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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, October 23, 2012****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 63-17(3):
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WINS SILVER AWARD FROM INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS OF CANADA
AWARD FOR
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY PROJECT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Department of Transportation for receiving the Silver Award of Innovation from the Institute of Public Administrators of Canada.

Every year the institute recognizes world-class innovators for improving public service in Canada. This year the Department of Transportation is nationally recognized as one of these innovators. This prestigious award acknowledges the hard work of many individuals and provides an opportunity to share the influence of their good ideas with the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the award recognizes the department's innovative Aboriginal engagement process for planning major infrastructure projects. The Department of Transportation, led by Mr. Jim Stevens, has been using an inclusive partnership approach for planning the Mackenzie Valley all-weather highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk.

We established partnerships with Aboriginal land claim organizations to lead, develop and manage the project description reports for sections of the Mackenzie Valley Highway within their regions. Taking the lead role allowed regional and community leaders and residents to select their own project management structure, contracting and payment processes, and consultation methodology and schedule.

The four completed project description reports are being combined into one document that will form the basis of a submission to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. Completing the work now allows us to begin considering the next stage of activities required to support a future environmental assessment. We know there will be geotechnical investigations, surveys, consultations, and studies into fisheries, vegetation, wildlife, archaeology, terrain, permafrost and hydrology. Aboriginal land claim organizations will continue to be involved in these activities.

Mr. Speaker, the inclusive engagement strategy between the Department of Transportation and Aboriginal governments is essential for building a strong and sustainable future for our territory. This approach reflects the GNWT's commitment to building strong working relationships with Aboriginal governments as stated in Respect, Recognition, Responsibility, our strategy for engaging with Aboriginal governments. It ensures Aboriginal views and values are incorporated when planning major infrastructure.

It has led to lasting relationships built on mutual trust and respect, and also resulted in a common voice and demonstration of support for the Mackenzie Valley all-weather highway, a significant step toward achieving the goals and priorities established by the 17th Legislative Assembly. The department will continue to cultivate these successful partnerships to advance an aspiration that Northerners have held for decades: a highway connecting the rest of Canada to the Arctic coast.

Mr. Speaker, let us congratulate staff and our Aboriginal partners for their accomplishments and the wealth of possibilities resulting from hard work and cooperation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 64-17(3):
ADVANCES TO ADDRESS FAMILY VIOLENCE

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, we all have a role to play in stopping abuse from taking place in our homes. Unfortunately, family violence continues to be a significant concern.

We know violence in the homes of NWT residents is having long-term physical, social and economic

impacts on family members, communities, and the territory as a whole.

Our government is finishing the planning for the new Narrative Therapy: Abuse Intervention Program. This is a three-year pilot project directed towards NWT men who use violence in their family relationships. Men may choose, or be mandated by the court to participate in this program. We have contracted with a community-based organization, the Healing Drum Society, to provide delivery of these services. They will be working closely with the Department of Justice.

As Members know, much work has gone into developing this program. A committee of social departments, NGOs, RCMP and the Coalition Against Family Violence, has created a program unique to the North. There has been significant investment from the GNWT, the federal government and NGO partners.

By balancing best practices and traditional First Nations, Inuit and Metis knowledge, this 24-week program will give men opportunities to change their behaviour. It honours men's expertise, perspectives, and their right to make choices. It builds on a safe, respectful and collaborative environment for them to talk openly about their abusive behaviour. Participants will use their experiences as a basis for developing respectful relationships.

By helping men take responsibility for their abusive behaviour and build on their own strengths and qualities, men will be taught to heal from and repair the effects of abuse.

The safety and dignity of partners and children are paramount.

This is important work, and we have taken the time we needed to develop the best program providing the greatest opportunities for success.

Next steps include establishing an advisory committee to provide support and guidance. Program staff will be trained and have an orientation. An evaluation framework will be developed. We will be sure potential clients, service providers and the public know about the program and how to access it.

Again, good groundwork takes time. We expect the first clients will enter this program in February. Ultimately, we will see people who choose to use respectful behaviour towards their children, their intimate partners and their communities.

I know that each of us here in this Assembly support efforts by all involved as we continue to work together for effective solutions towards eradicating violence in our homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 65-17(3):
SINGLE WINDOW SERVICE CENTRES

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, in October 2010, the Department of the Executive piloted a new initiative called the Single Window Service Centre. Centres, which were established in eight rural and remote communities across the Northwest Territories including Nahanni Butte, Fort Providence, Lutselk'e, Whati, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Aklavik and Ulukhaktok. Each centre is staffed by a locally hired government service officer. The centres help community residents access and navigate both Government of the Northwest Territories and federal programs. They also support Government of the Northwest Territories staff in the regional centres by providing information about departmental programs and services to residents.

A unique aspect of the initiative is the support that is provided to community elders. Every Thursday...

---[Technical difficulties]

MR. SPEAKER: Just one second, Mr. Premier. We are just having some technical difficulties for our interpreters.

I don't know if that is the fire alarm or not.

---Laughter

But there's a door right there and the other main door is right there. We'll wait for a few minutes.

Okay, Mr. Premier. It's working now.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Every Thursday the government service officers pay home visits to elders, providing assistance by interpreting, opening and explaining mail, and generally ensuring elders and others have better access to our programs and services as well as many services offered by our federal partners. Additionally, community residents can come into the Single Window Service Centre for assistance with filling out forms and applications on-line, through the use of the public computer. This electronic access has shortened response times and expedited the business of government at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, in the 20 months of operation, our government service officers provided assistance to clients more than 6,000 times. Given the success of the eight pilot centres, additional single window service centres and government service officer positions were established in Sachs Harbour, Tsiigehtchic, Tulita, Gameti and Fort Liard in 2012-13. Two more are planned for 2013-14.

The expansion of the Single Window Service Centre initiative also addresses the 17th Legislative Assembly's priority to increase employment opportunities where they are needed most. The Department of the Executive is using existing funds to create these new government service officer

positions in rural and remote communities. All currently staffed single window service centres employ Aboriginal women from their home community.

Furthermore, over the next year we will investigate the potential for expanding the scope of services government service officers provide and the communities in which single window service centres are based.

The Single Window Service Centre initiative has been a resounding success. They help residents gain much improved access to our government, especially in those more remote communities where Government of the Northwest Territories staff may not be located. The government service officers help residents access all of the benefits to which they are entitled; in that sense, Mr. Speaker, they are on the front lines of our efforts to reduce poverty.

Faster response times, the ability to provide services in the local language and having a familiar face in the office have all added to the success of the single window service centres.

I would like to thank all of the Members of this House for their strong support for the establishment and expansion of the centres. This is a great example of what we can achieve when we work together to make a real difference for people in our smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PASSING OF MR. ANTHONY GRANDJAMBE OF FORT GOOD HOPE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really didn't know what to say today, because yesterday I had a phone call from my sister. When they say life throws curve balls at you, it certainly does, not knowing what to expect.

My sister called me yesterday and said that a good friend of mine, Mr. Anthony Grandjambe of Fort Good Hope, passed away. I couldn't believe it.

It's been a year since Anthony and I worked together and started my campaign in Fort Good Hope. Anthony just lost his wife, Janet, to cancer.

I spent some time with him in Fort Good Hope. We developed, over the 40 years of my knowing Anthony, a very close relationship. We talked about life. Anthony talked about how he missed his wife so badly that it was very hard for him to live life without her. She was his main inspiration. We talked about this on a man-to-man basis. He talked about how he went to her grave every day and

visited her. He had good days, and days when he really didn't know what to do.

So we developed this relationship that we could talk to each other. He talked about some of the things he wanted to do. I thought I wanted to say something about that because the friends we get, we have in our life from time to time, they are worth the recognition at this state. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, we have a job to do and sometimes we don't show our emotions, our feelings, because we're so busy or keep ourselves in check.

I wanted to say this because he came from a good family. My prayers go out for him and to his children and grandchildren. I had a lot of feelings of sadness and a lot of feelings of love for this man because he helped me. I wanted to say that. I wanted to say how much we appreciate him in our region. I want to say that we extend our prayers for him and his family. We're going to Fort Good Hope this weekend.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Colleagues, before we move on today, I'd like to welcome back into the House a former Member, Speaker and Minister, Mr. David Krutko.

I'd also like to welcome my mayor from Ulukhaktok, Ms. Janet Kanayok. Welcome to the House.

The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LACK OF LONG-TERM CARE BEDS IN NEW HAY RIVER HEALTH CENTRE

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have been working on the infrastructure budget for 2013-2014, I'd like to voice my concerns over what is not in the budget or in any projections.

Construction of the new health centre in Hay River has begun. This facility will not have 10 long-term beds that are in the current facility. This is unbelievable. I understand the department's justification that long-term beds are not effective in a hospital setting for both the patient and costs. My biggest problem is that the department has known for some time now that this facility will not have long-term beds. However, no matching infrastructure money has been placed in the budget to provide this essential service to Hay River. What does the department expect the community of Hay River to do without these long-term beds?

Hay River is the second largest community in the Northwest Territories. Does this government expect their seniors to travel out of the community? This is unbelievable.

The Department of Health, in public discussions and communications, has indicated that they have to assess the current demands in the North. Have

we not been building similar facilities throughout the North? There is no plan? The department only needs to pick up a paper or look at any statistical information and see that the population is getting older, and Hay River is no different.

This is hard to accept that we do not have a plan. How long will it take the department to come up to speed on this issue? Hay River residents are getting nervous as the government seems to be dragging their feet on fixing this mistake. How could we have not placed the budget line item to replace a service as essential as long-term beds in the community of Hay River?

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSAL FOR NORTH OF SIXTY SEARCH AND RESCUE BASE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of weeks ago I had an opportunity to attend an exciting announcement made by Discovery Air in conjunction with Spanish-based Airbus Military. Discovery Air and Airbus Military will be presenting a proposal to the Government of Canada for fixed-wing search and rescue, SAR, north of 60. There are currently only three SAR bases in Canada: Victoria, Trenton and Halifax. All three are a long way from most of northern Canada.

The need for a SAR base located in the North has long been recognized by Northerners. Our vast, uninhabited expanses and extreme climates puts anyone lost in the Arctic in great danger. The proposal from Discovery Air and Airbus to replace Canada's aging fixed-wing search and rescue aircraft will locate a SAR base in Yellowknife, in the North. No longer will we have to wait up to five hours for a plane to arrive in the North to begin the search. With a northern SAR base, the search can begin immediately.

The benefits of this proposal are many: reduced search time; an economic boost to the North; solidification of Canada's claim to northern sovereignty, and that's a phrase we hear very often from Ottawa.

Since 1998, increasing numbers of aircraft are using the polar route to travel from North America to Asia and vice versa. Data from United Airlines for 2009 indicates that over 8,500 flights used one of the four polar routes. Assuming 10 percent growth per year and 350 passengers per flight, in 2012 some 11,000 passengers' lives are at risk as they fly over our heads every day. Are they prepared to survive in our climate? Are they wearing boots and parkas? We all know that's not the case. Instead, they're dressed in shorts and sneakers for the climate they left in Los Angeles, for instance, or for

the climate they're expecting at the end of their journey.

If any one of these flights experiences difficulties and crashes in the North, every extra minute spent finding them will put lives in danger. A base in the North will save lives: airline passengers' lives and our own northern residents' lives. We spend a lot of time on the land and it's not uncommon for travellers to run into trouble and become stranded. SAR close at hand will mean our people are found faster, fewer lives at risk, fewer lives lost.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: The North needs a search and rescue base located in the North. This Discovery Air/Airbus Military joint bid is good for Yellowknifers, good for Northerners, and good for all Canadians. All NWT politicians and leaders should support the Discovery Air/Airbus Military proposal. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEW SCHOOL FOR TROUT LAKE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are dealing with the capital budgets for various departments in this session. I have looked high and low and I am sad to say there is not a single dollar set aside to start work on a new school in Trout Lake.

The school in Trout Lake is located in one room at the community hall and it is too small. When the original log school was damaged by fire, the government said temporary placement in this community hall. For years I have urged the government to begin planning for a new school. I have to say, I now understand how a teacher must feel when the students are not listening.

The last information I had from the Education Minister was that work could not begin before 2018. It is too long a wait and this government should be embarrassed. A whole generation of students and teachers will be stuck in an inadequate school.

I have supported the construction of new schools all over this territory. Inuvik has a \$100 million super-school, and I am happy for that community. We have expanded schools in Yellowknife, renovated schools in Hay River, put new schools in Tulita and Good Hope. I could go on, but you get the point. The very smallest communities seem to be left out.

I have said, time and time again, that everyone across our great territory should have equal access to education and equal opportunity to learn. The reality is access to education is not equal across the Northwest Territories. I know families in various communities who feel they have to send their

children away to larger centres to get proper education.

I know that this government says it's always short of money, especially, it seems, for a school in Trout Lake, and I am sick of hearing it. It is unfair to the people of Trout Lake, especially for the students and teachers. This government can find the money and should find the money. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COST OF FINANCING
LONG-TERM NUNAVUT DEBT

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not less than a week ago I had an exchange of oral questions with the Minister of Finance on taxpayers' cost to finance Nunavut debt. Historically, since post-division, the Government of Nunavut continued to use many of our services, primarily health care services, for their citizens. This is an understandable and acceptable practice. In return for the service, we would invoice, like any other client or contractor, for our costs of doing business.

As indicated in last week's question exchange, I was alarmed to find out, during the spring Committee of the Whole, that this number owed by taxpayers of Nunavut to be somewhat alarming. In fact, after almost two rounds of questioning with the Minister, he finally agreed to share that there was about \$2.93 million owed back to us in June but that number was whittled down to \$2.39 million. Of course, he and I both know these numbers, yet I am not at liberty to share these numbers publicly until such time as it is released. We call it the rule of disclosure.

Further to this, the results of the issue of aged receivables over 180 days, or six months, owed to this government. You see, aged receivables compound interest at an incredible rate if they are not looked after. This is no different than if one was to leave a continued balance on your credit card month after month. Again, he and I both know the number but, unfortunately, this number was not shared to you, the taxpayer. In the end, the Minister indicated that there was only about \$2,000 owing that was older than 90 days, and yet he also indicated that there was a time that this number was well over \$8 million.

As a taxpayer, what does this all mean? For one thing, we should be called the Bank of NWT and not the Government of the Northwest Territories. However, unlike most banks that charge an interest rate for their line of credit, it appears that the GNWT does not. In fact, if we were to use the public sector accounting of audit standards on just the rolling average of the \$2.39 million, which is a lower number recorded by the Finance Minister, we being

the people of NWT are financing about \$200,000 per year in straight line interest and carrying costs for the Nunavut government. Moreover, if you were to factor that we had some aged receivable issues, as the Minister did indicate, you can even add more to this bill.

When the Member for Mackenzie Delta is asking for one more nurse, or the Member for Hay River North is asking for some more long-term care beds, or when the Member for Nahendeh goes on his hunger strike for his beloved Highway No. 7, this approximate \$200,000 hidden cost could be used for our people's needs and not financing debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUCCESS OF WELEDEH ENTREPRENEUR
DAVID GIROUX
AND ARCTIC FIRE STOVES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will follow up on my remarks yesterday about Weledeh small businesses with a specific example of Weledeh enterprise and success.

From his home workshop in Detah, David Giroux is the owner, inventor, manufacturer, marketer and driving force behind Arctic Fire Stoves. The stoves are constructed of recycled fuel drums and salvaged steel, an environmentally sound repurposing of existing materials. This is the Cadillac of barrel stoves, and experienced people say they have never seen anything like them. It is the only model that can be used for heating as an oven, a barbeque and a smoker. The stoves are produced in a number of sizes for use not only at homes and businesses but at bush and exploration camps.

One hundred fifty stoves have been marketed thus far, all made and sold in the Northwest Territories. Product development is proceeding. Mr. Giroux is going for Canadian Standards Association certification, which would make the stoves an approved unit for insurance purposes for use in private and public buildings. He is working with CSA on installation of a membrane, and damper and door seals. Once model improvements are completed, a prototype must be supplied for testing, which takes five to six months. That is at a cost of about \$10,000.

Mr. Giroux will be looking for departmental support to attend the technical conference. I will naturally be backing that application. With CSA certification, David will be looking for wider markets here, across Canada and perhaps even internationally.

Here is a man who has looked around his home community, spotted an opportunity and ran with it. Who hasn't seen him on the Detah ice road selling

the stoves from the back of his truck or at winter events displaying the various models? David Giroux is going forward. I congratulate him and look forward to opportunities to help with his business success. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
RCMP AND COMMUNITY POLICING
INITIATIVES IN INUVIK

MR. MOSES: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Over the past few months, there has been a rash of criminal activity in the community of Inuvik. However, today on the news you all heard of the great efforts that the local RCMP attachment and its members are making.

I would like to congratulate the Inuvik RCMP Detachment for their continued support and ongoing work with the community, and their commitment and tireless efforts to make Inuvik a healthy and safe community. I personally worked with the RCMP on the Not Us campaign and also at the Inuvik Interagency Committee where their presence, involvement and engagement help set the tone to find positive solutions for community concerns. They've also done very successful road checks, both in the community and on the highway.

On another note, Inuvik policing does not necessarily mean RCMP presence. There is also the community aspect. On October 7th concerned residents of the community of Inuvik held a meeting to address the increase of these criminal activities. As a result, one topic that was discussed was the formation of Citizens on Patrol. I believe that this group has activated itself and is working closely with the RCMP to do daily and, more importantly, weekend patrols.

I'd like to also give recognition to this group of volunteers who have devoted their time, and committed to making Inuvik streets safe, and protecting the livelihood of Inuvik's residents. It takes a special type of person to commit their time to patrol the streets of Inuvik in an effort to make them safe, especially after a full day of work or a busy family life.

I would like to encourage all residents of Inuvik to continue to speak up on the crimes that they may witness, and help the Citizens on Patrol and RCMP. In fact, I'd like to encourage all residents of the Northwest Territories to stand up against crime and use your voices to put an end to criminal activities that are happening in your community.

I'd like to ask Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication of the Inuvik RCMP Detachment and

Inuvik's Citizens on Patrol group in making Inuvik a safer place to live. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DISCLOSING COMPENSATION OF
SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many jurisdictions in Canada publish the salaries, or at least the salary ranges of individual civil servants. This has obvious benefits for accountability and transparency.

In New Brunswick, salary ranges for all employees are listed by department in the government's annual public accounts. Nova Scotia has just begun requiring government agencies to publicly disclose the compensation, direct and indirect, of anyone who receives more than \$100,000 in that fiscal year. Ontario publishes the salaries for public employees earning more than \$100,000 a year by name on a readily accessible website. Manitoba requires the disclosure of all public sector salaries over \$50,000 through the public body's audited financial statements. Alberta discloses senior official salaries in an annual report issued under the Alberta Treasury Board directive. Of course, British Columbia discloses the remuneration of public servants who make over \$70,000 a year.

But in the NWT, as I understand it, if a member of the public wants to know the salary range of a particular civil servant or a position, they have to file an access to information request. If the information of this is so limited and challenging, how is this being a fair essence of disclosure to our public citizens?

The government will argue this and say it's a breach, in their view, under privacy. But I've given so many examples to explain why and how others do this, why can't we? It's time that this government is proactive in the disclosure of our salaries when we want to talk about good accountability.

The other day I raised the issue about senior management bonuses. It's time to start talking about these things in public and sharing the information that rightly belongs in public. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NATIONAL CERVICAL CANCER
AWARENESS WEEK

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Six months ago I lost a close family member to ovarian cancer. Today I'd like to acknowledge another form of cancer. This week is dedicated to the national

awareness of cervical cancer. The Northwest Territories health system has an excellent screening and prevention program. Even so, cervical cancer is among the top five cancers suffered by women in our territory.

Cervical cancer develops from the human papilloma virus, or HPV. There are more than 100 different types of HPV. These viruses infect the skin and are spread by close sexual contact, not bodily fluids. You can get these viruses without having intercourse. Both women and men can carry HPV. Most of the time the body's immune system clears these viruses from the body, but when they are not cleared, the person usually does not know he or she has HPV. It can show no symptoms and remain dormant, only to be spread later. When cancer does develop in the cervix, it can take 10 to 20 years from the initial infection.

The good news is cervical cancer is preventable, with a bit of common sense and vigilance. Here in the Territories we have an HPV vaccine program for school-aged girls that prevents cervical cancer and 70 percent of the HPV viruses that affect the cervix.

It is also important for young women to begin getting PAP smears within three years of starting sexual activity or by the age of 21 at the latest. This simple procedure detects abnormal cells. Early detection and treatment saves thousands of women's lives every year all over the world. The Northwest Territories has the highest PAP smear coverage, 83 percent in Canada. That also means there are less than 17 percent of women who should be tested approximately every two years. All it takes is a visit to your nurse or doctor, who is your primary health care provider. I understand that the screening rate is lower among Aboriginal women and lower in regional centres and small communities than in Yellowknife. This is yet another sign of where our health system can improve.

Awareness of the HPV and cervical cancer can be a life and death matter. I'm pretty sure that most young people know very little about the human papilloma virus. For that matter, I would bet that most adults' knowledge of this topic can be improved.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the former Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. David Krutko. I'd like to thank him for all his hard work over the years.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize my brother-in-law and colleague – he looks so relaxed I didn't even recognize him at first – Mr. David Krutko.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to recognize former Member Krutko. Committee meetings are certainly not the same as they used to be. If anything, they go faster. I will say that we do miss his presence here.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 11-17(3): DORIS TANITON – 2012 MINISTER'S CULTURAL CIRCLE AWARD

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Ms. Doris Taniton from Deline, who received an award for the 2012 Minister's Cultural Circle Award.

This is an award that is well deserved for Ms. Taniton and the community of Deline. She is known to be very passionate of her culture and heritage, which is a value to be cherished at such a young age.

On behalf of the Sahtu region, I would like to congratulate Ms. Taniton for her involvement and dedication in her community, and encourage her to continue her positive attitude for our youth across the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 208-17(3): INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY PROJECT

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd first like to start by congratulating the Department of Transportation on winning the Silver Award from the Institute of Public Administrators of Canada for the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project. With that, I have a few questions on the project itself. I know a decision has been made formally approving the Inuvik-Tuk highway, which is the first step of the Mackenzie Valley Highway Project.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his recognition of the award. We hope to be concluded with the EA process and get a report back on that early in 2013. Between that time and when session starts again in February-March, we hope to be able to get the cost estimates on the project so that we can better ascertain what the cost of the project is going to be. We expect to be able to come back before the House in the February-March sitting to formally make a decision on the Inuvik-Tuk highway. I look forward to doing that.

MR. BLAKE: I'd like to ask the Minister when equipment will start moving and people will be working in the Beaufort-Delta region.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Processes like the EA take some time. I know the economy right now in the Beaufort-Delta isn't what folks need it to be. We need jobs, we need opportunities there. I believe this project is going to help us deliver on growing the economy in the Beaufort-Delta. Should the project be approved in February-March, we will be able to hopefully move on a couple of sections that are shovel ready, both out of Inuvik and out of Tuk. Hopefully the project itself would commence construction in the fall of next year. That would be the fall of 2013.

MR. BLAKE: My final question to the Minister is: What level of support is the Government of the Northwest Territories receiving from the federal government?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We've had a great deal of support from the federal government. It's a project that the federal government believes has national significance. It's going to lend itself to Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic. It's going to connect this country from coast to coast to coast. We certainly look forward to continuing to work with the federal government as the project moves forward.

We have today a commitment of \$150 million from the federal government. Again, I think there are some moving parts here. We need to nail down what exactly the cost of the project is going to be, and like other projects that we've had here in the past, we need to complete the environmental assessment, get the report back, and then look to the federal government to continue to be the partner they've been thus far, and we'll get a funding arrangement with the federal government and look forward to a continued partnership with the federal government on building this territory.

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

QUESTION 209-17(3):
STANDARDS FOR INJURED WORKERS'
COMPENSATION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. Over the past three years, I've described the problem of injured workers not receiving compensation for the impacts of physical as well as psychological pain. Although the legal ability to compensate for pain evidently exists, no pain compensation is awarded, simply because the WSCC has not written a standard to rate the physical pain. The issue was referred to the NWT Human Rights Commission, and a complaint was upheld for referral to adjudication and that adjudication has been suspended pending the results of a negotiation with a specified client. Although, I am unable to refer to the details of that negotiation because of imposed confidentiality conditions by WSCC. However, can the Minister say whether a standard for rating and compensating the impacts of pain is being prepared by the WSCC?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Jackson Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Member alluded to where we cannot talk about the specifics of a case that's before the claims. This particular case is before the claims. When it comes to compensation and benefits for individuals, injured workers, I have had a meeting with WSCC, the president and also the chair, discussing various areas where the Member raised that issue with me earlier. I did raise the profile and we need to deal with those matters that are before us. Those are the areas that the organization is looking after but they are very careful discussing matters that are before claims.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for those remarks. I realize there are areas that we can't delve into. However, I do believe there is full agreement that pain is to be compensated and that the policy needs to be written first. That is what my inquiry is. I think that is out front and clearly public. It sounds like, from the Minister's response, that hasn't been done yet.

I'm wondering if the Minister can say when we can expect completion and introduction of that new standard, and when it will be rolled out to apply to all new claims for injury compensation.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I would have to get back to the Member on the status of the compensation, the policy that he is referring to. Like I said, I did meet with my staff at WSCC and they did inform me that the paper was coming and that these are the areas we take seriously into consideration, were the compensation for injured

workers. I have to get back to the Members on the exact status of the report.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the Minister's remarks again. I know the Minister is aware of the situation and has been supporting getting it resolved, but the standard does obviously need to be prepared, and to ensure accountability and sensitivity to client needs there has to be some transparency in its development.

I'm wondering if the Minister knows, or perhaps could assure me that the standard as it's being developed examines other jurisdictions' policies, seeks independent medical advice, and how the policy development will include the input of clients who will be affected by the standard ultimately developed.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When I met with WSCC staff to talk about the standards that are being developed, we wanted to do research in other jurisdictions, as well, as we've done with various other initiatives that we've undertaken when it comes to policy development, or benefits, or compensation. The discussion on potentially having input from the clients themselves, those are discussions we've had, but I will take those into consideration when I meet with WSCC and gather that information.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for that commitment from the Minister. Another issue here, and this has dragged out this case over four or five years now, has been the backlog of cases waiting assessment by the only physician contracted by the WSCC to do the assessments. Frequently, there hasn't been one. I've been assured in the past that more staff are being contracted to eliminate that backlog and keep it from accumulating.

Can the Minister tell me if the backlog in physician assessment of new claims has been cleared, and if not, what steps are being taken to deal promptly with our injured workers?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: My understanding was that the department, WSCC has been looking into the assessment backlog and to deal with that matter, find solutions. I have to get the latest update to the Members. I don't have that information here before me but I will provide that to the Members.

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

QUESTION 210-17(3):
LACK OF LONG-TERM CARE BEDS
IN NEW HAY RIVER HEALTH CENTRE

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's statement, I find it unbelievable that the Department of Health does not have a matching line item for the 10 long-term beds that are currently planned to be removed from the new health centre. My first question for the Minister is: Will the community of Hay River be protected from having to move its seniors to other communities?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've said in this House many times that we are going to do everything possible to keep the seniors in their home communities as much as possible. The only time we wish to move seniors is when there is no long-term care available in their communities and they have to go to long-term care, then we will sometimes move them to another long-term care facility. For the most part, the idea is to keep people as close to home as possible.

MR. BOUCHARD: I would like to ask the Minister of Health why there was no matching line item for these 10 long-term beds when they were being removed from the new health care facility. I understand the concept of not putting any in the health care facility, but why was there no line item to replace these in some other facility or add a facility?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The decision was made to build a new health centre and the decision was made not to have the new health centre be a home for people to live in. The long-term care beds were not incorporated into the new health care centre. Unfortunately, the long-term care beds were not incorporated into any other location. I've committed to the Member that we're going to look at it. We're not going to leave individuals that require long-term care that are in H.H. Williams Hospital now out in the cold. We will find a place for them within Hay River if at all possible.

MR. BOUCHARD: The department has indicated they are doing an assessment of the Hay River area and the future needs. I would urge the department to complete that assessment and make sure that this facility is going to be a facility that takes care of the needs for the next 50 years.

Will the Minister commit to completing that assessment and making sure that if Hay River's needs for the next 50 years are 15 beds, that Hay River looks to that type of facility? If the needs are only 10, that's fine, but the needs may be even higher, especially with the aging population of the

Northwest Territories. Will the Minister commit to that, please?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes. I would commit to completing the assessment for the need of long-term care beds in Hay River and try to move that to the capital planning process as soon as possible.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As time is of the essence in this project and the project is being constructed as we speak, when will the department place these essential 10 long-term beds in their budget process so I can see it and the community of Hay River can see it on the long-term budget process, knowing that it is going to be removed from the community within the next few years?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The Member will be able to see it as a line item in the capital plan once it goes through the capital planning process in this House.

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

QUESTION 211-17(3):
NORMAN WELLS BIOMASS ENERGY
DISTRICT HEATING PROPOSAL

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact that the town of Norman Wells' natural gas will be turned off in 2013 for business and 2014 for residents, the Town of Norman Wells has initiated a process where they want to look at the biomass energy district heating initiative. I want to ask the Minister, and I'm not too sure if it's the Minister of Finance or one of the Ministers who are the lead on this initiative with the Town of Norman Wells, if they are helping them put together a business case where the town then can go to the federal funders to look at some funding to support their alternative heating energy use.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The officials and staff, in fact Environment and Natural Resources, who are conversant with biomass, have been working with the community of Norman Wells. Now that there's been an election and a change in leadership, we have to revisit the priorities of the community just to confirm whether those are still the priorities or if there has been any change. But we have been working with the community.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Town of Norman Wells so far has received a letter indicating that they are still continuing to pursue the biomass energy district heating process. I want to ask the Minister, would his government be supporting that initiative through

a letter writing campaign when they formulate their business case to present it to the various funders.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to working with the community of Norman Wells the same as we are working with the community of Inuvik to resolve these critical energy issues. We have been and will continue to work with the community to do that.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister has indicated the government's commitment. The Town of Norman Wells is compiling a business case and needs the support in writing from the Government of the Northwest Territories, to put together and complete their business case for funding. They are looking at this as urgent, and since it has to go through different levels of hurdles, can we count on this government here to provide some sort of comfort letter that they would give the town for a solid business case?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'll commit to have the officials check on the latest status of this proposal. As the Member has indicated, if it's some type of letter or some type of letter of comfort, then, of course, we will seriously look at that either through Environment and Natural Resources or Finance.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Town of Norman Wells would appreciate hearing from the Minister his commitment on helping them put together a business case for their alternative energy use.

Would the Minister, once it's asked by the town, see this as urgent and get the support of his Cabinet Ministers to sign off a letter that would be satisfactory to all the parties?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In fact, Municipal and Community Affairs has provided the community about \$175,000 to assist them with the work, the technical work, engineering work, as they look at the type of conversion that's going to best meet the needs of the community.

Once again, I'll commit that we will make sure, as a government, that we are coordinated and supportive of the community in this process. I will, as well, be talking to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

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

QUESTION 212-17(3):
COMMUNITY PROGRAM SUPPORTS
FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to follow up to my Member's statement earlier and

my questions today are for the Minister of Justice. With most of the criminal activity that happened in the community of Inuvik, it was stated in the news today that a lot of it had to do with youth. I wanted to ask the Minister of Justice what type of preventative measures or programs are in place to help these youth that are high-risk youth, maybe troubled youth, to get back and become a part of society again. What kind of programs are in place in the communities that can help these youth get back on track and become part of society again?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple things. Some of it's promotion and advertising. We do have the Not Us campaign, which is actually a community-driven promotion and awareness campaign. It does exist in Inuvik. The RCMP are working with the community group who is delivering that, and I think we're getting some pretty positive results in Inuvik.

We also have community justice committees in most of our communities in the Northwest Territories. They are working through diversion to work with youth to find alternatives and healing methods, and ways to divert them out of the criminal justice system. There are things that are happening in the communities. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: The Minister alluded to justice committees and alternatives in terms of programs in the communities. Can the Minister confirm how many communities in the Northwest Territories actually have active community justice committees and what type of activities they're carrying out in terms of diversion?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I don't have the exact number of communities that actually have community justice committees in the Northwest Territories. I do know that it is the majority of communities. I also do know that currently 30 of 33 communities have access to the program and are accessing funding. I don't know how active they are specifically, but I do know that 30 of 33 are accessing the funding for their committees.

MR. MOSES: That's really good news to hear, that 30 of our 33 communities are actually accessing this funding for these justice committees.

In terms of alternative and diversion programs having our youth go out and do certain projects or do things for the community, can the Minister allude to what type of projects that these youth are getting diverted into to helping out in the community in terms of volunteering to ensure us that they are not just doing labour work, that they are actually doing some type of skill set that will help them become mature and responsible youth as well as teenagers, and eventually become responsible adults? Can he

allude to what type of skill sets they are getting diverted to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, many of the individual diversions are very specific to the individual involved in the diversion, whatever can be arranged in the community. It would be difficult to provide a comprehensive list of every specific diversion that has taken place, but I will commit to getting to the Member a bit of a summary of the types of things that are being done in the different communities as well as a little bit of a summary on what some of the communities are doing as far as prevention and individual diversion.

I do know that some of the communities have submitted applications for money to run some on-the-land programs that are open to youth so they can get them away from communities and talk about positive activities. I will commit to getting the Member some additional information. I will be happy to share that with him once I have had it compiled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do these community justice committees take into account possibly the learning challenges, learning disabilities, cognitive disabilities that these individuals come before them might have when actually dealing with them and dealing with the youth in terms of putting them into an appropriate type of diversion program, or that the youth understands what they are actually going to these community justice committees for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, every community justice committee consists of representatives from the individual communities. They all come with different strengths, weaknesses and ideas. I couldn't say whether every committee does exactly what the Member is talking to, but I know many strive to do that. Specifics would depend on the community-by-community basis and what skills they have in their communities, what knowledge they have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 213-17(3):
NEED FOR A NEW SCHOOL
IN TROUT LAKE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Trout Lake school Member's statement earlier this afternoon. During my last visit to Trout Lake and with the recent letter received, they have indicated that parents and council, the chief has indicated that the Charles Tetcho School is too small. This fiscal year alone, there are 19 students listed in the morning, and in

the afternoon there are 16 students. There is a big open class. I have always said it is like the one-room school. There are too many distractions from the kindergarten class all the way up to the Grade 9 students, as well as the lack of storage room. I have been raising this issue for years. I would like to ask the Minister of Education what has the Education Minister done to get the Trout Lake school project started. Mahsi cho.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Charles Tetcho School in Trout Lake fits the criteria that we have right now. That is the NWT Schools Capital Standards and Criteria of maximum capacity with the 33 capacity within that school. Right now it is at 61 percent. As the Member indicated, 19 for 2011-12, so the school does meet the approved standard for classroom space and size. That is what we have currently, but the Member raised the issue on numerous occasions. I did address it with my department, how we can look into those areas of small community schools, distraction and so forth. We are looking into that as well. Mahsi.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, why is replacing the Charles Tetcho School in Trout Lake not a higher priority for this government? I had indicated the original school had burnt down. This is a temporary placement in the community hall. Why is replacing the school in Trout Lake not a priority? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, replacing schools in the communities would have to be based on the standards and criteria that we follow, the Government of the Northwest Territories standards that we follow. What we have before us is the classroom size, the 33 students that can be allowed in the schools. Earlier the Member indicated 19. It is a 61, a 60 percent margin right now. If it becomes a major issue where we have 30 students in the classroom, then it is a major crisis, major issue that we need to deal with. At this point the capacity is not at the maximum, so based on that, we have to follow the standards that are before us within the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that criteria works well if it is a school, but this is not a school. It is one room in the community hall. I keep impressing that on government. Why do our children deserve less in the smaller communities than others? I would like the Minister to explain that to myself and everyone in Trout Lake. They have to recognize that this is not a school. It is actually a room in the community hall. When will this government replace that school in Trout Lake? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, that is part of the long-term plan. The Member alluded to 2018-19; it could be sooner. It all depends on the situation in the communities. We are not excluding those regional, small, isolated communities. We have to treat all the schools the same. It is all based on criteria as well. We need to follow that. That is our Government of the Northwest Territories criteria and standards that we are following. We cannot break those rules.

This is an issue that we have encountered in the past where there is capital infrastructure that happens every year. These discussions happen on a continuous basis. Eventually, we will see that school, but it is the school where students are being taught kindergarten and so forth and higher grade levels.

---[Microphone turned off]

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: ...recognized by our department, by our government. We are providing funding for the organization, the school board, to provide that programming. We will continue to do that until eventually there will be a new school there. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That eventual reality of getting a new school is why I am up here and been raising the issue for years and years. When will that school be replaced? You have ECE standards versus the substandard. That is my point. That is not a recognized school by that community. The government promised to replace that school. They never did. When are they going to do that? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the capital infrastructure comes on an annual basis. We can definitely discuss it. This is an area that we will continue to push forward in a small community. Depending on the size, again, it is a standard and criteria that is before us based on 61 percent capacity. I will be visiting the community of Trout Lake and see for myself, as well and other small communities, what could be done to expedite the process. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 214-17(3):
DISCLOSURE OF SENIOR
CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARIES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I talked about other jurisdictions that proactively take the right approach in disclosing salary ranges for civil servants. In the Northwest Territories it presents itself as a very significant challenge.

My question is to the Minister of Human Resources. What is the Minister doing to publish public service salaries over the range by way of example of \$75,000 in the similar manner as BC or even Ontario does? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on the recommendations of the Access to Privacy Commissioner in the last Assembly, the government also made a recommendation that the government post all salary ranges for different categories of employment in the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Member and I were both on that committee, and since becoming a Minister I have directed the department to post all salary ranges for all categories of employment in the Government of the Northwest Territories on-line. They are all there.

As far as posting individuals' salaries and individual position salaries, we are actually limited by the conditions of the Access to Information and Privacy Act. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I appreciate the Minister mentioning the last part, especially about the privacy issue. In Alberta, they recently passed through an FMB directive, which is similar to our process of the Treasury Board, that actually makes this happen that I'm talking about. Ontario, which I'll table later today, actually publishes people over \$100,000 by position, name, where the position is located, as well as their specific salary.

So what is actually stopping this particular Minister from publishing this type of information that's being published across Canada? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I've seen that information and I understand that some jurisdictions, under their particular access to information and privacy legislation, have the freedom to do that. We have our own stand-alone legislation here in the Northwest Territories which we have to comply with, and our legislation does not allow that. I am happy to sit down with committee and have some discussions around this, and if they wish for us to pursue this and look at our legislation, we're happy to do that, but right now our legislation actually limits our ability to do exactly what some of these other jurisdictions are doing. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: There have been occasions when this particular Minister has been quoted in this House about demanding that salaries get publicized. So why would this question be less relevant when he's a Minister now? I'd like to ask specifically as Minister what has he done, rather than asking committee to make the recommendations that you can either follow or not

follow, but what has the Minister done in his capacity to bring forward the information as I've suggested in the manner I've suggested? Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I'm happy the Member brought up my past experience, my past comments. I did exactly what I've done already as a Minister, which is post all ranges for all GNWT positions in the Government of the Northwest Territories. I've said in committee, I've said in the House that that should be done and I'm happy to say today that is exactly what has been done.

With respect to posting individual salaries and individual position salaries, I've never been supportive of that, but if it's something that committee wishes to do, I'm happy, with my colleagues, to look at that and discuss it with committee. If that is the wish of committee, we are happy to pursue that. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act in 1996 from Ontario does exactly what I'm suggesting. What does the Minister have to hide from when I've given numerous examples as to why Ontario does this? They specifically state the institution people work on, their specific names, their specific positions over \$100,000. What does the Minister have to hide from, from proceeding with this type of information on public disclosure on our website? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you. I don't think we have anything to hide about or hide behind. Bottom line is, our legislation is specific and it talks of this particular area. We are not in a position to release that information without changing the Access to Information and Privacy Act.

Like I said, I'm happy to go to committee, have a discussion on this and if committee wishes us to change the Access to Information and Privacy Act, that is certainly something that we are willing to work with committee on. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 215-17(3):
NATIONAL CERVICAL CANCER
AWARENESS WEEK

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a comment on acknowledging the National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week. I'd just like to follow up on it. Perhaps in a sense, maybe for some to talk openly about what happens, perhaps it's an uncomfortable matter, but I think for a case like this talking about it, raising awareness is the mission, especially for the public out there in the Northwest Territories when we have lots of cases of cancer.

So my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. How are young people in the Northwest Territories taught the basics of sexual health, including the information on the human papilloma virus and cervical cancer? Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health does a lot of work in the cancer area, and the department has developed a cancer awareness and response strategy that was funded during this fiscal year, and we have been doing work in various areas under the chief public health officer. I guess that's how we're trying to respond to the cancer awareness. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. What about adults? In our health system, how do we make sure that adults know about the human papilloma virus and cervical cancer? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. I see the HPV advertisements on the television, I notice that they're put on by the Nunavut government and I don't know that the Government of the Northwest Territories has the same type of campaign for HPV. But I know that awareness of the types of cancer that we find most prevalent are the ones that we're trying to campaign as in colorectal, prostate and lung cancer for men, and colorectal, lung and breast cancer for women. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: It is rather disappointing that we're not making the same effort as our colleagues in Nunavut. Why are the human papilloma virus screening rates lower among Aboriginal women and lower in regional centres and small communities than in Yellowknife? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I'm assuming that the Member has the information that those rates of exams or tests are lower than in the larger centres. I don't have that information here. I think the standard, when we try to do cancer awareness or try to do early detection, is to try to do something that's standard across the territory, except for in situations where communities are considered to have a spike in cancer rates in their specific communities. We try to work with those communities to look at all the cancer rates, but the standard is that we are supposed to be applying the same across the Territories regardless of the size of the community. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 216-17(3):
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM REVIEW

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Quite some

time ago, I think it was in 2010, certainly it was in the 16th Assembly, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment advised Members that they would be doing a review of the Student Financial Assistance Program. I'd like to know from the Minister, it's been quite some time since that announcement was made, it's been two years down the road, plus some, I think. So I'd like to know from the Minister whether or not that review has been completed, and if so, is it available for the public? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The SFA was under review and there was a management response to the SFA and the availability to me as the Minister responsible. Upon that, it would be available to the general public based on the recommendations brought forward. We are looking at various areas where we can focus as a priority that we can move forward. So I have to get the specifics of it. I don't have that detailed information at this point with me right now, but I will get that for the Member on the status. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: I think the Minister said that the report is not public. That's my understanding, I think. I'd like to know from the Minister if the report has been received by the Minister and there has been a response to the report. I would think that there are many people in the public who would like to know what the report says. So I'd like to ask the Minister whether it is the intention of the Minister to make the report and its recommendations available to the public. Could he table it in the House perhaps, and hopefully soon? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The recommendation did come from the general public, the students, the parents. It is public information as well. Once I get the overall review, then we can potentially table the document so that it can be opened to the general public.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, he's telling me that it's public information and yet the report is not in the public realm. I'm having a little trouble understanding how he references it as being public.

So to the Minister, since the report is not yet available to the public and the recommendations are not there so that the public and Members can discuss them, I'd like to ask the Minister if he could give me a bit of a summary of what the recommendations in the report are.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There are, let's see here, approximately 18 recommendations within that SFA that was brought to my attention. I can share that with the Members as well as the standing committee. This is an area where there is

a management response to SFA, the review of the final report. I can share that information. We are focusing on which priority areas we need to start implementing and it will be brought to the standing committee, as well, as an information item as we move forward.

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

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, I appreciate that he's going to make this report available, but I believe it's before standing committee already. My question is whether or not, or why it can't be made available to the public. I'm sure that the recommendations in that report would like to be seen by some of the people who had input, would like to be seen by some of the people who are using SFA right now. I would again ask the Minister when he anticipates that this report can be tabled.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: What we were waiting for was the management's response. Now that is before me. The next step was to introduce that to standing committee. That happened. The next step is, of course, tabling the document with all the 18 recommendations and it will be for the general public.

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

QUESTION 217-17(3):
CRITERIA FOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT
PERFORMANCE BONUS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to weigh in on a topic that was brought in earlier today by the Member for Yellowknife Centre. We don't have money for long-term care beds, as we heard today from Hay River, we don't have money for a nurse in Tsiigehtchic, and we've heard today that we don't have money for a school in Trout Lake, but we do have lots of money to pay out and dole out \$1.2 million in bonuses last year in 2011.

My question is to the Minister of Human Resources. Would he agree to and commit to tabling the various criteria that is used to evaluate how bonuses are being paid out by department, by category, by position?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Glen Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That information is on-line. We're happy to re-provide it to Members.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate that. I'm going to be looking for my glasses next time for that question. The criteria, which I again hear is on-line, and I'll definitely make the effort to do so. The concern I have is the fact that in some cases we've got

departments, like, some of our health authorities are running deficits. In some cases our health authorities aren't even complying with the financial act by reporting their annual reports on time, yet we're giving out bonuses in these areas.

Can the Minister indicate to me and the House how it is that we can give out a bonus, when really some of these criteria – basic criteria – are not being met to the public?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I just want to correct my last answer just slightly. Employees' information, excluded senior management are on-line. I'm not 100 percent sure about deputies' information, how that is determined. It is by policy, and I can share that with the Member if it's not on-line.

With respect to individual bonuses and why they may be awarded, financial management would be one category. At the end of the day, we have collective agreements in place, we have agreements with our employees, we have the Public Service Act which outlines bonuses as a possibility. Every deputy is responsible for doing an assessment of their staff, setting performance criteria for an upcoming year and assessing at the end of the year. For those individuals who are eligible for bonuses, they would have to have those assessments done and they would have to be ranked against those criteria to determine whether or not they are eligible for a bonus. Not all employees that are eligible do get bonuses.

MR. DOLYNNY: I would like to thank the Minister for his response. I'm going to ask the Minister a very forthright question here. If the criteria is such that they meet certain standards for an employer senior bureaucrat and they receive a portion or pro-rata of their bonus, would the Minister agree to looking at basically an all-or-none policy that you have to meet all your criteria, you have to meet everything involved with your employment to receive your full bonus?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In order to get a bonus, an employee would have to be seen as exceeding their expectations. If they don't exceed their expectations, then they shouldn't be getting a bonus. It doesn't matter, it's not specific to one category or another category. They have to be seen as overall exceeding.

I'm happy to meet with committee to discuss bonuses, how they are awarded, how they are earned, and if any changes are required, we're happy to consider those with committee.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears that we're actually moving in the right direction and I appreciate the Minister's offer, which leads me to my last question. Should the

Government Ops standing committee come back to this House and to the Minister with specific revisions, if we've done our due diligence with privacy legislation, would the Minister comply with such recommendations?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It is a hypothetical question. I have committed to going to committee. I have committed to sharing our information with them and working with them. If committee has some direction they would like us to follow, we're absolutely open to discussing that and working with committee on any issue that's important to them and the people of the Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 218-17(3):
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM REVIEW

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I'm a little confused about some of the information that he was giving me with regard to the Student Financial Assistance Program review. I understood the Minister to say that the document or report has been done. There has been a response from management – I presume that to be the department staff – and that he as a Minister must review that before anything can be made public.

I'd like to ask the Minister why the report must remain private before the Minister determines the response. Why can the report not be made public? If it's out there, people can comment on it while the Minister analyzes the management response.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I already committed that I will be tabling the document in the House.

MS. BISARO: I didn't hear the Minister say when that is, so I hope that's soon. I'd like to know from the Minister, it seems that in the last little while that it appears to me that reports are done, and then before the report gets tabled there are responses from management.

I'd like to know from the Minister whether or not this has become a current practice that a report is asked for, a report is received, and before the report actually gets tabled, the management response is asked for. Is this something which is becoming standard practice in the Minister's department and across government?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When the recommendations are brought forward based on the input from the general public, there is a

management response provided, and then based on that, the tabling of the document pursuant after that. As I stated, I will be tabling the document before the end of session.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that commitment. I look forward to seeing that report made public. I guess I still don't quite understand the rationale for this current situation, so I would like to ask the Minister again: Is there a reason why the report would not be tabled before the management response is prepared?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: That has been the process for quite some time now within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We are following the process and we'll continue to follow the process as well. There may have been some discrepancies in the past where recommendations were brought forward by consultants, issues with the consultants, so we had to make sure that there is a management response to deal with that matter. We have gone through some hiccups along the way, as well, with this process last year and this year. We just want to make sure that we have the right document going out to the general public based on the recommendations brought forward. That's part of the process of management response.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks also to the Minister. In listening to the answer, I have to say that it sounds to me as though we want to hide things, and I would hope that's not the intent. If we have to get a report and massage the report before it can be made public, I'd like to ask the Minister if this is the reason: we want to make sure that we're putting out the information that we want out there as opposed to what's reported on the report.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Again, we're not hiding stuff within our department or government. This is an area that we want to make sure and clarify whoever's the consultant, having the same messaging. Recommendations brought forward may not be the same recommendations brought forward by the general public and also the department. We have to work together on this. We're not hiding anything, but it will be tabled in the House before session ends.

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

QUESTION 219-17(3):
IMPACTS OF FEDERAL OMNIBUS BILL
ON TERRITORIAL INTERESTS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Premier questions on the recent omnibus bill in Ottawa and the impacts it could have in the

Northwest Territories, especially on devolution and the regulatory reforms, and other acts such as the Fisheries Act, that it would make some changes in the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Premier if he had his Cabinet do an analysis of this bill that's coming, that's actually being debated in the House in Ottawa.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The omnibus bill is a very thick document and we have our analysts pouring through it to find out what the implications of the various sections of it are for the Northwest Territories. We expect to be able to report back to committee by this Friday.

MR. YAKELEYA: Actually, that document is a little over 450 pages. It's like they're throwing everything at us and putting some very significant changes to that bill here.

I want to ask the Premier if he has some ideas or strategies as to if this bill here, parts of this bill will significantly change our relationship with the federal government and how we do business in the Northwest Territories. Is he willing to look at a strategy of how we can probably, or how we can deal with some of the issues that will come forward from this bill?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: When we get the information we can sit down and see how we can approach this. I believe with a majority government at this late stage it would be very difficult to change the course of events because it's in front of Parliament and they'll be voting on it.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Premier outlined some hard facts for us to consider. He also indicated that the power is in Ottawa here.

I want to ask the Premier, other than knowing these facts here, has he or his Cabinet given any thought to how we can deal with some of these significant changes that will possibly be coming to the Northwest Territories regarding this bill.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As I said, we're analyzing the bill. We'll have to see what the implications are. The Government of Canada has indicated that a lot of the changes are being done to make for a more efficient and effective regulatory process without sacrificing any of the environmental impacts or providing for additional Aboriginal participation. We will review the omnibus bill and then we will share our findings with committee. We're very open to discussing an approach on how to deal with it.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The main bill was passed last June, so we had ample time to analyze it, and at this late stage I want to ask the Premier why was this time here given such

at the end of the line as to how do we respond to some of the changes that are going to be coming down to the Northwest Territories.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The detail that has been provided on the omnibus bill, this is the first time we've seen it.

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

QUESTION 220-17(3):
DISASTER COMPENSATION FUND
FOR HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to ask some questions on disaster compensation to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, only because that some of the replacement items belong to hunters and trappers in the community of Nahanni Butte. I'm actually a little bit confused, though. I thought disaster compensation for that horrible flood in Nahanni Butte would be under MACA, but it looks like ITI has taken over some of the hunters' and trappers' skidoos, chainsaws and quads that got damaged. Recently, three residents were denied assistance to replace those items.

I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI what kind of a hunters' and trappers' compensation policy we have. Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a harvesters Disaster Compensation Program that's allotted \$15,000 on an annual basis. It has a maximum of \$4,500 per applicant. I understand the Member's concern, and I had the opportunity to visit the community of Nahanni Butte with the Premier and the Member just after the flood had occurred. Certainly, the residents of Nahanni Butte need the government's assistance. If there are, as the Member indicated, a few people that have concerns, that's something that we're willing to sit down with the Member and the community to discuss how we can get them assistance.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly, in this case in Nahanni Butte, it was an act of God. It was a new issue. I was over at the Dehcho leadership meeting and the chief and the band manager from Nahanni Butte brought this to my attention. But some of the parameters, some of the guidelines are making it difficult for people to claim damaged hunting and trapping equipment. I'd just like to ask the Minister of ITI: Can he review this, because there must be a way around it?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, I've given a commitment to the Member that we will take a look at the situation in Nahanni. I've also got the policy

here with me. Sometimes when things like this happen, they don't necessarily conform to the policy that's there, and we need to take a look at how best to help those residents in Nahanni that need assistance, both the hunters and trappers.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly, a community like this that experiences disaster, the community is still not together and the last thing you've got to give them is guidelines, procedures and reasons why we cannot help them.

I'd like to ask the Minister one more time: Will he review these certain instances and see if he can help the residents that have lost small personal gas equipment that would help them with their harvesting, hunting and trapping?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again, I thank the Member for raising the concern on behalf of the community and the residents in Nahanni. It certainly is something I've committed to already, and I commit again to the Member to sit down and review the situation and try to find the assistance that's necessary to help those folks out in Nahanni Butte.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 7 on our orders of the day, oral questions.

---Unanimous consent denied

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8, written questions. Mr. Menicoché.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 11-17(3): TROUT LAKE SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

1. Where is the replacement for the Trout Lake school identified in the capital plan?
2. Given the number of children attending the school, what are the department's long-term attendance estimates for Trout Lake?
3. What are the parameters and guidelines required to ensure a planning study for a new school in Trout Lake is undertaken?
4. Is there a portable school in our education or government system that can be used in Trout Lake?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. Mr. Hawkins.

WRITTEN QUESTION 12-17(3): SENIOR MANAGEMENT SALARY RANGES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Human Resources.

1. Please provide:
 - a) a list of senior management positions for fiscal year 2011-2012 for all GNWT departments, boards, agencies, commissions and corporations that identifies the:
 - i) department;
 - ii) manager-type position title;
 - iii) senior management pay band number or deputy head level attached to the position; and
 - iv) annual dollar minimums and maximums for the band level; and
 - b) a table showing the numbers in fiscal year 2011-2012 of all managers and management-type positions in the GNWT for which annual salaries were:
 - i) less than \$100,000;
 - ii) \$100,000 to \$124,000;
 - iii) \$125,000 to \$149,000;
 - iv) \$150,000 to \$174,000;
 - v) \$175,000 to \$199,000; and
 - vi) \$200,000 and above.
 2. What was the total number of positions receiving senior management or deputy head remuneration in 2011-2012, and the total amount of senior management or deputy head remuneration paid in that year, by department, board, agency, commission and corporation?
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Bisaro.

WRITTEN QUESTION 13-17(3): MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

1. How many NWT communities have a person hired as a "housing maintainer" for repairs and maintenance on public housing, and in which communities are they located?
2. How many apprentices currently work within the NWT Housing Corporation, and in which communities?
3. How many apprentices has the NWT Housing Corporation trained to certification since fiscal year 2007-2008?

4. How many of the trained apprentices are currently employed by the NWT Housing Corporation, and in which communities?
5. Who handles repairs and maintenance for public housing in communities where there is no housing maintainer or local housing authority?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: I once again request unanimous consent to return to item 7 on the orders of the day, oral questions. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent denied

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again seek unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions, on the orders of the day.

---Unanimous consent denied

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Order! Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Hawkins.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 76-17(3):
2011 ONTARIO HOSPITAL AND
BOARDS OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SALARY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a document to table. I would like to table the Hospital and Boards Public Disclosure on Public Service Employees, and of course, as I mentioned earlier in my Member's statement today, it is authorized and empowered under the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act of 1996. This is from Ontario. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 16-17(3):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO OCTOBER 29, 2012

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, October 25, 2012, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on October 25, 2012, it shall be adjourned until Monday, October 29, 2012;

And further, that any time prior to October 29, 2012, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: 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 Ms. Bisaro in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have before us 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. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. We will resume after a break. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): We will resume after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, we will come back to order. We are starting the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, page 8-2. We will leave the department summary until we have completed the rest of the sections of the department. We will move to page 8-4. Before we do that, Minister Lafferty, do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the Chamber?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Mr. Lafferty, if you could introduce your witnesses for the record, please. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. I have with me to my left, deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Gabriela Eggenhofer and also with me to my right is Paul Devitt, director of strategic and business services with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Committee, we are on page 8-4, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, advanced education, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$876,000. Any questions, committee? Is committee agreed we can move to the next section?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, committee. We'll move onto pages 8-6 and 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$2.329 million. Any questions, committee? Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm going to commence my discussions with respect to the project listing on page 8-8, the Children First Centre, the early childhood development facility in Inuvik. I do want to go on record that I've had substantial dialogue with a number of NGOs throughout the Northwest Territories, spoken at length with some of the Members here, knowing full well that this is precedent setting that we see before us here today. I want to make sure that the people of Range Lake know that I've gone through a great deal of investigation, knowing full well that with precedent setting also comes risks and also reward.

That said, it's hard to look back in the rear-view mirror on something that truly is a great deal of a success story for the people of Inuvik, raising the amount of money that was raised to come to this point and having the balance come forward to the government.

So the first question I have for the Minister is: Because this is precedent setting, is the department looking at creating a new policy with respect to how this government will fund or continue to fund, moving forward, NGOs and infrastructure?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. As the Member of this House clearly stated, early childhood development is very critical, an important piece of work that's before us and an important matter for the entire community to adopt

as a priority. As you are aware, the responsibility for proper care for children not only falls on government but also the entire community. It's a shared responsibility. It is, therefore, very encouraging to see this principle and collaboration of action with the town of Inuvik, where the entire community rallied for the costs and came out with 80 percent of the costs for building a place for the children of Inuvik.

The Children First Society, with the help of the Town of Inuvik, private sector and residents of Inuvik, were able to raise a significant portion of 80 percent of the required capital funding. The contribution from the GNWT will allow this facility to be constructed and the society will fund the O and M costs, as well, through user fees.

I understand that some of you are troubled by what looks like a one-off, providing funding to an NGO for this type of facility in the absence of a broader policy, as the Member alluded to. It is precedent setting, and I agree with you that such a policy framework needs to be devolved and we will definitely work toward that, but we have to keep in mind that early childhood development is a priority that we all share, and the government is committed to developing the updated Early Childhood Development Framework.

Funding policies for daycares and the like, however, should not be developed ahead of time or in isolation of the framework initiative but, rather, reflect on the intent and objectives of the overall Early Childhood Development Framework. So we are committed to work towards that. That's what I wanted to share with the Members. I know Members have raised this issue in the past and we'll continue to work towards the policy.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. I appreciate the Minister's candor on the subject. Again, our congratulations go out to the town of Inuvik and the Children First organization for 80 percent of fundraising. That's incredible.

As the Minister alluded, this is precedent setting and because the commitment from the government clearly indicates that policy will be forthcoming as a result of this precedent setting, it's very, very difficult for us to look in our rear-view mirrors at where government may have not come forward. It is for those reasons, and those reasons alone, that this is precedent setting with new policy that we need to move forward. With that, I will be supporting this project. No further questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. I didn't hear a question there. Minister, did you feel the need to respond?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. I would just like to say thank you to the Member for his support. This has been a huge undertaking by the community of Inuvik and the

town council. So we have worked with them and we will continue to work with other communities as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. I, too, just want to make a couple of comments in regard to the Children First Centre and knowing that is precedent setting and that coming out of this, if government is able to create a policy in which it tops up funding for registered NGOs in the Territories to be able to run their programs and to create capital projects, such as the hard work of the dedicated people of the community of Inuvik, I think this government should be supporting those kind of programs seeing as how we're in a fiscal restraint. When a community can work hard and help find funding for 80 percent of a project, a big project at that, that's going to be able to house up to 120 students that will be both projects indoors and outdoors, as well, having all the donations, in-kind donations, the fundraising that went on, I think that it's a positive project. It's a big win for the government and people of the Northwest Territories.

I do thank all committee members. I know we've had a lot of discussion on this item since we got back into the House here and the first time that we saw it on the capital budget. There have been a lot of concerns, and I appreciate that we had some good dialogue on this and that some Members on this side of the House are in favour of supporting the program. Anything that comes out of it, I think that a policy should be developed where we can look at topping up NGOs that do a lot of work in the Northwest Territories.

I commend the Minister and his staff for looking at ways to get this project on the books, and I appreciate the hard work, and the community of Inuvik appreciates your commitment and support to not only early childhood development but to the future of our community and the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Moses. I didn't hear a question there either. Minister, did you wish to comment?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. I'll just, again, thank the Member and also thank the community of Inuvik for their commitment and dedication towards this project. So, mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. I have nobody else on the list. Are there any other questions? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wanted to just first maybe get an update on what the situation is with the renovations to the museum. I know there have been a few kerfuffles lately, and I know that the work is being done by Public Works

and Services perhaps, or they're involved. I know there were some toxic materials found and I think the situation there is now under control, but I don't see it in this budget. So I think the hope is that we're going to get that addressed this fiscal year. So could I just get that confirmed?

I know a lot of people would like to see the museum fully functional again, especially with the cafe there. It draws in visitors and makes better use of the facility. So if I could just get an update on that situation at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre with regard to the fire-related renovations. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. There has been a lot of work in the Yellowknife Prince of Wales Museum. There's been a tender for kitchen work that has been advertised and a revised schedule for construction to start in November and to be completed by March 2013. As the Member indicated, there is construction happening with the chimney repair starting in mid-September that should be completed by the end of October. There have been little hiccups that have been encountered, but that have been resolved as well.

With respect to the asbestos material, that's been clearly resolved as well. It has been in the works, and we're in the final stages of going through the process of completing the actual work itself. We are expecting that at the end of October, the repair of the chimney will be completed. By March the kitchen area should be completed as well.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for those remarks. I'm sure he, as well as myself and the public, will be very interested in seeing that work completed.

I have to comment on the Inuvik children's facility, the Children First Centre. As I believe the House knows, I'm a huge supporter of early childhood development programs and so on. Child care programs are not necessarily child development programs, and that distinction needs to be well understood by our decision-makers.

I have a major disappointment that this decision was made without a policy in place. As the Minister alluded to, that was pointed out in discussions with the Minister from committee and, again, a huge disappointment that there doesn't seem to be understanding of the need for a policy on which to base these decisions. That's so important to me because there have been many organizations, possibly equally motivated, who have been turned down for support. Ultimately, it becomes a question of fairness and particularly during a time when infrastructure funds are very tight. On that basis

and with the failure to establish a policy, I'm not sure that I will support that expenditure.

I understand, too, that we have not worked to have any influence on the programs offered by declaring an interest in investing a million or a good amount of money into this piece of infrastructure. There is that concern too. I think, when we're investing infrastructure, we want to be sure and have a policy role as well.

I guess I'll leave it at that for now and ask the Minister if he has any comments.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This position or project came into play and has been very unique the way it's been approached by the Children First Society. It has been in the works for the last four or five years now, or even longer before that, with the committee. They've initiated their discussion with the community and the leadership got involved.

It's similar to what we've done here in Yellowknife area with Betty House and the dementia centre, just to name a few. We were in a position to make a decision for 90-plus children in a centre and this should be a good-news item for the Northwest Territories, with a contribution of the town council of just over \$2 million. Our contribution is just under 20 percent. It is a very unique position to be in and we are investing in our children, as the Member alluded to. That's always been the case of this government, we need to invest in our children. Yes, it is precedent setting.

I did commit that we will be drafting a policy pertaining to the Early Childhood Development Framework. It is in the works. There will be consultation as well. We were caught in a position where we had to make a decision for one of our communities. We did that. It wasn't just GNWT money, it was various sectors involved, the leadership of the community of Inuvik and our department as well. I must also commend the committee, the Children First Society, for their tremendous work and dedication. Without their effort, we wouldn't be sitting here discussing this particular important piece of work. Then again, the policy will be in the works and, yes, it is precedent setting, but we have done that in the past, as well, in other projects, as I've just named a few.

MR. BROMLEY: Can I get confirmation that the Minister said the department will be developing a policy for non-government organizations' infrastructure that we would consider contributing to? Not just to a Children First sort of structure but an NGO structure.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When I speak of this policy, of course, I can only speak from my departmental perspective. The early childhood development framework, that has to pertain to that. If Members are alluding to overall GNWT initiatives, that's an area that we need to discuss further.

Involvement of NGOs, their input, of course, will be invaluable towards this policy because it is for their pursuance down the road when they seek funds through the GNWT. We will be working with them, as well, and also the standing committee of the Regular MLAs as we move forward on this particular piece of work.

MR. BROMLEY: I mentioned earlier that I'm a big supporter of early childhood development and the social aspects of child care. I think this government should provide universal child care. The Minister is making steps in that direction. Can I assume that the department supports universal child care in the Northwest Territories?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: In my language will be [English translation not provided], meaning that we have to take certain steps towards this. It is in the works with the Early Childhood Development Framework. That is the start for us. We're thinking long-term universal, and that could be the end goal, but we have to take baby steps, as well, towards this framework that's before us. We need to finalize that with the input across the Northwest Territories. We're going to be consulting with stakeholders and we will be listening to those experts on how we can start implementing this framework. We are working towards that as a long-term initiative.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Moving on with questions I have from Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment and a couple of questions here.

I want to follow up to discuss the project for the Children First Society, the early childhood care and education facility in Inuvik. Like other Members, I fully support this project, it's needed, and I give full credit to the members of the Children First Society, who did a great job of raising funds and have done an excellent job to get themselves the facility that they know they need.

My concern with this particular project is the process that was used to get it to the capital budget. We have apparently, according to the Finance Minister, have and have had a red-flag list, and I think the Finance Minister said earlier last week that the red-flag list is projects that are next in line. So one therefore assumes that projects will be on the red-flag list, then, as capital budgets go by, they will move from the red-flag list into the capital budget. This item was not anywhere near the red-flag list. This item wasn't on anybody's capital list until about a year ago. Probably not even that long ago.

In my mind, the problem is that we are funding a facility which the GNWT will not own. I appreciate that it is an NGO. I appreciate that they've done good work. But we are, as the Minister has said, setting a precedent.

I don't think it was well thought out what precedent we were setting. I don't think it was well thought out the implications that it would have for every other NGO in the NWT who is struggling for funds and would love to have a million dollars of infrastructure funding. The project itself is great, but the way that we got it to this capital budget, in my mind, was not the right way to do it and I don't think it was well thought out.

We do need a policy, and the Minister has said he's looking at a policy just for his department, and I want the Minister and all of the Cabinet to know that the policy that we need is not one just for Education. We need a policy that will cover every department, every NGO in the territory, so that we have a policy that when an NGO asks for infrastructure funding, no matter from what corner of the NWT they come, or what corner of the budget they're coming from, that we have a policy that we can lean on and that will guide us in making a decision to fund them or not to fund them. The policy should not refer just to either Education or to early childhood development. It needs to be one that applies across the board of the whole of government.

That said, I'll just leave that at that. The Minister has spoken to this project already. I don't really need a response. I guess I do need a response. I would like a confirmation, and if the Minister can't give it, then I think Members on this side of the House would like it from the Premier or Cabinet that the policy that is going to be developed will be one that applies across government and not just to the Department of Education.

The other thing that I wanted to mention, there are a couple of things that are not in the budget. I mentioned these in my opening remarks but I do need to mention them here again. There are several educational facilities which, again, are not on the budget. Sissons School is one. It's well past its time for renovation and it was on the capital budget a number of years ago. It is no longer anywhere to be seen on the capital budget. I think that's wrong. I've been advised that it's in the works. I can't see it on a piece of paper, so that concerns me.

Mildred Hall School is another one which has had renovations a number of years ago but there's a certain portion of those renovations which were not completed, and again, there's no money in any budget that I can see now or in the future that will allow for Mildred Hall to finish those renovations, the ones that weren't done.

Thirdly, and again this has been mentioned a number of times, but there is no indication in the budget for any funding anywhere that I can see in the future for a stand-alone campus for Aurora College in Yellowknife. I know the Minister has responded and said, you know, it's being worked on

and so on, but it needs to be into the capital budget. As I said, I don't see it anywhere and that really concerns me.

In terms of these three facilities, I guess my question to the Minister is: Why are they not in the budget? If not for the 2013-2014 capital year, why are they not in future years? Why do we not have an indication that they are on the radar soon and that these three facilities are going to be getting the money that they need to start their planning to do their renovations or to do their building within the next couple of years?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member that this particular project is badly needed in Inuvik and her concern is also noted. I've already alerted her to our next step. It is, again, 90-plus students or children that will be in the facility. We may not own the building, but it is part of the empowerment. It is part of the partnership that we talk about partnership in this House even at the federal level. We don't even own the dementia that's in Yellowknife. It goes on and on, but we need to do this for the community of Inuvik.

The policy may not be just for ECE. It could be for overall GNWT. I need to talk to my Cabinet colleagues if we need to develop an overall policy. When it first came down it was more specifically geared toward ECE, so we are talking about, okay, it will be part of the Early Childhood Development Framework. That policy will be reflecting on that, and I will be sharing that with my Cabinet colleagues as we move forward to develop, if it's going to be an overall GNWT policy per se.

With respect to the various infrastructures that the Member indicated, there are plans in place, as well, with J.H. Sissons. My department is working with the school district. We're in the process of completing an education plan and also a planning study. We have to do this before a major infrastructure renovation could happen. It is beginning in November 2012. I can share this information with the Members as well. Following that will be the planning study that will be scheduled for completion in fall of 2013.

Mildred Hall is another area that we've done some major renovations. Some of the outstanding work has been identified through the capital needs assessment, and also includes renovation of the gymnasium and upgrading of the exterior walls and windows. That's an area that has been worked on, as well, and my department will bring the project forward for consideration during the 2014-2015 capital planning process. It may not show on here but we are moving forward on those matters.

The college stand-alone, we've extended our lease for three years and potentially five years. It all depends on our consultation with PWS and my department with a potential investor or contractor organization that we've been in touch with on how it's going to look. We are discussing those matters. It may not show up on this year's capital planning process, but we are discussing it seriously. My counterpart Mr. Glen Abernethy and myself have been in discussion on this and working with various private sectors as we move forward. Definitely, we would like to see something down the road within a short period.

MS. BISARO: Just a couple of comments to the Minister. I do believe that the Dementia Centre is owned by the government. There was a great deal of consternation when that happened, so I'm pretty sure that it's owned by the government.

With regard to Mildred Hall and J.H. Sissons not appearing in the capital plan, the budget document that's been tabled doesn't show future years, but I'm very pleased to hear the Minister say that Mildred Hall and J.H. Sissons will be in '14-15, because that's not the information that we were given at committee. I'm very glad to hear the Minister say that on record, because now we can amend those other documents, hopefully.

I don't have any other questions, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to make those comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): I'll take those as comments. Would the Minister care to reply to those?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. When I referred to the '14-15 capital planning process, that's for Mildred Hall. The other one is still in the planning stages with a study and also an education plan. We will be taking forward those plans, once it's completed, for the capital planning process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty, for clarification. Next on my list I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to, of course, continue my dialogue and actually ask a library question, as well, in my dialogue about replacing the school in Trout Lake. I know that government, we do have a 20-year needs assessment, so maybe I can ask the Minister if he can show me that list and show me where the Trout Lake school is on the 20-year needs assessment, and maybe we can start that dialogue there and if he can make a commitment that we can meet sometime this week to look at exactly where the Trout Lake school is on the capital needs assessment.

We had a good debate in the House here today. I don't have to go on at length about the needs of the community of Trout Lake and some of the

reasoning that they have given me, which I have spoken about. I know that the department has their own assessment of the school in Trout Lake. But I think, overall, the point I've been trying to make, it's a classroom in the community hall and it's not a replacement school, which was promised to the community of Trout Lake many, many years ago. If the Minister could provide that information, like I said, I would be happy to meet with him at another point in time.

Changing the topic just briefly, it was about trying to get the library issue addressed, as well, in the community of Fort Simpson. I know that I haven't had an opportunity for an update in Fort Simpson, but the needs are still there for a stand-alone library as well. I'd like to work towards it. I know that we've got some money in the capital budget but it's meant for minor repairs and replacement and things like that, but I'd certainly like to continue to pursue the library needs in Fort Simpson.

Speaking about the library budget, I know that in our capital substantiation there seems to be a year skipped. There's money put aside this year for '13-14. It seems to be absent. I just thought I'd double check that. We're skipping a year, so we're getting funding for this coming fiscal year. The following one there's no money in the budget, and then the third year we're getting a contribution for the library. I'm just curious why that is there, Mr. Chair. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. We did have a lively debate earlier on Trout Lake, and I do understand where the Member's coming from and I'm seriously looking into this, as well, with my department. I've already indicated to my deputy that there are certain schools that we may have to seriously look at. There's been an increase in enrolment. History shows us that the enrolment has been increasing, so that's an area that we can definitely look at and start planning, conduct a planning process for the Charles Tetcho School in Trout Lake. I will be committing to working with the Members and also the standing committee to make this part of the priority for this government, as well, along with other schools in the Northwest Territories.

The 20-year plan, unfortunately, is not general public information so I won't be able to share that information at this point. Again, I'm committed to working with the Members on the school itself.

With respect to the community library, in the past we've worked with the town council to try and identify a location. It's been a struggle. It's been a challenge. But at the same time, I'm of the opinion that we need to discuss that further and again open up our discussion. I understand there are some new council members as well. We will be going to

the community of Nahendeh and we will be visiting Fort Simpson. I'd like for my team to look into the library area again, because I have my new deputy as well. She will be visiting all or most of the communities. I'm making a commitment to the Member that I will be visiting and we can discuss it further from there.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'm pleased that the Minister is taking these concerns very seriously, and I certainly look forward to travelling with him in my riding in the future. With that, I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Moving on with questions, I have the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular case, I'd like to thank Member Bisaro for asking the questions I was going to pursue, but I'm not going to necessarily let them slide without getting some clear emphasis on that.

The Minister did make a commitment. Now I'm trying to understand what the commitment was for both Mildred Hall and Sissons. This Minister has a horrible history of saying we do discussions and we have to have meetings, but there always seems to be a lack of detail about commitment on that. So maybe the Minister could elaborate on what Members can expect coming into the next fiscal budget year calendar and what it means. Quite often I'll hear we're working on that, we're talking on that. With all due respect, it means nothing to anybody.

I'd like to know in this House today, right now, what does he mean by there will be a commitment in the 2014-15 budget to help address the problems both at Mildred Hall and Sissons schools.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. If we don't talk, nothing happens. So that's where we are.

With respect to the J.H. Sissons and also Mildred Hall, I've already answered that question. We are planning with the school district, for J.H. Sissons, an education plan and planning study. There is a timeline schedule; November 2012 is when it's going to begin, the education plan. Also 2013, in the fall, the planning study is to be completed. From there we will be putting forward for the next capital planning project at that time to be considered by this government.

With respect to Mildred Hall, again I indicated 2014-2015, that's when we're going to bring forward a submission. So I'm not sure how clear I can be, Mr. Chair, but that is part of the plan. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: That's not what he said to Member Bisaro. Member Bisaro just confirmed that with me. Unless we're hearing something different

through these ear pieces, I'm not sure what language they're speaking over there. I know he spoke English because I did recognize a few words.

What I'm looking for to make sure we're all on the same page is a page of information that the Minister can provide to both me and other Members, whether all Regular Members, that's fine. It doesn't matter to me. I certainly know Ms. Bisaro and Mr. Bromley, as well as probably you, Mr. Chair, would be interested in this particular information as to what exactly they will be committing.

I am glad to hear, although reluctant, but glad to hear there's a planning study that would be starting in November 2012. That's the most I've ever heard out of asking this type of a question for years. At least that's something.

As far as Mildred Hall goes, I have to admit I didn't really hear what was coming forward. Mildred Hall already had a plan as to what capital needs they had. I know they approached the former DM on a number of occasions through the school board to get the renovations that had been left out of the last retrofit it had back in 2003 and 2004, in that era. They are still waiting for completion. I'm starting to feel like a resident of Trout Lake. You get promised something and, of course, they walk away from their promise.

So I can tell you that school and school board are quite frustrated by the lack of attention Mildred Hall has received on finishing its agreed upon renovations. So maybe the Minister can talk in detail about what we can expect for the 2014-15 budget year that will specifically target the needs of Mildred Hall. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The department will bring forward the project for Mildred Hall for consideration during the 2014-2015 capital planning process. The outstanding work that's been in play with the previous major renovation that was undertaken, some of the work hasn't been completed. So those are some of the areas that could be identified through this capital planning process. I will get my director, Mr. Devitt, to elaborate more on the technicality of the process. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Devitt.

MR. DEVITT: Mr. Chair, the capital planning process for major projects in this government goes in stages. The first stage, in terms of the school, is to complete an education plan to look at the future requirements for facilities to operate the education program. The next stage, which I think is common to all major projects, is to complete a planning study which actually includes the preliminary design of the building so that the scope of the building and the actual cost of the building can be estimated. At

that point a project can be considered by the government for inclusion in the capital plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Devitt. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to make sure we're all on the same page, what does the Department of Education view as deficiencies at the Mildred Hall School that's been left over since the 2003-2004 half renovation?

MR. DEVITT: Mildred Hall was renovated. When it was renovated, we took down the 1965 wing and we also did renovations to some of the newer sections of the building. But we did that with the idea that we would come back probably about 10 years later, which would be in the next, probably, five years, and look at renovating the other parts, which includes the gymnasium. Right now the school is in fairly good condition, so we don't see any major deficiencies. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: At least we got the gym on the agenda here for discussion. As I understood it, there was roofing as well as window replacements that needed to still be done, as well as some areas of flooring, if I understand correctly. Does that jog anyone's memory from the department? Thank you.

MR. DEVITT: When we did the assessment of the building, there were parts of the building – and I believe the Member is correct – windows and other things that were considered in usable condition. They did a cost-benefit analysis and they decided at that point the windows did not need replacing. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: YK1 has, for a number of years, been requesting the completion of the renovation and upgrade of that older building. I'm glad it was put on record. That the 1964/5 wing – I couldn't remember what year it was – but it was part of that old design. How much has been the requested submission through the YK1 board to finish and complete the renovation project that had started? I thought it was in the range of \$1.5 million. Maybe someone can clarify the request that's been outstanding probably for the best part of eight years. Thank you.

MR. DEVITT: I don't have the exact number, but we did do some renovations, I believe, that were the amount the Member mentioned, in 2009 to address some of the upgrades that weren't captured in the original renovation. So that might be the number he's referring to. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Would the department provide me with the latest information submitted to the Department of Education provided by Yellowknife Education School Board No. 1, including its budget as well as the scope? I would rather not an edited package, if I could request it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. We will be more than willing to share that with the committee members. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary question, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the same time, I'd like to request some information on Sissons. As I understand it, there are, I'm going to say, code violations, although I'm not sure that's the right phrase. So I stress I don't want to cause any alarms, but if I understand it, there were some violations that were important upgrades. Whether it be the fire alarm system or things of that nature, I don't recall them at this particular second, but there was an assessment on short-term needs at Sissons, and I'm wondering if I can get a briefing note that reflects the immediate and medium-term Sissons' needs done as an upgrade until we get to the larger updating of the school. Can I request a copy of that information? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Yes, we will be providing more detailed information to the Members. We have been working with Public Works and Services on providing an update on the technical status evaluation in March of 2011 on the actual building. But if there are deficiencies that we should be aware of, certain areas that are not up to code, then we should be aware of it. We haven't been notified in that area, but we will be providing the latest status that we have. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Moving on to the second round of questioning I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask a question about the Kaw Tay Whee School. I know the Minister was able to get some work done on that school, but obviously our enrolment is increasing quite a bit. There's some very good leading taking place there, but they're finding it more and more challenging in the space available, to the point where the community has gone to private enterprise and sought help in building an appropriate school facility. It just seems a little bit piecemeal and, obviously, that should be the responsibility of public funds. Can the Minister give me an update on where we're at with the Kaw Tay Whee School and getting it renovated to the point it needs to be at, given the soaring enrollment there? Mahsi.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. In 2012-2013 for the Kaw Tay Whee School there's been a request for interior works, \$286,000. The DEA has requested additional time for raising

external funding for this particular project. So in an effort to increase the scope to include the classroom addition that the Member is referring to, the funding will be carried over to fiscal year 2013-2014. So we are working with the DEA on this particular school and we need to respect their wishes, as well, but we'll do what we can to complete that project as well. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I'm wondering if this is a new policy that leaves the provision of public facilities to communities to work with private enterprise and seek funding arrangements for public facilities. Is that a new policy that Education is embarking on, and should our community schools be out there seeking funding partners other than the government for this responsibility?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. It's been standard within our department that we need to work with the DEA, as well, and especially when it comes to school additions or renovations or retrofits. In the past the school boards have contributed in certain areas of their own investment for expansion. So we need to be mindful of that, where they play a key role as well. There's been an increase in funding as well. I'm just reading over the document that's been provided to us. So, again, the DEA wrote to our department offering a contribution of \$64,000 to increase the scope of work to include the classroom addition. So we are, again, working with them. We have done so in the past with other DEAs and DECAs as well. So we'll continue to make that work. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you for that information and I appreciate the Minister's comments there. I wonder if he could provide committee with the policy that you have on this sort of business where we seek resources or permit or partner with DEAs such as those going out to private enterprise for support for public infrastructure.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We'll provide the information. Again, the information item for Members is: September 2012, of course, the DEA, Kaw Tay Whee School added Grade 7 and also plans to add a Grade 8 in September 2013. So those are the discussions that we are having with the school board and I just wanted to give an update to the Members as well. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: That's also good information to have. Obviously, it's in my riding and I'd be interested in maybe a briefing from the Minister on where we're at with that school and what the vision is of the department for that facility and the role they see for the DEA and other partners. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We can provide a detailed briefing or briefing materials to the Member if that is the wish. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Committee, we are on page 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$2.329 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. If I can get Members to turn back to 8-2, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The advanced education went by so fast I just wanted to ask a quick question with respect to Aurora College. I understand for the Yellowknife Campus – I think we asked this last year – that we're running out on the lease. Has that been renewed? Where are we at with that and what's the thinking on providing a new campus for Aurora College in Yellowknife? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. As I stated earlier, we did extend that lease agreement this fall for up to three years, and potentially up to five years, depending on the progress that we're making. We're working closely with Public Works and Services and also private contractors out there. We're looking at all options, how we can build this facility and that is the discussions that we've been having. So we have extended the lease up to five years. Three years first and then we can extend it for another two years if we need more time. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Again, committee, 8-2, Education, Culture and Employment, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$3.205 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that consideration for Education, Culture and Employment has been concurred with?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you very much. Committee, we'd like to thank our witnesses today, Mr. Devitt, Ms. Eggenhofer and Minister Lafferty. Thank you very much. Could I get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort our witnesses out of the Chamber?

What is the wish of committee? We'll ask the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay, does he have witnesses he'd like to bring into the Chamber?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I hope so, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. We'll just take a brief break here for one second.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Welcome back, committee. Mr. Ramsay, witnesses seem to be in transit. Do you care to proceed without witnesses?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we have one witness here that I'd like to bring into the Chamber. If the other comes, they come. We can start with one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. When the witness comes in, if I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to bring the witness into the Chamber. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. If you'd care to introduce your witness to the committee, please.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We will only have one witness with me today to review the capital plan for the Department of Transportation and that is Deputy Minister Russ Neudorf.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Welcome to the House, Mr. Neudorf. Welcome back. We are on page 9-2, Transportation. We'll defer that. If I can get you to turn to page 9-4, Transportation, activity summary, airports, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.5 million. We'll be going to the Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question about one item on this particular budget. Actually, I think I'm on the wrong page. Which page are we on, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Airports.

MS. BISARO: I'm on the wrong page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Okay. Pages 9-4 and 9-5, Transportation, activity summary, airports, infrastructure investment summary. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going to the budget. I'd like to stress the need for an extension to the airport in Aklavik. I do not see it in the plans over the next few years but I just wanted to stress that it is needed for the community to expand the runway there, just for safety reasons. It was done in Fort McPherson, and I believe there were plans to do the same in Aklavik and I would just like to stress to the Minister that I would really appreciate it if that was in the budget for the coming year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a comprehensive review done in 2007 and the airport in Aklavik wasn't identified at that time as a priority. We do review annually the priorities and needs around the territory, so if things have changed in Aklavik and the need arises to have another look at that, it's something we would consider.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Moving on with questions I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I can get, I don't see any project substantiation sheets for this. It could be the new technology I'm trying to use here. The runway stabilization for Aklavik, Deline, Tuk and Liard, I wonder if I can get an explanation of what that's about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure why the Member wouldn't have the project substantiation on the runway stabilization. I'll go to Mr. Neudorf to provide an explanation on how that money is going to be spent.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an ongoing program that the department has, where we apply a product called EK35 onto gravel runways. It helps to hold the granular surface of the runway together to maintain its integrity. It maintains the surface of the runway for a longer period of time. As I mentioned, we've been doing it for a number of years. So this current year we were in Fort Good Hope and Tulita. We did a first application in Aklavik. We supplied product for Deline and Tuk. In 2013-2014, in the year under consideration here, we will be taking that product that we moved into Deline and Tuk and applying it there, as well as doing a second application in Aklavik. Runways in the future are Nahanni Butte and Fort McPherson.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Neudorf. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for those details. Is this something we do on regular intervals? How long does this last? Has there been any change in the longevity of the efficiency or the resilience of this treatment?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that is done every, roughly, 10 years and we have had some success with that application.

It's also used, I'll mention this, that compound EK35 has also been used in the community, I believe, of Tulita. They had used that to put it down in the community of Tulita to suppress the dust and it does work. They were happy with that application. We've had success with it at runways around the territory.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks again for those comments. I guess just for my own education here, how many gravel strips, community airport strips do we have? Is that information easily available?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: It would be 27 total. Six would be paved and the remainder would be gravelled, 21 gravelled.

MR. BROMLEY: That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Moving on with questions I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the Minister if the airport division has done some analysis or projections regarding the Sahtu oil and gas early exploration activity in and around Norman Wells and Tulita. I met with the Deline Charter Community last week and they were asking, because of the increase in that airport facility they are starting to see more and more activity with passengers and freight, and they were asking if the department would consider, in its capital plans, to expand the airport terminal in Deline.

Also, if the Minister could help me out with types of analysis that his department is taking in regard to the oil and gas activity that's going to happen this winter in Norman Wells and Tulita, and also in the future with Fort Good Hope. I just received the award bids for that community in that area. Basically, it's the Sahtu-wide infrastructure on transportation – marine, airport and roads – so I'll be asking the Minister these questions throughout this process here. But I want to know about the airports in our region.

I also want to take the time to say thank you to the Minister and the government for working very well with the community of Colville Lake in their construction of the new airport. It was a job well done. It was top notch. The Minister and his staff need to be commended on this work here. There are very rare times that we commend the government on good work from time to time, however, when the Minister is up there with his staff members that the people up in Colville Lake were very happy that they were allowed to expand their capabilities and skills to prove that the small community in Colville Lake could build a \$13 million airport. I want to just thank the Minister for that job that was well done by everybody that was involved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his comments. It was certainly a pleasure to be in Colville Lake and open the Tommy Kochon Airport there in the community about two weeks ago with the Member. We're happy to do that.

We are watching closely, as development occurs in the Sahtu and exploration continues, what the impact is going to be on transportation infrastructure in the Sahtu. I know the Member's comments in this regard were airports. The region is served by a regional airport in Norman Wells. Last winter landings and take-offs increased threefold. We expect that trend will continue this coming winter, and probably be even twice as much as it was last winter. We're keeping a watchful eye on that.

When it comes to a community like Deline, if exploration continues and Deline becomes a place of activity and there's more of a requirement there, the runway length in Deline is certainly something the government would consider if that happens.

We did a runway study back in 2007 which resulted in a couple of extensions in the Sahtu. One in Tulita and the other in Fort Good Hope. We worked with the community of Fort Good Hope to extend their runway, as well, an extra 500 feet. We're anxious to again improve transportation infrastructure in the Sahtu when it comes to airports, and hopefully at some point in time that will include all-season roads as well.

MR. YAKELEYA: The runway extension in Deline, maybe the Minister could help me here with explaining the new Transportation rules on take-off and landing with the type of aircraft that is used in the Sahtu, primarily by NorthWright Aviation. Deline is in partnership with NorthWright and they are stating that with the new Transportation ruling coming in, that they're only allowed a certain amount of weight and passengers on their aircraft that could safely fall within the guidelines for taking off and landing. Maybe the Minister could help me understand this, that this is why they are asking for a partnership, if they could look at a situation where the community or land corp and the Transportation department can extend their runway so that they can fly in freight and more passengers, rather than limit their capabilities to a number that they have to abide by under Transportation Canada. Is that something the Minister is willing to look at with the community? I could possibly be wrong here, so I want to ask the Minister if he could help me understand how it would help the community of Deline with their initial proposal to extend their runway to a length that would be more economically beneficial for them on passengers and freight.

At the same time, they would want to look at their airport terminal, which is getting quite crowded now

with the number of passengers coming in through Deline, and that terminal is pretty cramped when you get a lot of people into one spot at a given time when an aircraft is coming in or taking off. That's what I would like to look for in the Minister's reply back to this runway situation. It is causing some hiccups with the community. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I appreciate the Member's concern about the runway length in a community like Deline. As he's referenced, the runway in Deline is almost 4,000 feet. I know when I was on the Regular Members' side, the Member had brought this concern up a number of times in committee and in the House. Since I became Minister a year ago, I haven't received a formal proposal from the airline or the community. I'd be more than happy to try to work, like we did in Fort Good Hope, to try to come up with a solution if an extension is required in Deline, to try to find a way to work toward that. But, again, I haven't received a formal proposal or anything of that nature from the airline or the community, but certainly, it's something we'd be willing to look at should that happen.

MR. YAKELEYA: I will relay the comments of the Minister to the community of Deline and I look forward to working with the Minister throughout this Assembly to see what possibilities are out with the extension of the runway. I'll take it as that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Reminding Members, we're on 9-4, Transportation, activity summary, airports, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.5 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agree.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you. Moving on to 9-7, Transportation. Actually, 9-7 includes 9-8, Transportation, activity summary, marine, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$450,000. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask the Minister, my line of questions again are around the Sahtu and the exploration activities that are happening this year and...(inaudible)...well, for a long time. I want to ask the Minister on the transportation support that the community is going to be needing in the future, and again ask for, I guess, a comprehensive analysis of all the transportation to support the infrastructure, again, happening in the Sahtu. I want to ask about the marine and if there's any thought of his department considering moving a marine ferry up into that area to support the activity in Norman Wells or Tulita.

Again, I had my meeting last week, a couple weeks ago with the leadership from Deline, and they talked about the climate change and the freezing of

the Great Bear Lake and how thin that ice is being frozen every year. They asked the question of would the department consider putting a ferry at Great Bear Lake. These are some of the things that are happening in my region.

There are two points that I want to ask the Minister. First is if he foresees a possibility of once the Deh Cho Bridge is open and used, you know, they've got an extra ferry in the yard here. Is that something that the department would consider to support the oil and gas activity in and around the Sahtu, for having a ferry up in our area? Would he consider looking at Deline's request for a ferry at Great Bear Lake? I mean, that's a pretty far out idea; however, we're actually at the point where they need to look at things like this in the future because of the climate change.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I thank the Member for his questions. Certainly, the Sahtu holds much promise from an economic standpoint, and there's going to be, again this winter, a tremendous amount of exploration in the area. We've had some preliminary discussions with industry on how we can work together. First off, we are, again, looking at partnering with industry on the maintenance and enhancement of the winter roads in the region so that heavier loads can be brought in, so that they can be opened earlier and last a little bit longer. That will be beneficial to residents as well as industry in the Sahtu.

As far as the utilization of a ferry in the Sahtu, we would have to look at the possibility of an all-weather road being constructed from Norman Wells south to Wrigley, and it's not out of the realm of possibilities, given the potential of the Sahtu and the amount of oil that's in the ground there. As the resource is proven up and if it does get into commercial production, that is something, I think, that certainly could happen. If we don't have the \$70 million to build a bridge across the Bear River, a ferry would have to be put into service at the Bear.

There are possibilities. I think the possibilities are endless when you look at the Sahtu and the opportunities that are there. We're going to continue to work with industry, continue to move things along, and when it comes to road, marine, winter roads, airports, we're watching quite closely what is happening in the Sahtu and we'll be ready when we need to be, and making the decisions we need to, to ensure that we're maximizing those opportunities. I believe by working with industry and working with the communities in the Sahtu, we'll be able to do that.

MR. YAKELEYA: The activities in the Sahtu could greatly improve the economic base in the Northwest Territories. If they are right, the

geologists, the ones I talked about, are right on the amount of reserves that are in the Sahtu, and the exploratory companies now want to go into developing it further and go into production. This is what I'm looking forward to the Minister's responses to the impacts that could support the Sahtu infrastructure. Right now, because we don't see too much, we are seeing, what, two, three, \$300 million being spent in the Sahtu? We're talking billions here. That's quite wild right now because of just what we think could be there.

I'm asking for the Minister's analysis or projection in the infrastructure that could happen up in the Sahtu. Are we ready for it? Are we ready to support what possibly could be happening in that region in the next two or three years in regard to the infrastructure? We could be the driving force of the economy in the Northwest Territories. I would be so happy, that in the Sahtu, if we go through our procedure properly and we handle it properly, we wouldn't need so much support from the GNWT. We could be in that position if we play our cards right. The Sahtu could actually be in a position where it could not need the GNWT as much as we need them right now today, but we don't know. That's why I want to ask the Minister in regard to the marine. We may not have seen much right now, as I said. When will the Minister have an analysis of the infrastructure plan or strategy to present to committee here in regard to the potential impacts that could happen in the Sahtu in regard to transportation?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Chair, in the short term I believe we are ready. In the long term, and that is when we look at the development, commercialization, production perhaps going on in the Sahtu, that we are going to be looking at things like the Mackenzie Valley Highway, fibre optic link, the Mackenzie Gas Project, the possibility of another oil pipeline south of Norman Wells. These are all things that are going to be a part of the equation when it comes to the development in the Sahtu.

Certainly, we need to find more money. The Department of Transportation is not alone. When I say that, I was recently at the federal Ministers' meetings on transportation where the federal Minister has said a new program is in the works. Hopefully, we will see a new infrastructure program in this country that the Northwest Territories can take advantage of so that we can address the infrastructure needs across the territory. It is something that we have taken advantage of in the past through other programs like the Building Canada Plan. Those have gotten things done here in the Northwest Territories.

We need another infrastructure plan, in partnership with the federal government, that is going to allow us to maximize the capital dollars we have here in

this territory to take advantage of opportunities. The Sahtu is a perfect example of these opportunities. We have to take advantage of those, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, can the Minister work on this with Cabinet to deem the Sahtu a special economic zone where the federal government then can get some results and dollars into the region? Can he do that?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to mention, too, we have to continue to work on the Economic Opportunities Strategy the government is putting forward. We also have the Mineral Development Strategy. Those two strategies will feed directly into an update on our transportation strategy.

I think, again, that the Sahtu is in a position right now to be a focus of our attention, because the economic potential of that region certainly has the possibility of transforming the economy of the Northwest Territories virtually overnight. We need to be watching what is happening there. We have to get federal dollars into that region. That is something that the government has to continue to work on. We will continue to work on getting more federal dollars into the Northwest Territories so that we can build the infrastructure we need here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Next on my list I have Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just under the marine, I would like to thank the Minister for adding to the expansion of the shop on the Hay River ferry camp, and also stress the need for replacing the ferry at the Mackenzie River.

The bridge is open this coming fall here. It has been brought to my attention that this ferry would better be suited in the Mackenzie River at Tsiigehtchic. This would actually bring down the cost, I believe, to residents in Inuvik, especially in the crisis we are at right now with the fuel situation. I strongly believe that this would bring the cost of living down up in the Beaufort-Delta region. I just wanted to stress that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify – and I thank the Member for his question – was it to replace the Louis Cardinal? Was that the question?

MR. BLAKE: Yes.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Okay, thank you. Maybe I'll get you to just get that on record and then I'll come back, Mr. Chair.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, it was to replace the Louis Cardinal with the ferry that's in Fort Providence at the moment. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We don't have plans for the Merv Hardie once it comes out of the river at Fort Providence. With the Louis Cardinal we just put new engines into the Louis Cardinal three years ago. We're working on plans to extend the ice roads in the Beaufort-Delta near the Member's communities and really the big point is, and I have to say, the Merv Hardie does cost more to operate. So what we intend to do is mothball it. It will be there if we need it. We don't have any intentions on selling it or disposing of it in any other way. We're going to have it as a backup, and as I mentioned in response to Member Yakeleya, there could be a use for that ferry at some point in time here in the territory and we're not going to rush to dispose it. It will be here and we'll use it as needed. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. I do realize that it does cost more to operate the Merv Hardie because it actually runs longer than the Louis Cardinal does. So I'm not sure if the Minister is aware of that. Two hours every day over the duration of the summer adds up. I strongly believe that that's the reason that it costs more to operate. Also, that ferry is open a lot longer than the Louis Cardinal. I know we are getting close to the end of October and there is no ice on the river yet, on the Mackenzie. The main thing is to keep the cost of living down for the Mackenzie Delta, and I strongly believe that having the Merv Hardie there would do that. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again, I thank the Member for his concerns and I believe it's the hourly operating costs are more on the Merv Hardie. I don't have the specifics on exactly in comparison to the Louis Cardinal, but I'd be more than happy to get the department to put together a cost comparison on both vessels and get that to the Member, and we can have a discussion after the Member has a look at the numbers. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. No further questions at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Members, 9-7. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wonder if I can just get an explanation of the Johnny Berens' generators. What's that all about? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thanks. I'll just get Mr. Neudorf to explain that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On board this vessel we have two generators that are in the engine room and they provide the electrical power required to operate the boat. The generators are due for a lifecycle replacement and this project

proposes to replace those generators on the vessel. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Neudorf. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that explanation. I imagine those would be fairly old. I wonder how frequently they're replaced and I suspect there are a lot more efficient generators out there now. Do we have any information handy on the efficiency of the new generators compared to the old? Thank you.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you. I don't know exactly how old the existing generators are on the boat, but they are due for a replacement. They are very important, obviously, that they are maintained in a good state of repair so that the vessel can operate as it's required to. In terms of one of the additional drivers or additional benefits for replacing the generators is that they will be much more efficient, so less fuel consumed and less emissions produced as a result of the new generators. We are looking forward to having that benefit from this project. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Neudorf. Mr. Bromley...(inaudible)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Transportation, activity summary, marine, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$450,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Mr. Menicoche.

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): I will now rise and report progress. I would like to thank Mr. Neudorf for joining us here today and Minister Ramsay. If I can get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses out of the Chamber, thank you.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. DOLYUNNY: 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. Dolyunny. Do we have a seconder to the motion? Mr. Blake.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
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, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

