liability over a piece of artwork. By way of example, we don't know how this is going to go and I'm willing to try something new by all means, but I would just be cautious. If someone hangs a painting that's protected behind a sheet of glass or plexi-glass or whatever the case may be, folks can say, oh, I know that artist, that's really nice, he sells art. Now we have to go find someone to get it out because they've sold it, although they're not using it. I'm worried about what type of false market we're creating in the sense of avenue to sell art, as well, so I'm just going to express my cautiousness.

I have a question about the central heating question, but I'd like the Minister to assure me that he will commit that I will be copied on any type of development of this.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Absolutely. The Member is the chair of EDI, which is the committee that we would be going through. He will absolutely, without question, as I indicated before, get the information, as will all Members.

Once again, I share the Member's concerns with respect to liability. We certainly as a government don't want to take on additional liability for this purpose. I believe there are individuals who would be interested in this opportunity and I'm sure we can find a reasonable solution with the cooperation of everybody involved.

MR. HAWKINS: On another issue, Mr. Bromley has brought this up and actually it's not so much that I'm concerned on how he brought it up but it's more about the perception of how it's brought up. It's about the city's potential on the Con Mine heating system or how they want to do a central heating style system in Yellowknife; the city, that is. I often hear people at the city talk about how they've got all these partners in some form of some type of commitment, and it's funny because when I talk to businesses downtown, they're not interested in this. I don't know who the city thinks they have on the hook for, we'll call it a critical mass to move this initiative forward. I can tell you right now that one of their major people that they think they have, they do not have. The next major partner I'd describe is probably the GNWT would be the next, I'll say, size that should matter.

I guess the question goes to the Minister. In the Minister's understanding, and certainly in the capacity, is there any letter of intent or similar pieces of paper written to the city about our willingness to commit to this type of project and under what conditions?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In no way have we committed to this project. We have indicated that we are certainly willing to look at all options that save the government money over time, and if they present a business case that is a saving or even comparable to what we are going to be saving

through our new building and the energy efficiencies we are putting in that building, including our biomass system in that building, if the price is comparable, we would certainly be interested in talking, but there is zero commitment at this point. There is nothing to the city saying that we're committed to this project. We haven't seen a business case. We have no idea what's being proposed as far as savings are concerned and long-term benefits are.

MR. HAWKINS: I just want to make sure – I am a fan of pellet usage, I believe in the future of biomass, and I certainly believe in the science behind geothermal – but I'm just worried that the city is out there flogging this particular project and suggesting they've got major people leaning towards any day they're going to put ink to paper. I'm worried that they think that they've got the GNWT more committed than we are and I'm concerned that maybe that is the case. Maybe that isn't the case. I'm not hearing it is the case from the Minister, which provides some relief, but the fact is I know one of the major business proponents downtown is not completely behind this. I'm trying to figure out who they think they have on the hook for this particular initiative, because I think the citizens of Yellowknife need some honesty on who is on this project. I know this is not the GNWT's problem, but what I want to make clear here, and crystal clear is, is there any type of commitment other than we'd take a look at it and consider it. You'd be foolish not to look at it and consider it if there was a business case that spoke in favour of proceeding in this direction.

Just maybe one or two more times, and I apologize to the Minister, but that said, just one more time, is there any type of commitment whatsoever that says we're on board with this project? I just want to make sure because from what I hear bouncing out on the street and what you've heard from some of the recently elected and re-elected people about these projects, it kind of makes me worried that we may be onto some type of moral obligation commitment or some written obligation commitment and I just want to make sure that we're all on the same page.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I've heard a lot of individuals stating that certain businesses are committed and then I've heard that those businesses aren't committed. The city has asked us for a commitment and we have not committed in any way, shape, or form to this project.

What we are willing to do, and what we have indicated to them that we're willing to do, is once a comprehensive business plan is provided which outlines the costs, we will assess it to see if there are savings to the government, what the costs to government would be, and if those costs are reasonable, we would absolutely approach the House for more discussion and debate on this

particular topic. Right now we have not seen a business plan and until we see a business plan, there's nothing to do on this particular file.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm happy with that at this particular time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Any further questions from any Members? If not, I will go back to Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Interesting discussion there. I guess my first question to the Minister is: Does he see a role for promotion of the arts by GNWT and do we currently display local artwork in government buildings?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. It would purely be my opinion, but as MLA for the Northwest Territories I have constantly and I will always be a supporter of the arts. When the Member asked similar questions about office space before, I agreed to work closely with Education, Culture and Employment and I will continue to work with Education, Culture and Employment and ITI, who have roles in supporting arts in the Northwest Territories. I think the Member's suggestion that office space might be a reasonable place to support northern artists, I think that's certainly an interesting idea and that's why we're pursuing it. I recognize my other colleague Mr. Hawkins' concerns. We will take those into consideration. We will work closely with ECE, ITI and artists to find some real solutions if the space is there.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the Minister's remarks. It sounds reasonable to me. I would also urge the Minister to in fact consult with businesses, who I suspect would be wildly enthusiastic for the display of local art in government space, especially public space that might be frequented by the public. I would ask the Minister to make that commitment to also consult with businesses about the display of local art.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We will. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: My other line of questions has to do with the Capital Asset Retrofit Fund Program, a program which I am wholeheartedly supportive of. Although I'm sure some of my colleagues may have some reason to criticize it. I'm wondering if the Minister could give us, you know, perhaps not right now but in paper form if it hasn't been provided, the payback times and greenhouse gas savings, and what the anticipated contributions to the fund will be from the projects being proposed from the fund this year.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: For this budget the fund is \$1.2 million, which is up significantly from last year. These dollars, as I've explained in the past, are based on savings that we've received

from putting different assets and doing different projects. We expect and hope this fund will continue to grow, and the money for this fund is purely from savings.

We do have some breakdowns of some previous year work. The current year work hasn't been completely finalized, and that will help build the fund for the previous year.

I will commit to getting the Member and committee a breakdown of the types of activities we've done under the fund, projected savings and, where possible, real savings that have actually helped build the fund. I will commit to getting that to the Member.

MR. BROMLEY: That's all the questions I had. I just will note that that has been provided for past years and we have that information. When it's available for this year, this proposed year, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In that case, we won't bother re-providing it, but we will get you the current year stuff as soon as we've got it completed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Next on the list I have Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My questions will be under the project listing of deferred maintenance. Before I ask my questions here, I think it's important that the people listening at home understand the definition of what is deferred maintenance versus regular maintenance, and I would ask the Minister to set the record straight on the definition of both those terms. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. When individual departments defer maintenance, this is when we utilize the Deferred Maintenance Program. By deferring maintenance, I'm referring to the fact where the practice of postponing maintenance activities such as repairs on buildings and infrastructure in order to save costs meet funding levels or realign the available funding. During the lifecycle of a building, usually about halfway through the midlife, there's a requirement to do some major upgrades and make sure that everything is up to date and running fast, and that the building needs are still meeting the needs of the client, department and the public. In the past, those have been deferred.

This program that we have in place is designed to assess the amount of deferred maintenance requirements in the government infrastructure and address it and find ways to improve that. It was \$470 million when it was assessed, I think it was 2008-09 when the program came in, and we've got down to about \$325 million.

The deferred maintenance that we're talking about here is the capital side. That's the \$5 million budget, but there's also an O and M side under the deferred maintenance for smaller activities.

Maintenance, on the other hand, is resulting from sort of just general upkeep of buildings, which might include fluorescent tube repairs, dealing with windows that may be broken, boiler repairs, regular upgrades on boilers. Not really lifecycle, but things that support lifecycle. There are some differences between just general maintenance and then the deferred maintenance plan.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister's forensic review of those terms just so we know what we're talking about, and I think everyone appreciates knowing the terms.

That said, as the Minister indicated, the deferred maintenance component on the capital side has been in historical past a fairly large and significant number of the budget. I believe that number has come down over the last couple budgets, but is still, as the Minister just indicated, it is a \$5 million component.

What is the forecast that the department is looking at in their deferred maintenance budget for the next couple of years? Is this a number that we're going to see continuously going in more of a decline mode so we're getting better control of our deferred maintenance costs as we move forward within the life of this Assembly?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Yes. We have seen it come down, and I think that's indicative of the direction that the deferred maintenance will continue to go. There are a number of ways that items could come off the deferred maintenance list. By way of example, we just completed the construction of a new school in Inuvik, and as a result of that new school being completed, we are able to get rid of and demolish both the Samuel Hearne and the SAMS school. As a result, there is a significant amount of deferred maintenance tied up in those buildings. Once they are no longer there, that deferred maintenance is no longer required, but it stays on the books as long as the asset is live.

There are a number of assets out there that, over time, will come down; some of the different projects we are working on. An example, again, is the school in Deline. It requires a significant amount of work. We have invested a significant amount of work into that building and as we do the work on that building, the deferred maintenance costs will come down.

We have done some things to help us control these particular expenditures in the future. With our new capital planning process that came into place, I believe it was 2008-09, in addition to requiring Class C estimates and having other information, the

planning process includes an assessment of maintenance that's going to be required to keep those buildings up to current standards during the life of the building, including some consideration around when a midlife review or updates are going to be required. We also require, in the new capital planning process, requirements for the departments to do an assessment of their O and M. As a result, Public Works and Services also has to do an assessment of the O and M because they would be responsible for maintenance on those buildings that we build. There are a number of things, as a result of this new capital planning process, that will help us control these costs moving forward so that we don't end up in a situation where our new buildings are becoming deferred.

MR. DOLYNNY: I heard the word "deferred" many times, and "midlife". Sometimes I feel the same way.

I guess the Minister did a great job in terms of setting the stage for my next set of questions. He did indicate that Public Works and Services is bringing this number down. This is a number that should be going in the right direction for taxpayers. I guess my question is: As members of committee here, we should see a decrease in that number over the next couple of budgets, that we will not see the repeat of \$5 million on an annual capital assessment for budget purposes. Can we get some reassurances that that number will come down and that \$5 million will not be a repeat number for the next couple budgets?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I actually disagree. We will need to maintain that \$5 million and possibly increase it in order to get this number to continue to drop. Cost of doing business continues to go up. Cost of some of these retrofits is going to continue to go up. We have a lot of old buildings that didn't have regular lifecycle upgrades and that's how we got into this situation to begin with. A lot of those buildings aren't planned for complete replacement for extended periods of time, if they're even on the plan at this point, and we still have a requirement to make sure that they're to code and that they are safe and that they are positive places.

If we were to reduce the fund now, we will actually slow our ability to decrease the total outstanding deferred maintenance, so I don't expect we will be coming with a reduction to the \$5 million anytime soon. We have \$325 million outstanding at \$5 million a year. That's a lot of years.

MR. DOLYNNY: I guess in one sense – and I'll have to go back and look at the Hansard – we're doing a better job to get a better handle on our deferred maintenance. Buildings are coming off the queue, so to speak, with new buildings, and that this number was coming down from what I think was said by the Minister. Now we're hearing that that number is going to stay consistent because the

projects are going to be compounded. I guess as a Regular Member I have a hard time understanding both sides of that definition. We're making improvements and yet that number is going to have to remain the same as an outlook.

I'll leave it at that. If the Minister wants to comment on what I just said, it is his prerogative, but I don't understand the math that was just explained here today.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I'll try and do a better job of explaining the math. Currently, we have an outstanding deferred maintenance requirement of \$325 million. As I've indicated, there are a number of ways for us to get that down. As buildings that have deferred maintenance are taken down and disposed of, the price drops. The main way that we're getting rid of some of these costs is the continual investment of \$5 million in capital annually, and we're going to have to keep investing in order to bring down the entire \$325 million. It's going to take a bit of time for us to knock down that \$325 million through the \$5 million a year investment annually, demolition of buildings that have had replacements put in place, and any other number of activities. But if we were to cancel or stop investing our \$5 million a year, the number would just become stagnant and it would never come down. So we need to continue to invest for a period of time. That period of time is not going to be completed within the life of this government. I imagine that investment will need to continue beyond the life of the 17th Assembly.

We are reducing and we will continue to reduce the overall demand of \$325 million, but we must invest every year in order to do that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Abernethy, do you want repeat that last statement on the record, please? Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Sure, Madam Chair, I just said it doesn't disappear by itself. It needs investment.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: No further questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Further questions on page 5-4, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Very briefly just to follow up to, again, that interesting series of questions and discussion. If I could ask the Minister to commit to providing committee with the anticipated savings over the next three years in deferred maintenance and that result from buildings planned to be torn down. Also, an estimate of the rate of increase of deferred maintenance on an annual basis so that we can actually try and grapple with the question

that Mr. Dolynny raised. That would be useful. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm not sure about all of the specifics of that question, but we can certainly provide a breakdown of where we are now, the items that need to be dealt with sooner than later. Once they're dealt with, obviously, bad aspects of the deferred maintenance come off the list. So we can do a bit of an analysis.

What might actually be useful here is if I offer the committee a briefing on deferred maintenance and that we can all get on the same page. I'm happy to come before committee, whether it's P and P, Economic Development and Infrastructure, whichever committee would be most appropriate to give a comprehensive briefing and a discussion on deferred maintenance if the committee would like that.

MR. BROMLEY: We have had briefings in the 16th Assembly. I'll leave it up to committee to get back to the Minister on that offer.

But specifically, I think it would be useful to know, for example, knowing what buildings we anticipate being brought down over the next three fiscal years, we know what their deferred maintenance is and the contribution to the sum of deferred maintenance costs. So it would be useful to know that as specific examples. Also some general estimates on the rate of increase of deferred maintenance on an annual basis, and that could be general. I'm not really asking about specific projects as much as just some numbers which help us understand this. The crux of the matter before us is allowing us the information on which to, you know, critique or assess or support our deferred maintenance budget from year to year. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We're happy to give that. Some of it will obviously be forecasted. I mean, the true impact is sometimes not known until the building is gone or the construction activity is done, and we don't include it in our numbers for actual reduction until those items have happened. But we can do some forecasting. We can clearly identify some of the buildings that we know today will likely be coming down during the life of this Assembly, two schools in Inuvik being examples. So we'll take a stab at that and we'll try and get the information, and we'll have an opportunity to discuss that with committee, and if they need more, we're happy to try and get that too.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Next I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have a question for the Minister relative to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, and I appreciate

that this is an asset that is not one that belongs to Public Works. It does belong to Education, Culture and Employment, but it's my understanding that PWS is undertaking the repairs to the kitchen at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, or the cafe there.

I guess I would like to know from the Minister where this project is at. It's been a very long time since the fire and the kitchen was destroyed. I would have thought that we would have been able to replace the cafe kitchen by now. So if I could get an update as to where that project is at, it would be very helpful. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thanks, Madam Chair. There were some delays. There were some issues around design and whatnot and some budget issues as well. I believe for certain aspects of it, in particular the chimney systems, a contract has been awarded. The kitchen is out for tender right now, but with the chimney we were notified, I believe it was last week, about some issues that they're having with the chimneys that I shared with Members. Those issues have been dealt with and they should be proceeding with the chimney and moving to the kitchen once the RFP is concluded. Just as a note, the work is scheduled to be completed this fiscal year.

MS. BISARO: That was my next question, was when we might expect to see it reopened. So if it's going to be finished within this fiscal year, I'm hoping April 1st I'll be able to be over there and have lunch. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I like to go for lunch.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'm not sure that was an invitation, but okay. Any further questions on this page? Okay. Public Works and Services, activity summary, asset management, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$19.2 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Moving on to page 5-7, Public Works and Services, activity summary, Technology Service Centre, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.560 million. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Within this section of infrastructure upgrades on 5.8, we talked about the term evergreening. So again, for the sake of getting proper definition to the next series of questions, if the Minister could provide the proper definition for the term "evergreening".

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thanks, Madam Chair. All equipment, all of the computer equipment and technology that the users, the staff in the GNWT use, has a lifecycle as determined by the CIO's office and it is replaced on that lifecycle. That lifecycle is basically what evergreening is. When a piece of equipment hits the end of its lifecycle, it is replaced.

MR. DOLYNNY: CIO meaning Chief Information Officer. I guess the question many would have is as we're replacing this equipment, which is basically a natural attrition and prudent business practice, the old equipment, equipment that in terms of lifecycle it might have some use yet. What does the department do with the remaining equipment?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Some of it is recycled, they auction some off, but for the actual specific details I'll go to the deputy on what we do with the specific items.

MR. DOLYNNY: Again, I heard the word "auction off," but I'm thinking on a bigger picture that we have a number of NGOs out there that obviously are in need of equipment, they're on very limited budgets for the most part and what is deemed near the end of our lifecycle for a government may be very appropriate for a lot of our NGOs throughout the Northwest Territories.

I believe a lot of these NGOs are not even aware that they could have some of these assets available to them. Does the Minister or department do any type of outreach programs informing NGOs throughout the Northwest Territories, especially our smallest communities, that they could have access to reasonably good, refurbished, if need be, equipment so that they can do their job better? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I will ask that the chair go to Deputy Minister Guy, who has actually some specifics that address the questions Mr. Dolynny has just asked. We do those types of things and auction wasn't really the right term. We have stuff in our warehouse that's available to be acquired once it's gone through any other means of disposal. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Mr. Guy, please.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. There are two parts to that question. When you look at our data centre equipment – the hardware, the servers, the switches, all the things we use in the data centre – we evergreen those often. Those units that are still serviceable, we keep for spares because we do have similar equipment at different stages in the evergreen cycle elsewhere in the network, so we will keep them for spares and redeploy them as we need to. As well, some of them we will use as backup data centres, backup data centre equipment, but once it is no longer serviceable –

the switches, the servers and those types of things – then they are sent to be recycled at a recycling facility if there is no other use.

When we look at the desktop and the laptops, when those are evergreened, there is more of a demand for those, certainly for NGO use and various organizations. We do have a program where we bring them back to the warehouse and keep a certain number of them available there for any group that comes forward looking for them. We work closely with the Computers for Schools program as well. They send them out for various NGO organizations as well. Whatever we can on the desktop side and the server side, we try to recycle and reuse as much as possible. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do appreciate the response. It sounds like we are moving in a direction or we make this retrofit equipment. I am thinking more or less along desktops and laptops. These things have some usability here, but I still think there is a bit of confusion as to where we can source this.

If it is in a major centre like Yellowknife, how do the small communities have access to our warehouse here? Can someone dial in? Is there an inventory list with pictures?

Would the government look at facilitating and getting that equipment to the smaller communities that may not find a home here in Yellowknife so that we are truly recycling all of our equipment properly throughout the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, as a Regular Member I had an opportunity to travel to Ulukhaktok. When we were in Ulukhaktok, we met with the school. They had a significant number of computers that were actually old government computers from Yellowknife. They got there through the Computers for Schools program. There are a number of ways that different groups make requests to the department on a fairly regular basis. When we have stock, we are happy to work with them to dispose of it. We have also had situations where MLAs have come to us indicating that there are some needs in a community. Can we use old computers? We will work with them on that. We are open to anybody approaching us to obtain these old assets for schools and other community benefitting opportunities.

MR. DOLYNNY: It sounds like we have what I call pull technology, where people have to come to the government to pull that information or extract that information as to what is available from the evergreening process. Would the government

consider a department in creating a push technology which they allow everyone to see what is available that has been retrofitted, a website design or something where people can dial in, these NGOs can dial in and say, you know what, I will take those four computers, and would the government then assist in getting those at a reasonable cost to an NGO, schools or whatever organization that could use them in a real easy push-pull type system? Thank you, Madam Chair.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Certainly it is an interesting idea. I will talk to the department. I will talk to the TSC to find out what might be the best way to make sure that people have information and people understand that there is product available should they choose, and where we go from there, certainly address them working with communities and schools to get those products out to them.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): There are no further questions. Do we have any further questions on this section, page 5-7? Does committee agree that we are done Public Works and Services, activity summary, Technology Service Centre, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.560 million?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thanks, committee. We will go to page 5-10, Public Works and Services, activity summary, petroleum products division, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$3.776 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: For several years we pushed for Public Works and Services to examine this division with the potential or the possibility of incorporating a wood pellet purchase, transport and storage distribution system. I was very pleased to see the department actually conduct research on that question and produce a fairly positive report on it. In the report they detailed that wood pellet heat in almost all of the roaded communities was in the order of 50 to 60 percent of fuel oil cost, so a huge savings to be had. Although there were other roaded communities, winter-roaded communities, where the most remote community had a savings of a modest 7 percent compared to fuel oil. Obviously, switching to biomass from fuel oil would bring great savings to the high cost of living in these communities which is typically very high, especially compared to our larger centres. If biomass was available, that might be realized, and especially, again, if there was assistance from government to switch over, that would enable such benefits to be realized by residents and local businesses.

They reported rates. They have compared to fuel oil, but they didn't talk about really reduced storage costs and related contaminant cleanups of fossil fuels compared to the sawdust that wood pellets are typically made of. Yet, I am led to understand

that there is a refusal of the department to follow up on the clear opportunities that were identified to assist residents and businesses in the small communities where private enterprise does not have the capacity to provide this service or to compete with the subsidized fuel oil provided by Public Works and Services.

I am wondering if this is still the case or if they have seen the light here. If not, why are they not pursuing these opportunities in this day and age when we see the opportunity for 30 to 40 percent savings on our fuel bills, especially in the high cost communities? It is nothing to be sneezed at. Why would we not pursue this opportunity to manage that cost of living as well as, as Minister Miltenberger said earlier today, actually manage? We claim that we are managing greenhouse gas emissions. Here is a real opportunity to make this significant end.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, the facts that the Member has just read out are consistent with the report that we provided. We agree with the Member completely. The challenge and the reason we are not pursuing changing over any of our current facilities to biomass at this time, is in the 16 communities that we are the provider of petroleum products, there isn't actually demand for pellets now.

I know the obvious argument is, well, if you bring it, they will provide or they will utilize it, but in the meantime we would have facilities and structures that are sitting unused; whereas right now we have significant demands for the oil product in those 16 communities.

We have to make sure that those tanks are safe. We have to make sure that they are to code. We have to make sure that they are full so that people can have automotive and home fuel.

We have limited budgets. We need to continue to provide the product in those 16 communities that are currently in demand. We will continue as a government to do activities that will help us encourage people to utilize different product.

We ourselves are going down that road. We are turning over boilers to pellet and biomass on a regular basis. We have a Capital Asset Retrofit Fund. As the markets turn, we may get to a position where we are a provider of pellets or other biomass in those 16 communities, but we are not there yet. Right now there is no plan to change any of those communities into anything other than biomass. When they are, we will be in a position to change our product and meet their demand.

Right now, in PPD, we are the provider. We have to provide what the market is demanding. We have to make sure they have enough to get through our

long, cold winters and that they have enough fuel for their snow machines so that they can go hunting. We need to make sure that product is there, and we are committed to getting that product there safely, and we're committed to storing it safely, and we're committed to distribute it to the people in the communities safely.

MR. BROMLEY: I don't really accept that argument. The demand is not there because the pellets are not there. In every one of our communities, of course, we have government facilities and they would also benefit and easily be able to contribute to any additional costs of this program. Recognizing that the department would have to struggle with the up-front costs of replacing those boilers in government facilities and so on. When we're talking about 30 percent, 40 percent and greater savings, 45 percent, 48 percent savings, the payback times on those have been demonstrated to be quite effective and we do have a borrowing capacity. When there are those sorts of returns, I suspect that's considered a wise investment. It does require some work and I commend the department for doing the study, but then to ignore the huge possibility here for savings is still perplexing.

To say there's no demand, well, we have broad government goals here, one of which is to enjoy environmental benefits and reduce the cost of living. Go out and create the demand by supplying the pellets. That alone would not be a big cost, obviously. I guess I would just, I have heard the Minister. I realize it's not easy but I would urge him to not put it on the back burner and to begin working on how to get this done during the life of this Assembly.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I didn't really hear a question there. I'll go to the Minister for comment if he wishes.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm listening closely and I believe we are wanting to get to the same place, the Member and I. I think we have slightly different opinions on how to get there.

This department and the government are focusing on supporting the demand, helping to create demand. We are becoming purchasers of pellet boilers and other biomass product on a regular basis.

The Department of Public Works and Services is an active member participating on the development of a Biomass Strategy. We are focusing much of our investment on actually utilizing the product and creating demand in the communities.

As far as being a supplier of pellets in those 16 communities, we need to make sure there's demand there. We need to make sure that we have an opportunity to put in machine boilers and

whatnot. But this is a big territory, and there are 33 communities and every community has some demand, and we're hitting those communities where we can get maximum benefit and build on those. Some of those smaller communities, there isn't a demand right now. We need to work our way there and that's going to happen. It's going to take some time in some of the smaller communities.

We are focused on trying to reduce our costs and we will over time. But to put biomass storage in those 16 communities when there's no demand doesn't seem like the right investment now. Investing in actually utilizing and putting in pellet systems where there is a market and getting the immediate benefits on both greenhouse gas emissions and costs seems like a better investment of money up front. We will get, over time, to where the Member wants us to get. It will take time.

MR. BROMLEY: I would just say that this government has a strong focus on internal operations and we're doing a good job there, but when we see a real opportunity for engaging the public and assisting them in taking on our goals and enjoying the benefits of it, we seem to fail. We have a record of failure there. As long as we continue to think that way, that's the way it will be. This government will enjoy the costs or benefits that we're getting but we won't achieve the broad government goals because we're a small part of northern society.

I understand the Minister's comments and I say it's not so much how as when, and the failure to recognize that we need to engage the public to help us achieve our goals. We cannot do it ourselves simply working internally. Just a comment again.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Once again the Member and I agree; the government cannot do this ourselves. Fortunately, the private sector businesses presently sell and distribute pellets and pellet fuel in communities where significant market demand exists. In fact, in Yellowknife, if we remember, some of the first pellets systems that the government were involved with were driven by the market in our corrections facilities.

The private enterprise is a valuable partner in this particular area. They have been a leader in this area and we want to continue to work with them and we'd like to see business continue to push hard in this area. It's a win-win for everybody. So we don't believe that we're the only player in the game. We don't think we should be the only player in the game. We'd like to see industry continue to step up like they have. They've done some amazing things here in the North.

MR. BROMLEY: Obviously, the Minister is circuitous now in his thinking. Private enterprise would be providing fuel in our communities if that was the case. The reason we are in these 16

communities is because private enterprise is not there to do that.

Can the Minister say, with a straight face, that at 40 percent savings on your fuel bill, there would not be the demand if that form of fuel was there and you had a choice between the two?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: If the question was as simple as that, it wouldn't be that hard to agree. There's more to it than that and the Member knows that.

We can put the pellets in, but until people start purchasing and have the money to actually put in their own pellet heating systems – which we all know a pellet boiler in a house is probably \$20,000 even with the subsidies that are available through organizations like Arctic Energy Alliance – many people in the small communities aren't going to be able to afford those anyway. We need to work with the communities to help them create a market. When the demand is there, we would absolutely be interested in putting those facilities to provide pellets.

With no market and a strong demand for diesel and gasoline, we have to provide what the people need to heat their homes to be safe, to be warm, to use their snowmobiles to go hunting, to get out on the land, to transport themselves around the communities. There are demands for those products that we have to provide. Even with biomass we're never going to be completely out of the business unless somebody in private enterprise decides to go into those communities and provide, because we're still going to need aviation and automotive fuel.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Are there any further questions on this section? Mr. Bromley could probably question us for the rest of the afternoon. Seeing no further, Public Works and Services, activity summary, petroleum products division, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$3.776 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): If we would return to the department summary on page 5-2, Public Works and Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$24.536 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Does committee agree that we are concluded the Department of Public Works and Services?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, committee. Thank you, Minister, and thank you to your witness, Mr. Guy. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you

would escort the witness out of the Chamber, please.

Committee, we will move on to page 6-2, Health and Social Services. I'd like to ask Mr. Beaulieu if he has witnesses that he would like to bring into the Chamber.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, Madam Chair, I do.

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

Mr. Beaulieu, welcome to you and your witnesses. If you would introduce your witnesses for the record, please.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Committee, we are on page 6-2, department summary. We will defer this particular page to the end. We will go to page 6-4, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$31.181 million. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Welcome to the Minister and deputy minister and team. I'm going to start my questions under the reference of electronic medical records. This is something that I know people, residents, people in health professions have known about for a very long time. This is nothing new, other than the fact that we continue hearing about EMR initiatives with the department and have done so for many, many years. In fact, we've gone to the extent of getting health-specific privacy-type legislation already and getting that in place to prepare the Northwest Territories for EMR. Can the Minister give us an update as to what this new amount of money that will be put aside for this capital budget for EMR? We'll start with that first question. What is this money going to be used for?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm just going to have the deputy minister, she has the detail on what this money is going to be used for, to do a response.

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

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The funding will be used to purchase licences for the electronic medical record system itself. It will be used to train staff. It will be used for some technical and equipment upgrades that are required. That's a

general overview. We can provide more detail if need be.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: I didn't hear what amount is being spent in it, but maybe I can get that amount as well as what we have spent to date on this EMR project. If I can get that question answered.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will get the assistant deputy minister to provide the cost details of what has been spent to date.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Elkin, please.

MR. ELKIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. In previous years we spent roughly \$2.1 million in some initial review. Currently we have about \$2.2 million in the current year and \$1 million in 2013-2014. We're currently in discussions and negotiations with Canada Health Infoway on the overall project chartered to confirm their contributions to the project. That should be concluded this fall.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: This could be a long afternoon. I guess the question is: What have we spent to date on EMR initiatives from this government?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The total prior year GNWT investment in the EMR project has been \$4.175 million, with continued investment of \$250,000 in 2012; \$1 million in 2013; \$774,000 in 2014; for a total of \$6.19 million of capital investment. Also, there will be \$2.175 million of the initial \$4.175 million occurred in previous EMR investment with \$2 million carry-over to the current EMR project. Therefore, the current project budget reflects \$8 million total, \$2 million carry-over, \$250,000 in 2012-13, \$1.002 million in 2013-14. Again, the \$774,000 in '14-15, up to \$3.946 million of Infoway funding. Canada Infoway funding has approved an investment up to that amount of \$3.946 million to the NWT EMR project pending development of acceptable eligibility criteria as well as NWT's ability to meet the criteria within the allocated framework. That money should be coming through by December 2014. Infoway reimburses GNWT anywhere from 75 to 100 percent of eligible implementation costs to that maximum.

MR. DOLYNNY: Now I do appreciate the Minister for giving a detailed response to the question. I do appreciate that.

Going back to this EMR project and budget estimates that was talked about not less than a year ago, that budget was just slightly over \$4

million for this whole budget. Now, from what we're hearing, this budget has now exceeded within one year, or doubled to over \$8 million during the last fiscal year. Can we get an explanation why EMR has now doubled in price in one year?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We don't have the detail of why the cost has escalated with us here today, but we can provide that detail to the committee.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do appreciate that response. My next series of questions with this page deal with a lot of facility upgrades and renovations within a number of communities. My question is, from a standpoint of a user, or basically, a health professional, as we are all aware, a number of our health professionals do travel and do work in various communities, whether you're a nurse or in any type of health capacity. Do these facilities, when we're looking at doing these retrofits, these replacements, is there a common theme on trying to create some universality in the design so that there's a familiarity when a health professional goes from community to community but there is some degree of uniform design? I'll leave that as a question.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Generally, with communities that have approximately the same types of needs, we build a prototype. A facility in a community of approximately 500 to 1,000 people would generally have the same building built in their communities.

MR. DOLYNNY: I guess my next question: These prototypes, are they vetted through the different associations, the Nurses Association, the Medical Association, for their input on usability and getting some ideas from the ground up, in terms of making these so-called pilot designs user friendly and adaptable to the northern climate and to the northern type of experience that health care does require?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We work with the practitioners that use the facility to provide the health service in the design aspect of the centres, and also during the development of the design, we consult with the health and social services authorities responsible for that particular community.

MR. DOLYNNY: No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Are there any further questions on this section? Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe we're still in section 6.3, just to confirm?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Pages 6.4, 6.5.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to make sure. I was just looking at health services programs, and I understand it's a bit of a challenge here in some particular regions where they qualify for doctors under their health portfolio

of funding, and in some cases they're unable to hire physicians. There has been a logjam on the policies. I understand it's some method, and I'm just trying to hash it out here. It may take a bit of work to get to the bottom of it.

As I understand it, if you have doctor money, it's meant to be spent for doctors, but in some cases they can staff positions in some of the regional health authorities, and so that money sits empty and not expended for the appropriate need. There's always been discussion about, for example, being able to change the formula of doctor money and maybe, for example, use it and allocate it to nurse practitioners.

What type of flexibility does the Minister or Minister's team see in that policy shift; whereas if we bracketed it and said if you're unable to hire a physician, which obviously is our first choice in certain circumstances, are we able to transfer it to NP only to ensure that people don't turn around – when I say people, I mean authorities – and buy a pickup truck with the type of money? Again, health services for qualified health services that are in a similar manner but obviously not equal. What does the Minister think about that typical policy and has he seen any problems with it under that concept? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The money usually doesn't sit unused, first of all. When they're unable to fill the doctor positions, the physician positions, then we use the money to bring in locums. In as far as the flexibility of funding goes, we are looking at putting some flexibility into the funding. The funding for physicians is restricted by FMB direction, so in order for us to build flexibly into that, we have to go back to the Financial Management Board to build that flexibility to bring in, as an example the Member used, nurse practitioners to fill the role in certain communities. We are doing that. Three of our authorities were asking for flexibility in the funding to allow us to do that exact thing.

MR. HAWKINS: My next question is: This is a particular issue that I've raised with previous deputy ministers of Health, and I understood it from a similar sort of positioning on-the-ground perspective that they too saw the benefit of requesting that formal flexibility through FMB.

Has anyone ever written FMB to request this type of policy ability, or flexibility I should call it? Rather than treating it as a one-time process, request the authority to use it as an ongoing flexible option.

I mean, the way I see it, and this example may not be perfect for the exact circumstances we're under today, but, I mean, if you're in the Fort Smith region, you have four doctors under your catalogue

of options, you're only able to fill it with two. What is to stop the authority from saying, well, let's use that doctor money? We can't seem to hire two doctors so let's use some flexibility and give the authority that type of flexibility to make choices on the ground. And who better knows their operating environment than the local authority for the local people?

That's the type of question I'm really getting after, which is: Has the Department of Health ever requested a formal support or formal dispensation from FMB in order to do this formula as I'm talking about?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The process used is a business case. We have to develop a business case working with the authorities. The three authorities in which we're building business cases for to create flexibility in the physician funding is Tlicho, Fort Smith and Hay River.

MR. HAWKINS: As I understand it, there are still a few other authorities out there as well. If I've understood my facts correctly, I mean, over a period of a fair bit of time, every authority has had some type of difficulty or challenge with this issue and this could be a solution. I am just curious as to why the Minister would say it in a manner of building their business case. Have they not seen or recognized this as a particular problem and a potential solution?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The business case allows us to provide a cost-benefit analysis seeing the full cost and the other benefits of creating this flexibility into the physician funding. That is what is needed for us to give the FMB comfort if and when they make a decision to create flexibility in the funding to allow us to bring other than just doctors into this type of funding.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair, to the Minister, the obvious question is: When do you expect this to be a business case proposal presented to FMB? This problem that I am familiar with goes back two if not three years. I am curious as to why the department wouldn't have actioned some form or request to this date. That may be a challenging question to answer, but the real issue is when do we expect the business case to be presented to FMB on this option? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, we are having an O and M discussion. This business case will be completed before the end of this calendar year so that we can possibly have inclusion for the next fiscal year in O and M.

MR. HAWKINS: I guess the only thing I would ask is if the Minister would keep me up to date as to the progress on this initiative. That will be all. Thanks.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, no problem. We can do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. There are no further questions. We will go next on the list. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to commend the department for all the work they are doing in building all of these new infrastructure projects throughout the Northwest Territories and to our regional centres. I am sure the staff and residents will appreciate the efforts and having new facilities to do their jobs more efficiently.

Specifically in this section here, I want to talk about the seclusion room upgrade in Inuvik. It is a very positive project and something that is much needed in terms of the business of the emergency room and the business that they have there.

Can I ask the Minister if this is a standard practice that he is going to be doing throughout the Northwest Territories in all the other hospitals such as Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, this is a new standard. We are incorporating this into all of our new facilities.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair, as this is the new practice, are we going to be looking at seeing in future capital budgets where we look at one... This cost is only for one room upgrade. Can we look at seeing maybe two a year or one a year per hospital? What is the plan for future capital budgets? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The Member is right; this is in the Inuvik Regional Hospital. We will be incorporating this into the Hay River Health Centre and also into the renovations that would be... We would plan it into the renovations of Stanton.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair, in terms of the other hospitals in the other communities such as Fort Simpson, Norman Wells and Fort Smith, once we see those seclusion rooms put into the capital budget to get those identified, because obviously this isn't just a problem in Yellowknife, Hay River, and Inuvik, it is something that is happening right across the Northwest Territories. When can we see that in the capital budget plans? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, they are required in the health centres that are in the regional centres, we would likely see one. I don't have the information. I would likely see one that would be incorporated into probably the health centre in Norman Wells, the health centre/long-term care centre. Also Fort Smith would have one included in the health centre there. The health centre in Hay River, as I indicated earlier, and likely

Fort Simpson as well. Again, I don't have the information on the Fort Simpson one here also.

MR. MOSES: It is a room that is used for emergency situations and people that can possibly harm themselves. Right now there isn't any in Inuvik and there might be multiple cases. For the larger centres, are we looking at doing possibly multiple rooms and not just a single room? Is that in the budget plans for future years as well?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, based on the assessment, we determine what is needed. Generally there is usually one room needed, even if it is used frequently. There is only usually one room needed. If there is a need for a second room to be added for this use, then we would incorporate a second room into either a renovation or a new design, depending on the need.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair, I have no further questions. I just want to commend the work and the initiative on this particular program in Inuvik and throughout the Northwest Territories, especially the larger regional centres. I just want to commend the department for that work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We are moving to further questions. We have the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of questions here. I wanted to follow up on some of the questions that were asked previously. First of all, with regard to the questions asked by Mr. Dolynny, by yourself, Mr. Chair, with regard to the electronic medical records, I appreciate the host of numbers that we got from the Minister. It was a little hard to follow. I wouldn't mind asking the Minister to provide us with that on paper at a later time so it would be a little easier to follow. I wasn't totally clear, when I was listening to the answer, how long this project is. I gather it is a multi-year project. When is it scheduled to be completed? I kind of got lost with the last expenditure. What fiscal year will we be done? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, the last cost that we have scheduled in and at which point we expect completion is 2014-15.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that clarification. I wanted to also follow up on Mr. Hawkins' question about the flexibility of funding for doctors to our various health authorities. I understand that the Minister needs to make a business case, but I thought I heard him say that this business case is only going to be made for three of our health authorities. I wondered why this would not be applied to all authorities. I would think at one point in time or another every authority would need the opportunity to be flexible with their funding and hiring of doctors and nurse

practitioners. So I'd like to know from the Minister why we're only doing it for three authorities. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We're coming forward with the business case for the three authorities that have requested – the two authorities and the agency, Tlicho Community Services Agency – to provide flexibility in their funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. I do remind the Members that we are in capital estimates. Some of the questions we're entertaining here have more operational overtone. So I'll go back to Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have no further questions about an operations issue.

I would like to ask the question, though, with regard to the item in the budget for the Stanton Territorial Hospital. I noticed with the Minister of Finance's opening remarks yesterday, he stated \$29.6 million for health facility replacements, including funding for the upfront planning for the upgrades that will be required at Stanton Territorial Hospital. In the budget itself it says Stanton Territorial Hospital and planning study only. So I'm a little confused as to whether or not the money for Stanton is going to be used, well, I guess it's planning, but is the money a planning study for a new hospital, or is it a planning study to do upgrades on the current old hospital?

We've been doing upgrades for quite a few years. It's an aging building and in order to keep it in service, we've been doing upgrades for a number of years, but are we now doing further upgrades or are we planning for a new building? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan for the Stanton Hospital is upgrades and renovations.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Minister, I think. So, I guess, what portion of this planning study is for upgrades? What upgrades are required and when are the renovations going to start? It's a tough question. I know it's a major reno and we don't really have the money at this point, but if I could get a little bit more of an explanation on just what the planning study is being done for, what are the upgrades that are required, and when you say renovations, are you talking about the major renovations of the facility of \$200-plus million or what? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan is for a major upgrade, a major renovation at Stanton. The hospital would almost be completely renovated right from one end of the hospital to the other end of the hospital. There could even be additions. So it would depend on how the planning studies come out.

We're at the stage of the planning studies... When you're doing renovations to the hospital you can realize that you can't shut the hospital down, right? I think everybody knows that. So what would happen would be that if we were planning on doing a renovation, or as we plan to do a renovation, the renovations would happen over a considerable time period so that if, hypothetically, we were to spend \$200 million on the hospital at Stanton, it could end up being \$25 million a year for eight years, as an example, so that the hospital continues to operate as we upgrade.

Major portions of the hospital will be going through upgrades and as we're finished the upgrades, we would be moving staff and patients around in the hospital in order to complete the upgrades fully over an extended period of time.

MS. BISARO: I guess to the Minister just to confirm so that I understand, would it be accurate to refer to this planning study as planning and studying for a major retrofit and renovations of the hospital? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Probably the best term that we could use is a redevelopment of the Stanton Hospital.

MS. BISARO: That's all I have. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Last on my list I have the Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to keep it brief here. I'd like to just ask a question or two on emergency medical records, follow-up. I know that estimates of the costs have doubled over the past year for a number of reasons and we've been given some information on that. I'm wondering to what degree will the current proposal complete the implementation of emergency medical records, given it will take until '14 or '15, and what is the likelihood of a change in project scope and schedule and costs. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money, we'll roll it out and will get us to a stage where it's functional, but there will always be ongoing costs. So electronic medical records are up to date and maintained and useable at all times across the board. Although this would get it going, there will be ongoing costs.

MR. BROMLEY: I guess I might be interested in exploring that with a little more time, but maybe I'll just ask, is it anticipated that it will be rolled out across the territory comprehensively all at once, sort of thing, if digitally we have that capacity and so on? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Two things. First, I would offer committee an opportunity for us to do a

presentation on the electronic medical records and, yes, they would be rolled out across the territory. That's the intent of the medical records.

MR. BROMLEY: Maybe the last one for now, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering, when I go to see the doctor, he seems able to pull up my records pretty easily and access some pretty good history there. What's the difference that we're talking about here between the current system, I suppose, whatever it might be called, and the EMR being proposed here? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: What Mr. Bromley is referring to is health records, electronic health records. So if the Chair has no objection, I would like to have the deputy minister explain the difference between electronic health records and electronic medical records.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Beaulieu. Ms. DeLancey.

MS. DELANCEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Very briefly, we do have the electronic health records available throughout the system now and all your medical information as a patient is available there. The electronic medical record is now being used in Yellowknife and Hay River and it has a lot of features that the health records don't have. So the doctor can actually chart in there while he or she is using it; they can actually look up standards or clinical practice guidelines in the record. They can send questions to experts for referrals and get an almost immediate answer, and in the case of chronic disease, the medical record can actually give the doctor prompts, so remember to see if this person has renewed their medication. So it's a much more interactive tool, whereas what you're seeing today is more likely just looking at what's happened in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. DeLancey. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Yes, I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chair, and I look forward to the briefing that the Minister has proposed, should committee take him up on that offer. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Committee, we're on page 6-4, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$31.181 million. Mr. Hawkins.

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I will now rise and report progress. I'd like to thank our witnesses today, if I can get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Dolynny.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 64-17(3), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2013-2014, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do we have a seconder to the motion? Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures at the rise of the House this afternoon.

Orders of the day for Monday, October 22, 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
 - Motion 14-17(3), Establishment of Electoral Boundaries Commission
 - Motion 15-17(3), Guidelines for NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission, 2012
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 64-17(3), NWT Capital Estimates 2013-2014
- Bill 2, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2012
- Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, October 22, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 2:04 p.m.