



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**17<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, February 28, 2013**

Pages 2255 – 2282

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackie Jacobson**

(Nunakput)

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**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)

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*Minister of Human Resources*

*Minister of Public Works and Services*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Public Utilities Board*

**Hon. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe)

*Minister of Health and Social Services*

*Minister responsible for*

*Persons with Disabilities*

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(Frame Lake)

**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

**Mr. Robert Bouchard**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**

(Weledeh)

**Mr. Daryl Dolynny**

(Range Lake)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**

(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**

(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**

(Monfwi)

*Deputy Premier*

*Minister of Education, Culture and*

*Employment*

*Minister responsible for the Workers'*

*Safety and Compensation*

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(Yellowknife South)

*Premier*

*Minister of Executive*

*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and*

*Intergovernmental Relations*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Status of Women*

**Hon. Robert C. McLeod**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

*Minister of Municipal and*

*Community Affairs*

*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Housing Corporation*

*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**

(Nahendeh)

**Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger**

(Thebacha)

*Government House Leader*

*Minister of Finance*

*Minister of Environment and Natural*

*Resources*

*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Hon. David Ramsay**

(Kam Lake)

*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

*and Investment*

*Minister of Transportation*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**

(Sahtu)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, February 28, 2013****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER'S RULING**

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Before we proceed today I'd like to provide my ruling on the point of order raised on Monday, February 25, 2013, by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins rose on a point of order further to reviewing the transcripts of a question and answer exchange between himself and the Premier, the Honourable Bob McLeod, on Friday, February 22, 2013.

Mr. Hawkins' point is that the Premier, in responding to Mr. Hawkins' questions, breached Rule 2(g) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly by referring to confidential standing committee discussions on an infrastructure project.

Rule 2(g) states, "Point of order means any departure from any written or unwritten rule or custom of this Assembly or of Parliamentary tradition." I'm guided by previous rulings by Speakers of this Assembly, and by Marleau and Montpetit House of Commons Procedures and Practices, in confirming that reference to confidential committee discussions does constitute a violation of Rule 2(g).

The point of order, therefore, turns on whether Premier McLeod did in fact breach confidentiality.

In considering this matter, I have reviewed the unedited Hansard from February 22, 2013, and in particular Premier McLeod's comments on page 26, which were also quoted by Mr. Hawkins in speaking to his point of order. Premier McLeod said, "We did, as the government put it, have that project called the NWT Law Courts Project and we put \$40 million in the capital budget in 2005-2006. Committee took it out of the budget."

I have also reviewed the unedited Hansard from February 25, 2013. In raising the point of order, Mr. Hawkins stated, on page 1, "I have searched high and low and combed committee reports, and I have not found any formal position taken on it, so I draw the attention of the House that there was a breach of committee confidentiality."

In responding to the point of order, the Premier stated, at page 2 of the unedited Hansard, "I know that the \$40 million was put on the capital budget as a marker. It had considerable opposition. It was my understanding that that's what happened."

The Member for Thebacha, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, also spoke to the point of order. Mr. Miltenberger stated, at page 1 of unedited Hansard, "I just want to make the point that if the Member says that he couldn't find any reference to it high or low and then he says it's a breach of committee confidentiality, if in fact there's no evidence or reference to it, how can it be a breach of committee confidentiality?"

I found Mr. Miltenberger's comments most helpful in addressing this matter. Mr. Hawkins himself acknowledged that he was unable to find any documentation substantiating that committee had, as Premier McLeod suggested, caused the courthouse project to be removed from the budget. I note that remarks made by the then Minister of Justice, the Honourable Brendan Bell, provide an alternate explanation for the decision. I quote Minister Bell from the Hansard from March 6, 2007, at page 1236, "...the delay in the courthouse is the direct result of limited capital funds and seemingly unlimited capital needs across government, whether it's repairing schools or other things. Members are fully aware of the rationale for delaying the courthouse at this point."

As your Speaker, I do not claim to know what the committee's position was on the courthouse in 2005, 2006 or 2007. I only note that there are now at least two explanations on record, Minister Bell's and now Premier McLeod's, for why the courthouse project was taken out of the budget.

I also considered it relevant that, as Members should well know by now, no committee has the authority to remove an infrastructure project from a budget. The decision on whether to include an item in a budget proposed to the Legislative Assembly lies solely with the government. The decision to remove an item included in a budget before the Legislative Assembly lies solely with the Assembly. This is best summarized in the oft quoted phrase, "The government proposes, the Legislature disposes."

As I stated earlier, the point of order turns on the question of whether Premier McLeod breached committee confidentiality. However, Premier McLeod could not have breached committee confidentiality in stating that a committee took an infrastructure project out of the budget, when, in the first place, no standing committee has the authority to do this and, in the second place, none of the Members who spoke to the point of order indicated they had direct knowledge or evidence that the discussions or positions attributed to the committee in fact took place or existed.

Therefore, I find that the Member for Yellowknife Centre does not have a point of order.

However, that's not to say that Premier McLeod's comments do not raise some concerns, and I would like to take this opportunity to caution Members on a few matters.

First, it's important to point out whether the Premier believed his statement to be a true reflection of how the infrastructure project came to be removed from the budget is irrelevant to the question of whether Rule 2(g) was infringed. The issue is whether the Premier breached confidential committee discussions. Had the subject matter been more recent committee business, and had it been possible to better substantiate the accuracy of the position or discussions attributed to the committee, the same remarks may well have been ruled out of order.

Second, as your Speaker, I am concerned that comments such as those made by Premier McLeod may contribute to inaccurate public perceptions about the decision-making processes of this Assembly.

As I emphasized earlier, no committee has the authority to remove an infrastructure item from a budget. The government proposes and the Legislature disposes.

Colleagues, in many instances during the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, I have noticed both Regular Members and Cabinet Members making references to committee business and discussions that have not been previously reported. I can appreciate that sometimes the distinction between which references are allowed and which are not can sometimes be a difficult one to make.

In this matter, I find Speaker Delorey's guidance in his October 21, 2004, ruling helpful and quote the following: "Members on both sides of the House have a duty to ensure that they are mindful of the rules about confidential information and are respectful of one another at all times. This is one of those areas where it might be prudent to err on the side of caution so that privileges of all Members, individually and collectively, are protected."

I would like to echo these words and ask my Members to take them to heart as we continue to

work together through the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Members.

---Applause

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

### Ministers' Statements

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 30-17(4): TLICHO GOVERNMENT - DEVOLUTION

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise Members that the Tlicho Government will be signing the Devolution AIP.

---Applause

They are joining our Government, the Government of Canada and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Northwest Territories Metis Nation, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Gwich'in Tribal Council as signatories. The Tlicho Government advised us of their decision at a meeting yesterday and we look forward to a signing ceremony in Behchoko on March 8<sup>th</sup> to welcome them back to the table as full partners in the future in the management of land and water resources in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, we now have every Aboriginal government with a settled claim at the table with us.

---Applause

The Tlicho Government has taken the time they needed to determine what was best for the people they represent and we respect that commitment, it is one that all signatories share. The Tlicho Government has stated their willingness to work with us and we are pleased that their final decision was to become part of devolution.

The Tlicho Government is unique among Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories in having already negotiated self-government as part of their claim. They have legislative authority and jurisdiction that is constitutionally protected and ensures their right to govern themselves. As a government, they know what it means to make important decisions and we appreciate their decision to rejoin devolution. With their help, we will ensure that their citizens and all Northwest Territories residents enjoy the benefits that devolution will bring.

Devolution will give Northerners the tools, authority and resources to manage future development in the Northwest Territories so we can ensure all our residents benefit and our environment is protected the way Northerners want it to be. The reality is that our economy depends largely on the Northwest Territories' rich store of natural resources. Developed sustainably and responsibly, these resources can create a strong, prosperous territory that provides opportunities for jobs and personal

success to all our people right across the Northwest Territories.

I would like to offer our continued support to the two remaining regional Aboriginal governments without settled claims. The Dehcho and Akaitcho Territory governments are focused on settling their land claims and the Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to our role in moving the process forward. We have written to both governments and invited both of them to sign on to devolution. We will continue to work with the two unsettled claim areas and encourage them to consider the benefits that devolution will bring to their people.

Mr. Speaker, our goal is within reach. Devolution means jobs and business opportunities, more control over the economy, new revenues and a greater say in resource development and environmental protection for the Northwest Territories. The deal we have negotiated is the fruit of more than 10 years of hard work.

As we turn our minds more fully to implementation and transition, I am pleased that we will have the majority of Aboriginal governments at the table with us. With their help and partnership, we will be in a position to make the most of our new responsibilities and ensure that all people of the Northwest Territories enjoy the benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 31-17(4):  
QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, for the past year our government has been celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with the rest of Canada and the 15 other Commonwealth Realms.

We began the Jubilee year last February when Members unanimously passed a motion in this House congratulating the Queen for her years of service. Over the year, communities came together in their own celebrations of the Queen's reign, including feasts, Diamond Jubilee teas, essay contests, hockey tournaments, garden parties and barbecues.

One of the most notable ways we have celebrated the Jubilee has been our participation in the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal program. The Diamond Jubilee Medal program was established by the Government of Canada to honour the Queen, and to recognize the service of Canadians from all walks of life and backgrounds that have made significant contributions to their communities and helped create the Canada of today. We were pleased to take part in this program along with our partners, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Member of Parliament for the

Western Arctic and the Senator for the Northwest Territories.

Together we have recognized 145 Northwest Territories residents for their service to their communities and territory. People from every constituency were honoured with Queen's Diamond Jubilee medals to thank them for building a strong, sustainable future for our territory. Nominations came from the public, from Members of the Legislative Assembly and from Aboriginal governments. Our recipients join several other Northwest Territories residents who were nominated by other organizations, including the RCMP, St. John's Ambulance, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and others.

Presentation ceremonies have been held around the territory throughout the year, often with the help and participation of Members. I would like to thank all Members of this House for participating in the program and helping to present medals in their communities. I would also like to thank our partners and Aboriginal governments for joining with us in this important initiative to recognize deserving Northerners from across the territory.

The Diamond Jubilee officially ends today. On behalf of Members of the Assembly, I would like to extend our congratulations to all recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and offer our best wishes to Her Majesty once again. We will be holding the final Yellowknife medal presentation ceremony in the Great Hall this afternoon and I invite all Members to join us as we celebrate the end of the Diamond Jubilee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Colleagues, before we go on today, I'd like to welcome to the House former Premier, Mr. Jim Antoine, and former Cabinet Minister. Welcome back to the House.

---Applause

And our one and only Mr. Anthony J. Whitford, former Commissioner, Speaker, Minister, MLA, Honourary Clerk of the House, Sergeant-at-Arms and now a Navy Captain. Welcome back to the House, Tony.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
DREDGING OF THE HAY RIVER HARBOUR

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to follow up on my colleague from Hay River North when he spoke about dredging in the Hay River this week.

Hay River is the second largest community in the territory. When communities locate where they do, it's for a reason, and the reason, I assure you, that Hay River is located where it is, is because it is at the mouth of the Hay River which flows into Great Slave Lake. The industry of Hay River, our recognition as the Hub of the North, is all based on the transportation industry.

Our community was founded on the fact that we are the largest inland harbour in western Canada. For that reason, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, these institutions are located in Hay River. But it is now a sad day because after the federal government Department of Public Works dredging department pulled out of Hay River, they devolved the responsibility to this government, for which there was no plan, no money, no equipment and I don't know how the federal government could have gotten away from absolving themselves and stepping away from that responsibility.

We keep asking the Minister of Transportation what he's going to do about it, but we are knocking on the wrong door. There is no way that our government is going to step up with the equipment and the money to dredge the harbour in Hay River. It is a very urgent issue. Not only is it affecting our destination as the home of the Canadian Coast Guard installation, it is also threatening the residents, a great number of residents of our community who live on Vale Island, because of the annual risk of flood. That is something that can only be continuing to cost this government money through Municipal and Community Affairs.

As we talk about devolution and we hear about NWT Days and we hear about our government going down to Ottawa to talk about the Inuvik-Tuk highway, the fibre optic link, devolution, I would like them to add another topic to their list of priorities that they need to talk to the federal government about, and I would like that to be the dredging of the Hay River Harbour.

Hay River is the second largest community. We absolutely depend on that harbour for the livelihood and the economy of the community. It's for the safety of our citizens and I would like to ask the Premier later today if the dredging of the Hay River Harbour will be up there, named off with those things that will be taken to the attention of the Prime Minister's office and the federal government each and every time we speak to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SPRING EVENTS IN HAY RIVER

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend I have the opportunity to attend some of the events going on in Hay River. As I indicated yesterday, it will be March 1<sup>st</sup> and the beginning of spring is here, because we have the carnival. The Kamba Carnival will be starting this week and I'd like to thank all the organizers that had to help organize it. I would like to wish the five queen contestants good luck on the competition, and also those people that are in the snowmobile races, snocross races and drag races. Good luck. Hopefully everyone participates safely.

This brings a lot of people into the community and I'd like to bring a couple of other events that are coming to Hay River here soon. On March 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Polar Pond Hockey is going to be celebrating its fifth anniversary. They build 10 hockey rinks and play hockey right on the ice like they did in the old days, maybe in Deline when they started. I'd like to have people look into the Polar Pond Hockey, sign up. There's a last-minute signup sheet. You can look on line at polarpondhockey.com and sign your four-person team up. You can be an open team, a ladies' team, a seniors' team.

Also that same weekend on the Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup>, we have a Hay River ice fishing challenge. It's basically an ice fishing derby that's going to be the second annual. Last year was very successful and the early draw will be happening tonight.

The weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> is going to be an exciting weekend, but I look forward to seeing the activities that are going on in Hay River tomorrow. Tomorrow we will have an official half day off for the Kamba Carnival.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION ON K-12 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not often that I get really angry about a response from this government. Today I am riled.

Last fall I tried to get some information from the Minister of Education's office about planned renovations or upgrades to two Yellowknife schools. It took some doing, but I did get some information. It didn't suggest much capital planning on the part of the department, though, so six weeks ago I submitted a written question to Minister Lafferty in the House. I asked for the plans that Education, Culture and Employment has for renovations or new construction for our 47 NWT schools in the next five years, the next 10 years, and the next 20 years. I was looking for evidence of

a capital plan. Some evidence of a long-term plan for education facilities. Yesterday the Minister tabled his answer to my question. It's on page 31 of February 27<sup>th</sup> unedited Hansard. It's not worth the paper it's written on and has left me truly disturbed and frustrated.

The response contains no statistics. Not one school is mentioned. I am advised of the capital planning process and that budget amounts for capital projects are not published. I know that process. That's not what I asked for. I waited six weeks to be provided with information I already know. I think it would have been preferable for me to get no answer rather than the one I received. I feel this answer is an affront to my intelligence and a slap in the face to our legislative system.

Written questions are intended to provide Members with detail that cannot rightly be provided during our oral questions exchanges. How else can Members get detailed information about a certain issue or concern into the public realm?

I wasn't looking for dollars and cents, just the plans ECE has to maintain and replace their infrastructure in the future. The response suggests that there is no plan, that the department has no idea which schools need renovations or replacement and when. This response suggests that any education capital projects will be left to the lobbying efforts of MLAs and subject to political suasion and whims. Hardly a well thought out plan.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education about plans for school renos and replacements at the appropriate time.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ON-THE-LAND TREATMENT PROGRAMS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people in the Sahtu have always talked about going out on the land. Unfortunately, some of our people end up in correctional institutions. I've listened to Colville Lake people, people in Fort Good Hope and Tulita, Deline and Norman Wells. The older people talk about the power of going out on the land and getting healed and being taught.

Unfortunately, this government has only two, I think, on-the-land treatment programs or healing programs or correctional camps that are operating, if not maybe one. People in the Sahtu are saying that and the elders are saying that. Old Jim Perriot, the old former chief, is saying take them on the land, or Chief Charlie Barnaby, the former chief, says take them out on the land. Our elders are saying this for a reason.

Even this morning, I read parts of the book on returning to the teaching by Rupert Ross, who was the assistant Crown attorney at the time. He talked

about Aboriginal justice and how that fits into the western concept of justice and corrections, and he's starting to understand the importance of what the Aboriginal people are saying about taking their people who have done wrong against their own community or the society, and the elders have encouraged them in this complex world to bring them to the land.

I want to say to the people here that the land is our teacher and nature will be doing the teaching. There are things that man has no control over and there are things that man does not have any control at all. No matter how smart we get, whether it be in technology or science, there are things we will never control. God, the Great Creator, carefully protected and hid the control on certain things in the unseen world. There are forces in the unseen world that make sure humans don't mess things up. The bottom line is, no matter what we do, nature will have the last say. Nature is the teacher. We are the students. May we honour and respect our teacher.

So the people are saying take our people to the land. I tell the Minister: Free my people.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NAHENDEH RECIPIENTS OF QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Some of my constituents have contributed their talents and time to our territory over many years. Many of these residents have been awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. They include politicians, policemen, firefighters and respected elders, and I would like to recognize them today.

Firstly, my predecessor, Mr. Jim Antoine. He is a former MLA, Premier, Minister and a four time chief of the Liidlii Kue First Nation. I'm pleased to see him in the gallery here today.

Fort Simpson RCMP Sergeant Rob Gallant helped promote peace in volatile parts of the world and works with youth, particularly through the cadet program.

Mr. Bert Tsetso served with the RCMP for 20 years and was a bylaw officer in Fort Simpson for 14 years.

Auxiliary constable Mr. Lee Cazon was honoured for more than a decade of volunteer work with the RCMP in Fort Simpson.

Fort Simpson deputy fire chief Pat Rowe and former fire chief. He has been a firefighter since 1983.

Mary Louise Norwegian, my auntie, helped people in need while raising eight children on her own. She

worked as a community health representative for many, many years and a volunteer mortician.

Well-known Wrigley elder and former chief Gabe Hardisty. He was one of the founding members of the then NWT Indian Brotherhood. He is a traditional man who is always willing to lend a hand.

Elder Sara Hardisty of Jean Marie River spent most of her 85 years on the land. She has played a vital role in providing guidance to the local and regional leadership as well as preserving our Dene culture.

For the past 30 years, Ms. Irene McLeod of Fort Liard opened her home to people in need, providing foster care and helping elders by visiting them and bringing them food.

Ms. Laura Vital of Nahanni Butte spent 35 years as a teacher and curriculum developer for the South Slavey language.

Trout Lake elders Mr. Joe Punch and Mr. Edward Jumbo spoke to the Berger Inquiry 35 years ago. Today they teach our young people history, culture and traditional skills.

I offer my congratulations and a big mahsi cho to all the Diamond Jubilee Medal recipients from Nahendeh and any other recipients from other parts that I may have missed. A big pat on the back to them all. Mahsi cho.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REPLACEMENT OF THE JOE GREENLAND CENTRE

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the residents of Aklavik in the Mackenzie Delta, I'd like to thank the Minister of Housing and also the Department of Housing for the announcement of the new Joe Greenland Centre which is planned for this year.

It is much needed in the community in my riding and I'd just like to thank the Minister and the department, and also Cabinet. Mahsi cho.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HEALTH PREVENTION AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES TO COMBAT HIGH OBESITY RATES

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, during question period, I had asked the Minister of Health and Social Services some questions about something that has come out in the news recently. That was that obesity rates are at historic levels, specifically for the Maritimes but even more so for the Northwest Territories.

That got me further into research and I found that in 2004 red flags were raised, and yet nothing was

done. The Member did mention that they did start a program in 2003, yet we are still at these historic rates today.

I did a little further research into how we can address this or look at other historical documents and reports that might have caused some more red flags, and I was really pleased to find something else here in terms of prevention and promotion.

The main cause of death, disease and disability in Canada and the Northwest Territories today are chronic diseases and injuries. However, a large portion of chronic diseases, disabilities and injuries can be prevented or their onsets can be delayed. That's where we need to begin and drop these historic rates back to where they were in 2004, or even lower.

I also came across a declaration on prevention and promotion from Canada's Ministers of Health and health promotion and healthy living that was signed in 2010. I was very happy to see this and I'm sure that our Minister had also signed and adopted this declaration, and I would encourage all Members of this Assembly to take a look at this declaration. Look and see what's stated in there.

But just for your information, I just want to highlight a couple things. Their vision was the view that promotion of health and the prevention of disease, disability and injury are a priority and necessary to the sustainability of the health system. That's where we need to begin. They also recognize that the onset can be delayed of all these diseases, and that prevention needs to be the first step in management. Yet for the last two years, since I've been in this government, we've been fighting for more dollars for prevention and promotion, when there's a good chance that our Minister of Health at the time did sign off on this declaration.

I wanted to discuss a little further in detail some of these findings, but I just want to put that point forward and I will continue on this battle so that our obesity rates or health rates do go down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Bromley.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF COMMUNITY BUILDERS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up on the Premier's statement earlier today and Mr. Menicoche's statement. I appreciated those.

In this Assembly and throughout the community, we often hear the happy news of awards being conferred upon citizens who are selected for individual distinction. Acceptance remarks of people receiving these awards are so similar they've almost become standard phrases in our language.

They usually say something like "I'd like to thank all those who made this possible."

The awards themselves are important. I believe strongly in saying thank you to the people and groups who improve all our lives. By the nature of awards, these gestures recognize that the results have an above and beyond quality that are distinctive and distinguished. As the individuals who receive the awards almost invariably say, "I couldn't have done it without..."

It's all the people who share in the accomplishment but may not formally get an award who I would like to recognize today. That's the other phrase you usually hear, "the people are too numerous to name."

Here in the Northwest Territories, I believe our close sense of community and common fellowship has blessed us with a special endowment of high achievers, contributors and willing partners, and I see many in the House and in the gallery today. The quality of our community life is one of the things we savour most, and the high quality of the continuing extra effort, compassion and decency is what makes this life so rich.

Occasionally, special efforts will result in the conferral of an award. We have many great community leaders and many whose lives of continuous achievement are worthy of recognition. These are occasions to say thanks and to count our shared blessings.

Today, as we come to the end of the Queen's Jubilee year, I ask this House to join me in saluting all those unnamed citizens and groups who make the NWT such a great place to live and work. All their contributions create this society where great things are possible. Mr. Speaker, here's to them.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF CANADA

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Boys and Girls Club of Canada is a leading provider of quality afterschool and out-of-school programs for children and youth. At over 100 years old with 104 clubs, six regional service offices, over 700 locations in 10 provinces and the Yukon, it serves over 200,000 youth from preschool to young adulthood.

Its mission is simple: to provide a safe, supportive place for children and youth to experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, develop positive relationships, build confidence and life skills. Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada are provided in neighbourhoods where they are needed most, including large centres, remote and rural communities, and First Nations.

Each club provides children and youth with programs in physical recreation, nutrition, technology, the arts and personal development. Some clubs provide meals, family support programs, emergency shelter and other supports to children, youth and families in need.

Programs are offered primarily during the afterschool hours when young people are most vulnerable to victimization and becoming drawn into anti-social behaviours, yet many clubs also offer programs during evenings and weekends.

What is unique about the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is that it is a national organization that provides the following benefits and services such as national reputation, brand, standards and quality assurance; support materials; funding through national partnerships such as WestJet, Sears Canada and Service Canada, to name a few. It also provides national programs and training opportunities and, finally, research and policy initiatives.

As for costs to the families, club fees are affordable and are subsidized or waived for families in need. Upon my analysis the reason I'm bringing this forward today is I believe this model could be adopted in many of our communities throughout the NWT. Therefore, I challenge all NWT communities to review their needs, organize a model and develop the requirements to operate on a provisional basis as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada requires strict membership requirements.

Furthermore, with our Education department piloting two child family resource centres, the addition of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada could be a great opportunity in the education through play approach and fill a much needed gap in our early childhood programs for youth throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Item 4, 4eports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Abernethy.

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize three people in the gallery. First, my father, Dick Abernethy; my mother, Loretta Abernethy; and my wife, Carolyn Smith, who is awesome by the way.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize members of the NWT Seniors' Society. Their motto is Seniors Helping Seniors and they do that very well. I'd like to recognize the president, Leon Peterson; the past-president,

Beatrice Campbell; secretary Marion Smith; director Ib Kristensen; and the executive director, Barb Hood. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, would like to take this opportunity to recognize three fine constituents from Thebacha, Bea Campbell, Ib Kristensen and the president of the Seniors' Society, Leon Peterson and thank them for coming and welcome to the Assembly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to recognize a constituent of Hay River South very active with the Seniors' Society in Hay River, constituent Marion Smith. I'd also like to recognize two of my former colleagues in the House today, Mr. Jim Antoine and Mr. Tony Whitford. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to acknowledge to you and through you two residents from Range Lake. We have Ms. Heather Riviere here and we also have young Master Tim Riviere who is the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, I believe one of the youngest recipients we have in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the presence of former Premier, Minister and MLA Jim Antoine, who also served as chief and is my good friend and mentor.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to use this occasion today to recognize Sandra Taylor, who is the president of the Yellowknife Seniors' Society and she is a constituent of Yellowknife Centre. I'd like to thank her for coming today. I'd also like to recognize all the seniors in the gallery, although there are too many to name, but I would like to make special mention of Barb Hood. She does a fantastic job with the NWT seniors. It's a yeoman's job and she needs a special pat on the back for the hard work she does. Finally, of course, I would like to recognize two good and long-time friends: Jim Antoine, who I have known since I was a young man and certainly he has been a mentor to me as well, and always my special, favourite friend, Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize Weledeh residents. First of all, Barb Hood. Thanks for all the great work she does. Also, Anthony W.J. Whitford. I'd also like to recognize former Premier Jim Antoine. Also, I would like to mention Loretta and Dick Abernethy, who are long-time but not quite current residents of Weledeh, and I believe they are both awesome as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a Page from Yellowknife South, Bethany Giovanetto, and also all the other Pages who are working here this week.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll set a record by recognizing Mr. Jim Antoine in the House as well. Welcome to the Legislature, Jim, it's a pleasure to see you, and once again, congratulations on your Diamond Jubilee medallion that you received earlier in the year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will break that record by recognizing Mr. Jim Antoine, a good friend of mine, also to Mr. Whitford and all his accomplishments. I'd also like to recognize the NWT Seniors' Society group that my mother dearly loved to work with and she certainly spoke highly of them. I also, in closing, would like to recognize one of our staff members who is with one of the children up there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I, too, would like to welcome the mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, Mr. Mervin Gruben, and from my home community of Tuk, my cousin Wanda Norwegian. Welcome to the House. It's always good to see you. Probably the happiest day for me was welcoming my son Mitchell back home last night. He's coming home with me tomorrow. Welcome back to the Territories. I'd like to welcome the Abernethy family too. They're all great. To all our visitors in the public gallery here today, thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings here today in the House. Have a good day and enjoy the proceedings.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 164-17(4):

#### DREDGING OF THE HAY RIVER HARBOUR

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My daughter told me that a friend of hers overheard a peripheral conversation with me talking about how wonderful the Ministers were and they said, what's happening? Is your mother resigning? Anyways, let me assure you I am still alive and well, and I have had too much coffee today so I need to talk about Hay River dredging. I'd like to direct my questions to the Premier today because I do believe that this is an area of federal responsibility, the dredging of the Hay River Harbour, which was, for some reason, vacated by the federal government without due consultation and without due plan in mind when they stopped doing this.

I'd like to ask the Premier, although we've had some money from Transportation in our government to look at studies, it's time to stop the studies. We know what needs to be done. The harbour in Hay River needs to be dredged. Is this something that the Premier could elevate as an issue to be raised with the federal government at his level?

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Government of the Northwest Territories, we go to Ottawa and generally try to keep our asks to a manageable level. We focus on the areas of highest priority. I recognize that it's been almost 20 years since the Hay River Harbour was last dredged, I think it was 1993-1994, and we're quite prepared to do that in addition to spending money to do some work this summer. We have a small dredging program planned. We will also lobby the federal government.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** As I said in my Member's statement, the threat to the Hay River Harbour is really undermining the spirit and soul of our community and it is posing a serious threat to our residents as well. We cannot afford just to bury our heads in the sand and hope for the best. The Canadian Coast Guard, which amalgamated a few years back with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, has a tremendous amount of infrastructure, vessels, buildings and employees in Hay River. I'd like to ask the Premier if we could broach the federal government with the idea to perhaps, if they can't set up another Department of Public Works in Hay River to do this, if this is an activity that could possibly be added on to an existing federal, very large department in Hay River, the Canadian Coast Guard.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I think we can do better than that. There are a number of federal funding

programs that we can access. We are working with the federal government on a Disaster Mitigation Program which we expect will be rolling out soon. We have our friends at CanNor and, also, there's another federal funding program that we're in discussions with the Government of Canada on. We can approach it on all of those venues as well as talking to the federal government about exactly what the Member is suggesting.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** When the federal government was located in Hay River with their dredging program under the Department of Public Works, it was an annual event. This was not a one-time thing. I would like to ask the Premier if some of the funding that he's talking about that may be available through federal programs, if this would be something that would re-establish an ongoing activity in Hay River to see that harbour kept in good condition.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We've done some work with our partners, specifically the Coast Guard, I think NTCL, and I think even Midnight Petroleum, and we've scoped out the potential costs for a very small dredging program. The cost estimate is about \$2 million to \$3 million. For a large dredging program it will be about \$12 million. The problem, I think, that was identified by Mr. Bouchard, is that there is no existing dredge in Hay River. We would have to go and find one. I think the closest one is in the Columbia River area or we would have to go as far as the Mississippi. I think that if we do ramp up to that level, I expect if we're going to dredge there, that would be the start so that we could look at it on a more regular basis.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In previous governments the answer that I continued to get from this government is that the dredging of the Hay River Harbour was not their responsibility, it was federal jurisdiction. What I'm hearing from the Premier today is, in fact, that the territorial government may be looking at taking this on on an ongoing basis and taking responsibility. Just to clarify, is that what I'm hearing today?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We are prepared to participate and even contribute some funding as we're doing for the program this year, but it's still a federal responsibility and I suspect the federal government would not want to devolve this, which is typically a federal jurisdiction.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

QUESTION 165-17(4):  
REPLACEMENT OF THE  
JOE GREENLAND CENTRE

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Housing. Has the department set a date to visit the community of Aklavik for the community's input into the new Joe Greenland Centre?

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our plan is to try to get into the community as soon as possible. We recently announced the plans to replace the Joe Greenland Centre. We want to try and get in there as soon as possible. We still have about a month of winter road. I'm assuming staff from the department in Inuvik will be heading over to Aklavik to start the planning of the new Joe Greenland Centre.

**MR. BLAKE:** I'd like to ask the Minister, will the department build a facility like the Joe Greenland Centre in Fort McPherson.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Because the Member asked, I'll say yes, we will. As part of our announcement last week, we did announce that we were building four new seniors facilities. One of them was in Fort McPherson, the other one was in Fort Good Hope, we have one in Fort Liard, and the other one in Whati. The planning for that is in the early stages right now. We do plan to construct these in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mahsi cho to the Minister. I have no further questions.

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

QUESTION 166-17(4):  
ON-THE-LAND TREATMENT PROGRAMS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the need for people to go on the land who have done some pretty serious damages. The people and elders in our communities talk about that. I want to ask the Minister what the status is of the two communities who have made this request; Colville Lake for integrating people back into the communities and, of course, the community of Fort Good Hope, who wanted on-the-land treatment programs for people who are sent to our correctional institutes here.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently in the Northwest Territories we only have one wilderness camp and that's Kozo Lake camp in the South Slave. We have had a request from Fort Good Hope to actually re-engage

and reconfirm the camp that used to be in the Fort Good Hope or Sahtu area. We are having those discussions. We believe that these camps are important and provide a valuable service, and we would like to see it up and running. We still have to work out some details on the specifics for the Fort Good Hope wilderness camp but we are doing that, and hope to have some progress there. With respect to Colville Lake, it wasn't a wilderness camp we were talking about. It was a reintegration program. We are very excited about this. This would be the first time that we've worked with the community and, to their credit, they were the ones who approached us and offered to work with us on a reintegration program.

We haven't finalized any programs but I am happy to say that community members from Colville Lake recently met with some inmates from Colville Lake in the North Slave correctional facility and they were very supportive in finding ways to help that individual reintegrate back into the community, including providing logs so that the person could build themselves a home. They agreed to work with the inmate to help him find employment in the community. They've worked with the inmate to have him engage with youth committees and work with youth in the community. They've also got a plan to have them engage in some traditional activities within the community and the area. We think this is a great foundation for building the reintegration plan with the community that they have talked about, and we are still eager to do that and will continue to move forward on that.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** In the latest numbers that I have received from the department, it costs the Government of the Northwest Territories about \$107,000 a year per inmate to keep them at one of our correctional centres here. I want to ask the Minister what it costs to have an on-the-land program. Do they have one yet in the Territories? What does it cost for having people on the land at that type of program?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I don't have the exact numbers for housing inmates in our facilities, but the number the Member quoted sounds right. I will confirm that actual number for the cost over a year.

As far as the exact numbers for inmates who are taking advantage of this -- and we must remember that inmates aren't required to go to wilderness camps, they have to express desire and an interest to go to the wilderness camps -- but I will confirm to the Member what the costs are per day, but also the whole program costs as well.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I believe the Minister's willingness. When I sat with him in Colville Lake, people and good old people, he wanted to do something different and do something that would make sense to the Aboriginals who have hurt our communities and their people. I want to ask the

Minister if there's a possibility of possibly having some time to invite the Social Justice Committee members to go to Kozo Lake and look at that project, talk to the contractor and possibly talk to some of the people who are doing time there right now and see the benefits of on-the-land treatment programs for people in the North.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Anecdotally, we know, from speaking to some of the inmates who have attended wilderness camps, that their experience in these camps makes them better able to take advantage of other programs that may be offered in our facilities, both in treatment within the facility and outside. One thing we need to remember, and I've already mentioned it, is that it's very important that inmates are actively involved in their case management discussions, which may include opportunities to go out to these camps.

Camp experience can also be very advantageous, if you will, because it helps individuals prepare to return to their communities. It helps them connect with family, connect to community supports, which is obviously essential when people are returning.

With respect to the Kozo Lake camp, which is the one camp that we do have a contract with today, I personally haven't been there but I take the Member's point that it may be beneficial for me, and maybe a member or two from committee, to visit this camp to get a sense of the valuable services that they can provide as far as helping us prepare inmates for reintegration back into their communities and avoid being repeat offenders.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been estimated that 85 percent of crimes in the Northwest Territories are alcohol and/or drug related, and 90 percent of offenders in the Northwest Territories correctional facilities have addiction issues. A high percentage of these offenders and people in the correctional institutes are Aboriginal people.

What Aboriginal context, what type of Aboriginal programs do you have that are operating now in the correctional institutes that we can also possibly offer on-the-land programs?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We do know that a significant portion of the inmates within our facilities are suffering from either addictions or mental health issues. As we've talked about already, the camps are an opportunity to help people deal with some of their personal issues and, obviously, in the long-term, reintegrate back into society.

Within our facilities here in the Northwest Territories, we do have specific programming, traditional programming, as well as some alcohol and drug programs in the facilities to help those individuals when they're ready to start dealing with

some of those challenges so that we can help them return to their communities and stay out of the justice system in the future. There are a number of programs. I can provide the Member and committee with a list of the specific programs that are available within each of our facilities so that they have a better understanding.

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

QUESTION 167-17(4):  
SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I'll start with a simple one. I'd like to ask the Minister, what schools are on any plan at Education, Culture and Employment for renovations or replacement in the fiscal year 2014-15?

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. During the capital planning process we've identified some of the schools, whether it be minor renovations or major renovations, and I can provide that information. I don't have it in front of me today. With respect to one of the schools that we are currently evaluating, it is J.H. Sissons School. There has been an education plan underway since last fall, providing the school district for their review as well. Those are just the processes we have to go through with each capital project that's before us throughout the Northwest Territories.

**MS. BISARO:** I thank the Minister for that information. I'll just have one last question. I would like to know from the Minister if he can provide me with a list of schools for the next five years that have renovations or upgrades or replacements planned.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I can provide the detailed breakdown of the number of capital projects that would be before us throughout the Northwest Territories. So I will provide it to the Members.

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

QUESTION 168-17(4):  
GROWING FOOD PROGRAM AND  
HEALTH PROMOTION IN SCHOOLS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my Member's statement today, I have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Under the declaration that was signed in 2010 on prevention and promotion by our Minister of Health, one of the guidelines is health promotion has many

approaches that should be used. It talks about helping people learn and practice healthy ways of living.

Thinking outside the box, I want to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if there are any types of programs that he'd be looking at introducing into the school that deal with healthy eating and weight loss such as the Growing Food program that is currently in the school that we saw in today's Inuvik Drum.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. The Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. First, I must commend the Growing Food initiative in Inuvik. That's a very important initiative that could be delivered as part of the programming into the community, into the schools and so forth. There are a number of programs that we have initiated such as Drop the Pop. We have a 925 intake, the highest participation rate yet. This is an area that we are very proud of. The East Three School, the secondary café, is also serving healthy, hot lunches. Those are just some of the initiatives that we have undertaken.

There are also school fund guidelines in development of Healthy Choices. We are also currently working closely with MACA and also Health and Social Services to provide more information on healthy foods and local food production such as traditional foods, vegetable fact sheets. I can provide this important list to the Members for their review.

**MR. MOSES:** We do know that healthy nutrition and active lifestyles go hand in hand, but sometimes it's the nutrition that kind of takes a side to the active living and we have to start educating our students on healthy eating, but also teach them how to start producing their own foods such as this Growing Food program in Inuvik. Is there any other possibility that we can start creating this Growing Food program in other schools in other communities across the territory? Has the Minister looked at that? Also, I am aware of the no junk food policy that all the schools have.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The information I have is that we are exploring those areas. There are certain communities such as Hay River, Fort Smith, and Whati is another community, and other communities that have initiated Growing Food. This is an area where there's a lot of interest from my department and other departments, as well, the interdepartmental working coordination. I can provide the update on the latest status from the coordination of the three or four departments that we've been working on.

**MR. MOSES:** We all know that there's a high cost of living in the Northwest Territories, and the further you get up and the further the food has to travel to

get to the communities, sometimes when the fruits and vegetables get there they're already turning brown. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about agriculture, learn about growing their own food, create some type of mental wellness as well as create some active living.

Would the Minister be willing to look at putting this in part of some type of curriculum for the students, that it becomes part of practical work in one of the courses and look at the options of making that part of the curriculum? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member that this is a huge opportunity for us to look at, is the active growing throughout the Northwest Territories. We realize the higher cost of living the further up north you are. Part of the healthy choices that we are working on within our department, MACA and Health and Social Services, we have identified certain areas of initiatives, targets. What the Member is referring to is actual curriculum that he wants us to potentially explore. By all means, I will be directing my department to explore those options and those key areas. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. MOSES:** Mr. Speaker, I also understand that the Aurora College is proposing a Northern Farming Training Institute through the Aurora College as a program. To take this further, we can actually look at probably creating that type of curriculum in the schools.

Inuvik has been doing a fantastic job. They've already planted in the fall. They have everything prepared over the summer. They actually go into the greenhouse, when the greenhouse is available, and it allows the students to continue to volunteer.

Looking at that type of curriculum and working with the Aurora College on what they're looking at proposing, is the Minister willing to work with Aurora College, try to modify the program and create some type of curriculum within the schools in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, this particular initiative would have to be undertaken by various parties that will be involved, whether it be Inuvik, the schools and also the college and my department. This is an area that has been addressed to our attention on a couple of occasions already. We are definitely exploring it. We will work closely with the college. I will be presenting that to the college at the next board meeting. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

## Returns to Written Questions

### RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 3-17(4): AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HIRING STATISTICS

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. Menicoche on February 7, 2013, to the Honourable Glen Abernethy, Minister of Human Resources, regarding affirmative action hiring statistics.

Under the Affirmative Action Policy, candidates are provided staffing priority status based on the competition. In all competitions, priority status is given to indigenous Aboriginal persons, indigenous non-Aboriginal persons and resident disabled persons. Additionally, for competitions in management and non-traditional occupations, priority status is given to resident women.

eRecruit, the Government of the Northwest Territories' recruitment system, indicates that 766 staffing competitions were initiated in the 2011-12 fiscal year. Fourteen thousand eighty-two (14,082) applications were received from 6,862 applicants, which shows that many applicants apply on more than one position with the GNWT. Not all job openings are publically advertised as some positions are filled through transfer assignments, eligibility lists, and other human resource management processes.

Of the 766 competitions initiated, 480, or 63 percent, were filled with a successful candidate. Of the 480 successful candidates, 108, or 22.5 percent, had priority 1 status and 105, or 22 percent, had priority 2 status. There are a number of reasons that the remaining 286 unfilled competitions were not filled, including the lack of any qualified applicants screening into or passing the interview. It can also include a decision by the hiring department to cancel or postpone a competition for a variety of reasons such as supporting an accommodation, hiring an intern or casual, using a transfer assignment or determining that circumstances have changed and there is no longer a need to fill the position.

Of the 14,082 applications, 1,695, or 12.04 percent, had applicants with a priority 1 status and 1,342, or 9.53 percent, had applicants with a priority 2 status.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of our recognition as one of Canada's Top Diversity Employers for 2013. We also recognize that more work needs to be done and our good momentum in creating and sustaining a representative workforce requires ongoing effort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of

motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

## Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

### BILL 3: WILDLIFE ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, March 4, 2013, I will move that Bill 3, Wildlife Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 17, motions. Mr. Yakeleya.

## Motions

### MOTION 5-17(4): EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO MARCH 4, 2013, CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on February 28, 2013, it shall be adjourned until Monday, March 4, 2013;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to March 4, 2013, 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 the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. There is a motion on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Hawkins.

### MOTION 6-17(4): GASOLINE PRICING REGULATIONS, CARRIED

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS regulating a maximum price for gasoline in the Northwest Territories would promote fairness and improve confidence for consumers and retailers throughout the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living in the Northwest Territories is high, and volatile fuel prices have a direct impact on all consumers;

AND WHEREAS a formula used to get gasoline prices would improve fairness and transparency in product pricing;

AND WHEREAS the public deserves full disclosure of the details of the price it pays for gasoline;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories petroleum products division to a certain extent already regulates the price of gasoline in the communities it serves;

AND WHEREAS some Canadian jurisdictions, such as New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, regulate petroleum product prices in a manner that can avoid artificial pricing and offer a measure of equity and stability to retailers and consumers;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the Government of the Northwest Territories investigate and evaluate the possibility of regulating gasoline prices;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand, as well as a lot of Members in this Assembly will stand, with Northerners. We feel we need to be meek no more and we want to stand up against big oil and corporate greed. I need not teach this House a lesson on cost of living. It's something we all understand very well, but the problem is Northerners are being priced out and certainly being outpaced by the cost of living here in the North.

The status quo can no longer be defended by ignoring this problem. We must call these people and these protection measures to account by asking for regulation of gasoline. The time has long passed and every Northerner out there knows it. Five provinces in Canada stand with their citizens. It's time the GNWT stands with their citizens. We must confront the status quo by taking this fight to the very end. This hill is one worth charging up against. It's one worth dying on. Fuel price regulation is an important issue.

Now, I expect the government to resist as they always resist all good ideas, and better yet, they will probably fight this to the very end and feel that there will be endless amounts of paperwork to justify why status quo is so important, why Northerners matter less in their view, and why big oil should be protected. I expect that fight, but concerns from Northerners about price fixing will continue until this government does something. It's about proving the price, ensuring that our Northerners are protected.

We all see prices go up and down all over the world. They go up in Edmonton. They go up in the North, but when they go down in Edmonton, they do not go down here in the North.

People sit here puzzled, wondering why Northerners need to continue to pay unfair, high, inflated prices. The cost of living is being impacted here. It hurts every Northerner. I don't blame the local on-the-ground vendor who does supply that fuel by the big oil. They're just doing their job. They don't set those prices because the people who do set those prices live in Toronto, they live in New York, they live in Houston. The only time they come north is when they want to come inspect and maybe fly north to the Sahtu or maybe in other regions to inspect their assets and maybe even go fishing. But the fact is, they have no vested interest on what it's like with the cost of living here in the North.

The problem is simple: We need to find a solution. Five Canadian provinces had the courage to push back. Today I ask this government to have the courage and push back. Are they standing with big oil or are they standing with Northerners? It is our job to fight for Northerners and certainly for their protection and most definitely in the public's interest.

We need a competitive environment that exists, but right now Northerners are held hostage by the prices set by those people sitting in those big offices in New York, in Toronto and Houston. They really have no idea where we are. They don't care. They care about the bottom line, their bottom line. They care about their shareholders and their big corporate jets. They don't care about the little grannie from Nahanni trying to put fuel in her car to go buy groceries. They don't care about the people in Hay River who have to drive their kids to school. They don't care about the people in Tuktoyaktuk who have to warm their cars – because if they don't warm up, they're hard to drive – because they want to go to Inuvik maybe to visit family. The reality is they just don't care about Northerners; they care about their profits.

So will this government care about Northerners or will this government care about big oil? Now, government will continue the narrative about, my goodness, we have consumer protection. Well, I can tell you, for a fact, the public does not have confidence in our consumer protection and I'll tell you why. The reality truly on the ground is they have mandate, they have no teeth to protect. Now, we could run complaints up the flagpole and go to a higher source, but the reality is, it's too expensive for the little guy to go out there and fight the machine. It's almost impossible to prove collusion. So apathy continues because people do not believe their government stands with them. They believe that their government has other alternative

objectives. They're busy with other ideas, they're busy with other things, but when does government's attention say we must protect the cost of living of the little guy? It's a telling story in and of itself.

I'm not suggesting government is evil or our government is evil by any ways, but I'll say status quo in itself is evil. So the price fluctuates all over the North, but it only cranks up here for Northerners. It grows whether you live in Fort Smith, they're all stuck the same as Yellowknife. Whether you live in Fort Providence, it sucks, the prices do not show competitive ranges and that type of philosophy must end.

Sorry, Mr. Speaker, my passion is certainly getting the best of me. It's time this government starts fighting for the everyday citizen and defend the Northerners' interest, the public's interest, our interest. We must rally against the status quo. If this Cabinet wants to snuggle up warm and comfortable in the embrace of big oil and status quo, they're welcome to, but don't defend it to me. Defend it to the 43,000 people out these doors because they deserve answers and certainly not excuses. Remember, there are 43,000 people outside of this building right now trying to get by. So do they stand with Northerners or do they stand for big oil?

We cannot accept status quo because that's what managers do. Leaders challenge it every day. So in closing to my opening comments, I want to say there are no 50 shades of grey on this issue; it is black, it is white. So either Cabinet will stand with the people or they'll stand with big oil.

So, in case I forget later, I'll say we deserve a full account of this motion. So I would like a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I'll allow the seconder to the motion to speak to it. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to second this motion only because I, too, believe that if you look at the whereas it's about taking the time to investigate how prices are set, taking the time to see how they do it in all the communities and regions. I believe that we should listen to our people as well. People want to know and they want to be assured that they're not being gouged at the pumps and I think that's what this motion speaks about, to investigate and evaluate the possibility of regulating gasoline prices. I see no harm in that and I think we should use our resources to try to get these answers for our people. That's all this motion calls for. We should do our part to show the people the transparency of how they set prices and just to ensure, once again, that people aren't being gouged at the pumps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first read this motion I did have the feeling that, from a business perspective, to say, well, let's stay fair and let business do business, but I think there's a lot of people in the general public that are concerned with pricing and the way the pricing of fuel and gasoline happens. We have an event that happens in the Middle East one day and the next day the prices at the pumps in Hay River, Yellowknife, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk change immediately where that has nothing to do with the inventory that sits in those tanks at that time.

So I support this motion in the fact that it gives direction for our Cabinet to investigate and evaluate the processes similar to the ones in New Brunswick and PEI, where they have a regulation in place that controls the pricing. It's a very big cost to the Northwest Territories. Our cost of living is one of the issues that the general public is out there talking about all the time, and it doesn't hurt us out there to investigate the possibility to do some sort of regulation.

Like the mover said, I don't think this is dealing with the mom and pop operation that's selling fuel. It's more the conglomerates that are dealing the prices, the fact that Houston makes a decision that they want to increase the prices on a May long weekend or some sort of a long weekend, and then the next day it comes along and the next day the price rises, but the inventory that was there two days ago has nothing to do with the price that Houston decided they were going to charge the people for the May long weekend.

So I think we should investigate this, look at the potentials of implementing this in the Northwest Territories, and once we have that information, let's make an assessment and let's go from there. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also be supporting the motion. At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly I did pose a question to the Minister of MACA and I asked if we could begin, as a government, to track the cost of fuel at the pumps and at the home heating delivery trucks compared to the price of crude or what other benchmarks are out there, and I believe that this was undertaken by MACA and I do appreciate that. But we are at the mercy of the folks that set these prices. It does seem curious that when the prices go up at the pump it's an immediate reaction, and when the prices go down nothing happens. When you also compare our costs here compared to other places like northern Alberta even, I mean, there is no way that it is just transportation cost as a difference. It is far gone and above that.

So we are kind of being held hostage here on the fuel prices and the fact that this is an essential commodity, essential services are treated differently in industry and an essential commodity like home heating oil and gasoline for our vehicles is extremely essential in the North, and we don't exactly have the opportunity to come up with other solutions in the short term. Although, Mr. Bromley would disagree with me on that.

Anyways, I will be supporting the motion. We do definitely need to look into this. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm conflicted about this motion. I appreciate the intent of the motion and I thank Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Menicoche for bringing it forward, but I'm not so sure that regulating our gas prices is what is required. I accept that it's asking for an investigation, but I am particularly disturbed by the fact that Yellowknife has a gas price that is, give or take, 20 cents more than what it is in Hay River, which is 300, 500 miles away, but that does not, in my mind, explain why we have such a large difference in gas prices. So it's very perplexing to me and I think that it's probably more of a "local Yellowknife problem" than it is a territorial problem.

We've had evidence of prices going down in Hay River and in Edmonton and prices in Yellowknife staying absolutely the same, and I feel, much as many constituents do, that it's an unfair situation. I don't like paying \$1.389 for my gas, absolutely not. But I think what is required, perhaps more so than regulation, is that we need to mobilize and consumers need to mobilize themselves. There are a number of things that consumers can do and I think probably the biggest one is certainly, if anybody changes their gas price, go buy your gas where it's cheapest, but if all the outlets stay the same, which they have done for two years now, then consumers need to complain to the operators, need to complain to the owners. If consumers do not do that then that's on us because we're not letting our feelings be known to those that are supplying us with the gas.

My understanding is that it's, and we will have differences of opinion on this, but there's little I believe that government can do to force operators to change their prices. I accept that there's regulation, but I'm very hesitant to suggest that regulation and forcing operators to set their prices is where we want to go.

The other thing that consumers can do that I want to mention is that we do have a Consumer Protection Act and it doesn't have a lot of teeth in it, but there is a resolution process within that act and if consumers feel so inclined, they can go to Municipal and Community Affairs and they can lay a complaint and it can be dealt with through the

resolution process. I would encourage any Yellowknifers out there who feel that we are unjustly being treated to a high price of gas to take one of the two actions which I have suggested. I won't vote against this motion but I will be abstaining.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the mover of the motion. Obviously today, he's very passionate, and our seconder, Mr. Menicoche. The motion really speaks more about cost of living than anything else, and it's affecting, I think, more so the cost of living, as Ms. Bisaro said, in Yellowknife. I think that's important that we make a note here today.

I think the question that many of us have is, why? Why do we pay more? Why do gas prices appear not to fluctuate as we possibly see in southern markets? I think that comes down to the unique type of competition that we have in the North. Our supply and demand are definitely in a bit of a premium. We have transportation costs that are incurred more so than we would see down south. Now we have bridge tolls to add on to that. We do have lower volumes per se, so that's going to affect our prices. We definitely have generally higher overhead than most of our retailers down south. Our labour and electricity costs, for one, are going up, and our infrastructure is definitely higher.

I want to talk about our taxes for a second and I want to spend just a second on that. The NWT tax rate is set by the Petroleum Tax Act, and our tax for people who are on the highway is 10.7 cents per litre. If you're off the highway, it is 6.4 cents per litre, which I think is an interesting disparity that we have there. To put that into perspective, Alberta is at 9 cents per litre in their tax act and if we compare that to our two territories, Yukon is 6.2 cents and Nunavut is 6.4 cents. More importantly, the fact that our tax rates have not been looked at since 1997, I think that is a dart and bull's-eye that should be looked at as we think about this motion and the challenge.

The motion speaks to investigating and evaluating the regulating of gasoline prices. It asks some clarity that the public has been asking for. I think that's an important point I needed to flesh out here. I don't have a problem with the investigating part, but I do have a concern about telling retailers or the market what prices they should set. We are a free market society and I don't want to leave that out in the cold, and I don't want to impose any restrictions on that free market.

For the record, I have talked to many of my local retailers that sell petroleum products and I can tell you that they have been adjusting their prices according to rack rates. There is no, in my mind, collusion or price fixing that I see in my riding and I

have a number of retailers, probably more so than any of the ridings here. I just want to make sure that there is not a conspiracy out there, as probably mentioned by the Member, but maybe an observation for us to look at.

Based on what I indicated about the tax rate, I would challenge the petroleum products division to take a look at that in looking at this motion and putting forth changes here. Of course, I know that this will affect some of our revenues in the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but I think that would be justified in the eyes of the consumer. I would challenge him to look at that 10.7 cents per litre for those that are on our highway system and maybe put them on line with the non-highway rates.

Therefore, the motion speaks to investigating and evaluating and does not make direct reference to telling businesses what to do, and I think that's important. Therefore, with that, I really appreciate Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Menicoche bringing it forward and I will be supporting this motion under those terms.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the Members bringing this motion forward. I am absolutely not happy with the distributors of gasoline, the retailers who are putting such a markup on our gas prices and consistently across distributors. It shows a real lack of competitive spirit. I think already we've seen a response from the Minister of MACA who has done some investigation on what our authority is in this area and, unfortunately, I think the window of opportunity for doing much about this is small from a GNWT standpoint. The Minister raised a number of valid points and certainly that's one of them.

Another consideration, of course, is we are the actual distributor in many Northwest Territories communities. There are thermal communities further north and so on. That's not true here, obviously, but there's quite a difference between other communities such as Hay River and Yellowknife. This is primarily a Yellowknife issue.

I would say that we need to be seeking ways to spur competition. I will be doing that to ensure that the government does use whatever modest authority they do have. I will be also seeking ways to increase competition on my own. I think the public needs to play a role here. Of course, the very best way to deal with this is to decrease the demand. By decreasing demand, that will spur competition for sure. There are a lot of good vehicles on the market now that get a lot better mileage and, of course, there's public transit and so on. Those are all considerations that we should be thinking about and will have a lot of other benefits with them.

The opportunity for the GNWT intervention is small; nevertheless, I do appreciate this motion being brought forward and I will not be opposing it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say that it costs \$220 to fill up a 150 type pickup in Norman Wells. My question is if this motion is going to investigate and look at it and that's it, I just want to know why. I will be supporting this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Really quickly, you've heard a lot of really good comments on this side of the House, and I just want to let you know that I will be supporting this motion. Speaking for the harvesters of the Northwest Territories, especially those on the coastal communities that have to go out hunting and trapping to make a living, who don't have regular jobs, the high cost of gas is really reflecting that. I just want to thank Mr. Menicoche and Mr. Hawkins for bringing this motion forward and I will be supporting it today.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be supporting this motion, as a lot of my constituents in my riding would like to pay the same prices as the people in the southern part of the territory. My residents pay anywhere from \$1.65 per litre in Fort McPherson to \$1.80 in Tsigehtchic. We need to have the same prices as they do here in the south.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. I will allow Mr. McLeod to speak.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I just want to say, in listening to the movers' comments, that it's unfair to say that this government does not care and this government is not standing up for the people of the Northwest Territories. While it makes for good theatre, it's not exactly what this government does. I think we've proven that we look after the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories and to say otherwise, to me, is untrue.

I would like to say that some of the comments that were made were very good comments. Ms. Bisaro's comments about it's mostly a Yellowknife issue, Mr. Bromley mentioned the same thing, and it really is, because I've heard the concerns that prices here haven't changed for the last 18 months. In many of our communities out there the prices do fluctuate a bit, so if they get a fairly good deal on the fuel, the prices may be adjusted accordingly. I know through our petroleum products division, when they get a good deal on fuel bringing it into the communities,

the prices are adjusted accordingly. We do look after the interests of the people of the Northwest Territories and we all agree, as Mr. Blake said, some of the communities further north would love to pay some of the prices that we have down here. However, as Mr. Dolynny said, it's a free market enterprise and prices are set on getting the product to the fuel stations.

There are a lot of good comments there. I think the motion asks us to investigate and evaluate and that's what we're going to do. This is a motion that provides direction to Cabinet. We will be abstaining from the vote. However, I want to make it quite clear that for anybody to suggest that this government doesn't care about the people of the Northwest Territories I think is completely wrong.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. I'll allow the mover of the motion... Okay. The mover of the motion asks for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

**PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett):** Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Moses, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Nadli, Ms. Bisaro.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

**PRINCIPAL CLERK (Ms. Bennett):** Mr. Bromley, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Those in favour, nine; those against, zero; abstentions, nine. It's a tie. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Ramsay.

#### First Reading of Bills

##### BILL 2: AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERRITORIAL PARKS ACT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Ramsay.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act.

---Consent granted

#### Second Reading of Bills

##### BILL 2: AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERRITORIAL PARKS ACT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Territorial Parks Act to provide the superintendent with authority to issue orders respecting fines in territorial parks, provide that registered owners of motor vehicles are liable for contraventions involving their vehicles, and add a power to make regulations respecting the setting, use and extinguishment of fires in parks.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2013-2014; Education, Culture and Employment, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

#### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to review Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main Estimates, with a continuation of Education, Culture and Employment.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** We will resume that after a recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Committee, welcome back. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Mr. Lafferty, do you have witnesses that you'd like to bring into the Chamber?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort our witnesses into the House. Thank you.

Minister Lafferty, if you'd like to introduce your witnesses to the House, please.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have to my left, Gabriela Eggenhofer. She is my deputy minister, Department of Education, Culture and Employment; Paul Devitt is director of strategic business services; and Dana Heide, associate deputy minister within Education, Culture and Employment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Ms. Eggenhofer, Mr. Devitt, and Mr. Heide, welcome to the House. Committee, turn your attention to 10-7. We're going to actually defer this until consideration of activity summaries. If I can get you to turn to 10-8, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, infrastructure investment summary. Any questions?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Page 10-9, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, revenue summary. Any questions?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, committee. Page 10-10, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, position summary. Any questions?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Committee, 10-12, 10-13. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek unanimous consent to return to 10-9. I didn't hear you call it out. That was my error.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. HAWKINS:** You called it three times. I was starting to think you were desperate to get a nay there. Under recoveries, we have a million dollars noted for Nunavut museum and archive collection. I'm just wondering, has the department considered, sort of, drawing the line and saying this will be the last contract we will carry Nunavut's, I'll say, they're historical items, archives, et cetera. As I understand it, we're doing a bunch of work here to ensure that it's kept up. Maybe if the Minister can use this occasion to describe what that money is being directed to, and is it costing the government any money.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This has been a work in progress for a number of years now. For 2012-13, as stated in the business

plan, the revenue generation of a million and then it increases by \$20,000 every year after that up to 2016. The Government of Nunavut is fully aware that they need their own stand-alone museum to store their artifacts. We are working with them on this and we have made it clear to them that our storage area has also got capacity that we need to look after within our own artifacts as well. They are fully aware of it. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** On the record here, can the Minister clarify, does this come at a cost of NWT products that are being saved or archived or protected for future usage? My understanding is that the Nunavut archives or historical items – I'm not sure what the best phrase here is to describe it – but the archival collection is larger than the Northwest Territories. What is permitted Nunavut for actually repatriating their artifacts? Because, if I understand it correctly, it's actually squeezing and putting pressure onto our small amount in comparison to theirs.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. For that response we'll go to Mr. Devitt.

**MR. DEVITT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The plan that we have is to use some of the money to either lease or construct additional space to help accommodate both the NWT and Nunavut collections. We feel that under this contract we'll be able to accommodate both collections for the period of the contract. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What impact does this have on our archival products? If I'm calling it the right name, if I'm not, please correct that.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. At this point, there's not much of an impact. With the additional funding that we've received, we've hired staff to look after the artifacts as well. At this point there hasn't been any impact, as far as we know. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Why is the GNWT being contracted to do this? Maybe the Minister can provide some information. Why isn't Nunavut hiring their own staff members – I'm not sure exactly how many – and renting their own appropriate storage mechanisms on their own and taking care of this? Why does the stewardship, in some manner, have anything to do with the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, I guess part of the reason will be we've been working closely with them. We feel that we are in partnership with them, working closely together with

them, the Government of Nunavut. At the same time, to have artifacts stored in Nunavut in a facility, as you know, it's a high cost over there. But they're realizing that they need their own facility, so they are working towards that and are in the planning stages. They are working closely with our department, as well, as they move forward as part of their capital planning process. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Maybe the Minister can outline some of the benefits of how this actually helps the Northwest Territories people. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, we have a four-year agreement with them. As I stated, there is no impact. With additional storage or capacity that's within the museum, it does benefit the North. Throughout the Northwest Territories we do collect artifacts. Whenever it comes to our shop within the museum, we store them as a priority. We've already told Nunavut that this will be on a short-term basis because our artifacts are increasing as well.

With the funding allocation, in a way, I guess, we're hiring three staff that are beneficial to the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Where are all this valuable archival products? Where are they stored and what does it cost us? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, as you know, it is in archives. I'm not sure we have the actual cost factor here, but is on an agreement of \$1 million a year. The following year says \$20,000 incremental. Then based on that, storing those artifacts, plus three staff, we can certainly provide that detail to the Members. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. For clarity, where is it – I'm speaking to all the archival products, including ours – and what does it cost? Just to make sure that's clear on the record, could I get the Minister to respond?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. For that we'll go to Mr. Devitt.

**MR. DEVITT:** The majority of the collection is stored at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. The actual estimate for the cost was \$1 million-plus that we have for the contract. I'm not sure exactly; there is some off-site storage in the government warehouse, as well, for some of the artifacts. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Has there ever been a discussion to have Nunavut find their own storage facility here in Yellowknife or elsewhere in the Northwest Territories? Wherever would seem feasible, that is.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. For that we'll go to Ms. Eggenhoffer.

**MS. EGGENHOFER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the difficulty for storing the artifacts that Nunavut and that we have is they need very special

facilities in order to preserve them, so you can't just pack them away anywhere. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre has climate control and all the kind of characteristics facilities need to have in order to preserve these very precious artifacts, until such time as Nunavut is ready to take them over.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. What's the estimated split between our historical archives and Nunavut's historical archives? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. For that we'll be going to Minister Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure we have the exact detail. It's very detailed information that we may not have here, but we can provide that to Members. Mahsi.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you. Can I also get the estimate – and I'm saying estimate, not exact, you don't have to hire 25, 30 people to do this – of storage capacity as to what do we have, what are we using and where it's located? I think I heard someone from the Minister's side say that some of it's stored at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, some of it's stored at the government warehouse, which is just a heated warehouse, so can I get that as well?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We'll definitely provide that information.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I guess... No, that's fine. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Committee, 10-9, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, revenue summary. Any questions?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you. Page 10-10, Education, Culture and Employment, information item, active position summary. Any questions?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Seeing none. Page 10-12, 10-13, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, directorate, administration, operations expenditure summary, \$10.521 million. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions here. As I read the description for this section it talks about policy, legislative initiatives, strategic business and capital planning. I wanted to ask some questions of the Minister with regard to capital planning.

I get the impression that the department doesn't really have a capital plan. I'd like to hear from the Minister, if there is one, is there a system the department uses to determine what schools are in need of either renovations or replacement. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Lafferty. I'm sorry; we'll go to Mr. Devitt.

**MR. DEVITT:** Mr. Chair, yes, the department examines all of our facilities each year. We use data in terms of the condition of the buildings, the age of the buildings, and also the utilization. So that's the start of our planning process, and we identify the needs, working very closely with our clients and the Department of Public Works. As we move forward in the process, particularly for large major projects such as schools, we will do, for schools, an educational plan which looks at the type of program use that will occur and identifies what will occur now and also in the future. Then we move into the government planning process which starts with the approval of a planning study which takes the project through to schematic design, and at that point it moves into the next stage of the government planning process which assesses our projects against other government projects in determining if they can be placed on the government's capital plan. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I appreciate that everything has to come through to the government capital plan process; however, within the department, what does the department use? Okay, the need to identify. So once the needs are identified, does the department have a list where they have a priority list of schools, which schools will be sent through the GNWT capital planning process first before another one, for instance? So there must be some way that the department determines that school X will be put ahead of school Y. So what exists at the department to determine the priority of schools that either need renovations or replacement? Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. There have been numerous assessments and reviews done in education plans throughout the Northwest Territories. We can provide the detailed information on which schools have been a priority for either a retrofit and which other schools can hold off for a few more years. So we can provide that detailed information.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister for the commitment. So what I would like to see, and I don't know about other committee members, but I would like to see a list from the department which tells me which school is number one and which school is number 47 on the list of things to be done.

I'd like to move on. The Minister mentioned in his opening remarks that there's a fairly comprehensive review of the education system that is... I can't remember whether it's future or whether it's ongoing right now. I'd like to know from the Minister whether this review has started and, if so, that's

fine. Two things I'd like to know: if it's already in process, what expectations does the department have that this review will produce at the end of it, and what timelines are we working with here for the review from start to finish? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. Yes, we'll provide the priorities of the school from first priority to all schools in the Northwest Territories.

The education renewal, as you know, is before us now. Our expectation is that we want to hear as much as we can from the experts, whether it be the educators and community members, the grassroots people, the front-line workers. We've heard in the House that we need to listen to the front-line workers. So those are my expectations as Minister responsible. I want to listen to them and hear their input. And the time frame, of course, we're hoping for late fall, early winter. That's the target date and we will be going back to the standing committee to present the update on that. I believe it was addressed that potentially having some sort of a draft format to speak to the standing committee. So we are committing to that as well.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister for the information. I note the Minister, in his remarks, said to improve student performance, the department has initiated a broad-based review of the NWT education system toward developing a territory-wide action plan. That was in his opening remarks. Just now the Minister mentioned talking to people on the front lines, and I absolutely agree that needs to be done. But if this is a broad-based review, if this is a review which is going to look at the total education system, I would caution that we don't want to put too much weight on what the people on the front lines say. They certainly have experience, they certainly have opinions, I know I would, were I there, but I caution that we don't rely only on one segment of our system, that we rely on the experience of those people that are working in our system, but that we also rely on research, that we rely on activities and systems that are operational elsewhere in the world. The Finnish one is one that was referenced last week, I think.

I think for us to get a good result from this review, if it's going to be as broad as it sounds like it's going to be, and if it's going to look at every aspect of our education system, we must make sure that we look at it in a broad picture, that we look at every aspect of our system and that we don't just concentrate on one segment of our system. That's pretty much a comment, I don't have any more questions, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Moving on with questions on 10-13 I have Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I just have one question. If there's anywhere that I can place it, is under the directorate. It's in regard to e-

learning and seeing how this department provides overall management planning, communication and administrative support.

I believe the staff did get a briefing and presentation from the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority representatives on how successful the e-learning program that's been happening in a couple of communities in the Beaufort-Delta region and some of the successes that they've had in terms of students that are passing the advanced level for courses.

So I just wanted to ask the Minister and his staff, with the presentation that they saw and the results that were coming out of these students going well beyond what we are regularly seeing, and the stats with small communities, is the Minister looking to keep this program going after the pilot project, and would he be willing to look at creating more opportunities for the smaller communities. As I stated in the general comments from the Beaufort-Delta leadership meeting, leaders from Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour expressed interest in utilizing more education in those communities for Sachs Harbour being able to see students graduate with a Grade 12 diploma out of Sachs Harbour. So with the e-learning program, I'm just asking what our next steps are and if he's willing to continue to support this program, and if he's willing to expand it into more Beaufort-Delta communities. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I totally agree with the Member about creating more opportunities and that's our vision, that's our goal as a department.

Again, I must commend the Beaufort-Delta. When they presented last week, it was very exciting. We were going through a process where we can capture the small communities to deliver academic programming and so forth. So we've committed to the Beaufort-Delta. I just signed a letter just the other day, to continue with the fund up to 2013-2014. Part of the programming is that, of course, there will be a review after. Then we're going through educational renewal and the Early Childhood Development Framework as well. Based on that, this will be part of the discussion as we move forward creating areas of investment, and this is one of the areas that I'd like for us to see even more investment in because it will benefit the small communities.

We've heard from the Members from the small communities that we need to focus on the smallest and most isolated communities because some of the programs are not compatible to larger centres. This is an area that I think will tackle the situation, the challenge. Mahsi.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you. He got me excited there when he said he signed off a letter and just for the '13-14 year. I thought it was going to be longer years. That kind of just tells me kids going into Grade 10 this year. I mean, if we don't continue it and we do split up those students that do need it from the three different levels that one teacher might have to teach in the classroom. If we get one student next year that's taking advanced courses in Grade 10 and the program stops, because the Beaufort-Delta are actually utilizing this funding, then that means the teacher is going to have to go back to amalgamating all grade levels and the students aren't going to get the specialized attention that they needed.

You and your staff saw the grade passing levels were, like, 63 percent, 70 and 77 percent. I can't remember what they were, but when we look at the statistics in education in the small communities, the average is, like, 34, 39, 40.

We've got proven results here that e-learning with the advanced courses, where they're able to work with teachers from McPherson or Inuvik teaching these courses, they're getting some really great, high scores that are going to prepare them for education. I would really recommend that the Minister and his staff look at signing a longer term agreement.

You heard it from the staff themselves, this is more than just advanced education and giving the students the right education that they need. You can even take it further and start getting some of our language experts teaching from small communities such as Fort McPherson teaching students in Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, or Inuvik. Same with Tuk, getting some of our Inuvialuit speaking instructors in Tuk teaching others in Inuvik. It goes far beyond and it's also about revitalizing our Aboriginal languages in that area. That's where it's suffering the most and the stats show that.

I'm happy that you signed for 2013-2014 but I think that seeing the results, seeing the potential for this innovative and unique opportunity to continue these real time teachings is something that this government needs to commit to mainly because of the cost of travel in the Beaufort-Delta. It is so high that if we can continue to do that e-learning, we would cut down on costs.

There's the tutoring program that was also mentioned that would really benefit the teachers, and students mainly, and really cut down costs and increase our grade levels. I don't know what else to say to sell you on this, but it would be nice to see a long-term deal with the Beaufort-Delta Education Authority to continue getting these high grades and increasing the education levels in our small communities. I'd like the Minister, I won't ask him to commit, but if he would really take a look at it and look at long-term funding for this program so that

we can get somebody graduating out of Sachs Harbour and possibly someone out of Tsiigehtchic with a Grade 12 education.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** It's sold. This is an area that I'm very interested, as the Minister responsible, especially in the small communities. Even though it's only 2013-2014 now, it is part of our long-term commitment that we want to continue with other regions as well. I was very excited when I saw that presentation and thank you to the Beaufort-Delta for allowing that to happen. As the Member indicated, I won't be able to make a commitment today, but that is part of the long-term goal and commitment that I want to strive for that in other regions as well.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Just in order here we have Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Bromley, followed by Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this particular section under strategic and business services division we have the section noted for Aurora College. I'm wondering if the Minister can talk to this particular issue. I'd like to find out what planning and development, in the context of capital planning, is being looked at for Aurora College. I'd like to hear some specifics.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. As you know, we're not here to talk about capital, but the Member alluded to planning stages. This is an area that I'm very interested in having discussion with various partners that I introduced in this House before. Part of the discussion I want my department to have is to reintroduce those option papers that we initiated in I believe it was 2010. The existing facilities in Yellowknife, I'm sure we can utilize one of the facilities, as we indicated before. That's just an option that we want to work with.

Another option was to work with potential partners building a place for us and leasing it back, but that goes against our borrowing limit. That option may not work for us.

We are doing what we can to make it a reality. As you know, \$60 million to \$80 million it may cost us, which we don't have today, but we are exploring another venue with the federal government. There are areas we have just identified that we can work with through the Finance department as well.

**MR. HAWKINS:** The Minister knows I'm well aware this isn't the capital budget and that's why I'm asking about the planning. What type of capital planning can the Minister actually describe that actually provides a detail? All I heard was we're planning an options paper. I'm not sure what an option paper is referring to. Maybe he could speak

more specific to what that actually means. He also said there were partners and I'm not sure what the options had meant. The answers lacked all or any detail that made any sense. This is an important issue and he knows that, he knows I raise this repeatedly. I'm trying to get a sense of what's actually happening here.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I probably have to refer to Mr. Devitt. He's been involved heavily in the discussion. All I can say at this point is that we extended our NUP lease agreement to three years, knowing that we need to have a plan in place. My department's working diligently to develop a plan to deal with the college. I realize that, obviously, they want a stand-alone campus. Another option again is that, developing plans, we need to come up with some options as well. When we presented to standing committee, this was a while back, a couple years back, and there was some fruitful discussion and we were going to move forward on that. I want my department to dig up the file and re-present that maybe in a different fashion. Those are just some of the options we are working with. I will refer to Mr. Devitt for more detail on the process itself.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Before we go to Mr. Devitt, I will allow Mr. Devitt to respond to Mr. Hawkins's inquiry on the capital, but I remind Members that we are talking about the operations and operations expenditure summary. Mr. Devitt.

**MR. DEVITT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The options were outlined in the 10-year Yellowknife Educational Plan that we developed in consultation with the school districts and college. On the college project we also worked with the college to develop planning guidelines that we use to determine the space requirements for the Yellowknife Campus. We've also been working to look at those options and to compare them, in terms of planning, so that we can move through the government planning process that I described earlier.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Devitt. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** When is this development plan going to see committee's desks or Members' desks? That's exactly what I'm talking about. Who is actually developing it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. You are referring to the development plan of this capital project?

**MR. HAWKINS:** Yeas that's part of this division, is to develop plans. It's not actually to submit a plan for capital dollars to build, it's all about building a plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. If you kept it in that context, sure, we'll go to Mr. Devitt.

**MR. DEVITT:** The 10-year Yellowknife Educational Plan, with options that I referred to, is a public document. It was, for some years, on our website and we can certainly provide a copy of that.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you for that. I would be happy to receive that. Specific to developing a plan for Aurora College, is that an independent plan or is that part of the broad overall scheme of all the school systems?

**MR. DEVITT:** If I understand the question correctly, in terms of developing an actual approved plan for the college, that would have to move through the government planning process.

**MR. HAWKINS:** No, what I mean more so is when you do capital planning you do almost like a business case, business plan, strategy, you sort of look at... You guys know what that is. Where is the development of the college into actually... Where is the business case model and who is developing the business case model that moves the planning for a new Aurora College independent campus into the capital plan? Because you need a business plan of sorts before this, and that falls under the operations.

**MR. DEVITT:** I think that the guidelines that we developed with the college provide us with the criteria which we use to determine the space requirements. In terms of developing a capital plan for the college, we also, as we do with schools, use demographic information and information on the condition of buildings in our planning and developing a plan that we submit through the government planning process.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Okay. Where is that compendium and how is that compendium organized that is narrowly focused on the development of a campus for an independent campus for Aurora College? Again, speaking about this business plan compendium document full of this information on space utilization, availability, options, things along those lines.

**MR. DEVITT:** The detailed planning information is, again, part of the department's and government's planning process. Those documents are not normally released to the public.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Okay. Now we're getting to it. So what has been developed thus far? I heard him say it can't be released to the public, so maybe if you could speak in broader brush strokes where it is, how long it has been worked on, and when that package is going to be ready for MLA consumption.

**MR. DEVITT:** The information that I'm referring to is the information that is used during the government planning process. This is part of the planning process that all departments work with.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Okay. It almost seems as if we've gone backwards on this question. What has the

department put to paper on the development of an independent Aurora College campus, and what can they send to my office that demonstrates the work that they've done on this planning? It seems like it's such a complicated answer for such a simple question. What has been done? What has been worked on? I want to see the development.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. We talk about the process and there has been a lot of discussion on this particular subject over the years. We can provide the detailed documentation. We've been working with various partners, as I stated on the option paper that came before us. What's the status today? We can provide that detailed information to the Members.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Hawkins, your time is up. I can put you back on if you need to. Next on my list I have Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the education system reform or review was mentioned on this page and I'm wondering, if there was a budget for that on this page, what is the amount?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. This whole education renewal was the outcome of the general public and they wanted to see or provide some input. We had to find funds from within. As we move forward we may have to invest in certain areas. At this point it is all internal reallocation.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I assume that would come before committee at some point as we get into this new area of activity. Just in terms of our work with Aurora College, our relationship with them and clarity and so on on roles, what is happening on that front and is there a budget identified in the directorate and administration for that? I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we'll go to Ms. Eggenhofer.

**MS. EGGENHOFER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I think some time ago the decision was taken that a review take place of the respective roles and responsibilities of the college vis-à-vis the department, and the college has worked very well with the department in putting together a terms of reference for that review that both parties agree to the areas that we've deemed as important for a review to look at. It went to an RFP and through a tendering process. The work was awarded, and we hope to get it by the end of the month, by the end of March. It is the end of the month. Sorry.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That's all I had on this page. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to ask the Minister in regard to the Sahtu and the development that's happening. Is there somewhere in the plans that the department is thinking about possibly looking at some infrastructure such as a Sahtu trades centre that would help with the work that is going to possibly be happening in the next couple of years to start preparing our people to take courses, enter into some long career job opportunities at the oil companies or the building up of the Sahtu that's going to be required.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Creating a trades centre has been brought up in this House as well. We are fully aware of the activity that is happening in the Sahtu region and also in other regions. That's why we are working closely with the regional training partners in that area and also including the ITI department as well. The college needs to be involved, the Aboriginal organizations and also industry. We're compiling all the information from them. We need to find out the community's needs, the individual needs, what kind of training that's going to be required, what can the college deliver and what can the community deliver. We need to find who's available, so that's where the community organizations will come in. We need to continue to partner up with this to maximize the opportunities for the people of the Sahtu region. That's our overall mandate, our goal, to push that forward. Eventually, there will be various training programs that will be happening on top of what they have right now. Mahsi.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I'm looking to this department under the leadership of the Minister to provide some direction and directive to the Sahtu educational board, the Aurora College people and the Sahtu training committee to come together with a strategy. The goodness of this government here has agreed to put a new wellness centre and a long-term care facility. That's a \$41 million infrastructure that's going into the Sahtu. I certainly appreciate it and the people in the Sahtu appreciate it. This year alone, the oil companies have already spent about \$100 million or more for the oil exploration, and it's looking like they may continue on into production or into development of these oilfields.

The Sahtu needs to operate from a directive from the Minister to bring us together in the region to talk about, and discuss, and plan, and start implementing the various types of training programs in our region for these types of large infrastructure

opportunities that are coming into our region. I think we need to now put our feet on the ground and move towards that direction, and I'm hoping that the Minister would give some strong signal, through a directive or through a plan, that would give our people in the Sahtu the green light to say, come back next year and let's see what we have. I know we're doing some of that small work but everybody's sort of at different places. Communication is not quite there yet. I've been asking for things to help us get ready for the training. If you have oil and gas, they're going to want certified workers and unions if they're going to hire them in any type of direction to build a pipeline or to build a production plant.

We're looking at things like that, even road construction. The companies want them to be certified. Even the oil companies when they're having workers now coming up from the Sahtu, even those for short period of a winter season, they're also very happy to see if the workers can go elsewhere to continue their work on the rigs as rig employees. That's what I'm looking for, if something like that could be in a plan that Mr. Minister has with the Minister of ITI at an exploration readiness session. We need a career readiness session.

I have with me a list of the 2012 high school grads. There were 26 last year in the Sahtu and seven post-secondary grads. In total there were 33 grads. I even have each of the grads here and what they're doing. Some are in auto mechanics, some in recreation, some in the early childhood. One is with Esso, mine training here in Yellowknife. One's in Aurora College in Fort Smith in the Trades Access Program. We have that information. They're ready to go. A lot of them want to work in the Sahtu and train in the Sahtu. They have families in the Sahtu. That's what I'm asking, is that you can have this type of list and to say, yes, we have people who are ready to go but we just don't have the ability to bring them into the Sahtu to have them training at the communities.

That's what I'm asking the Minister. Can the Minister comment on if this is something that he can do as the Minister within the two years that we have in this Assembly here? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I have to agree with the Member that we need to prepare our people, career readiness he is referring to. There needs to be a strategy in place that he has referred to, and there is a committee that has been struck from 2009. It's a five-year plan, a training plan for the Sahtu region. It's called the Sahtu Region Training Partnership Committee.

We do have representatives from almost every organization in the Sahtu region, including Imperial Oil Resources, Akita Drilling. There are roughly 16 different partners involved in this discussion on training and the training needs in the region. The

Deline Land Corporation, the Deline First Nation, the Sahtu Dene Council, Colville and Norman Wells, the Norman Wells Development Corporation, business development, the college, the Sahtu Divisional Education Board, council, they're involved as well. We have a very solid committee there and they are developing plans. We can probably provide that information once we get the documentation from them on what they've been working on.

The Members highlighted some of the individuals that are nearly ready to enter the workforce. With all of those, Deline and different organizations that I just referred to, they are the ones who will be providing those human resources. Our job is to train them through the college and through Imperial Oil, Akita Drilling and so forth. I believe we have strong representatives and they meet every six months. We can gather the latest information on that and we can share that with the Member. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, we're not talking to each other in the Sahtu region. The Minister has indicated that there is strong regional training, but we are still working in isolation. That's why I'm asking for this.

I've gone back into the Sahtu. We are taking Aurora College programs, but the entry level is nothing, otherwise these students would have gone to Aurora College. There are a lot of students in Fort Smith. There are students here in business management and other programs in Yellowknife. Some of them may have gone to Inuvik. We need to bump up our level of training in the Sahtu. We are still upgrading, WHMIS training, safety training. People want more.

Again, I'm asking the Minister to look at a Sahtu career strategy session where we all get together and say this is our strategy, this is what we want to do.

Oil companies aren't moving. They're spending close to \$50 million on the road just outside of Norman Wells, halfway between Norman Wells and Tulita. They're building a 500-foot airstrip out there. They're going to put camps up there, 275-man camps there. We need certified cooks. We need camp attendants. We need a lot of things. This is what I'm advocating for, that we need tradespeople in the Sahtu.

We have a \$41 million facility going into Norman Wells, hoping that, all things are going well, construction will start this summer. We need to have people who could take these jobs in that new wellness centre and long-term care facility. I'm asking the Minister to put in some concentrated effort. I would like to see that sometime this fall. This is our plan for the Sahtu. Table it here in the House. This is what we agreed to. All the communities say yes, 16 partners. That is what we are willing to do. Have a Sahtu trade centre. Start

working on that process here, and a directive by this Minister, too, Aurora College, Education boards or to the staff in the Sahtu to pull together the information.

We are going to graduate students again this spring. That's another issue, but we need to have some incentive to say yes, when I finished Grade 12, I could go into a Sahtu trade centre or to school in the Sahtu to begin one of these lifelong career skills training learning. That's what I'm looking for, even a pamphlet to see if you want to be a personal care worker this is what's required. Start preparing them.

I look forward to working with the Minister on that and see, within the life of this government, what we can do. In two years can we measure ourselves and say, this is where we want to be.

Devolution is coming to the Northwest Territories. What positions or what opportunities do we have with devolution in the Sahtu? We need to tell our kids that we're going to have these positions with devolution. What do they have to look for? That is the kind of thinking I'm going with. So I need some solid, concrete assurance that, yes, we are going to get ready for development in the Sahtu. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, I'm glad the Member is raising this profile because what we have on paper states that there is a committee struck and established but it is a different version from Member's, so we definitely need to follow through with that.

For the 16 different parties that are involved, I'd like to see a training plan, as the Member does. I would like to see a pamphlet as the Member is referring to. Once we leave here, that will be my instruction to the department, to coordinate that, get the latest status, what they've been working on, training needs and so forth. I think that's what the Member is asking for. By all means, I am committing to that. I need to find out what exactly has been happening since they were established. Their term is up in 2015. I will follow up with the established committee through my department. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny):** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Yakeleya, your time is up. If you need more time, just let me know. I have two sets of questions left here. I have Ms. Bisaro, followed by Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have just a couple of questions. I wanted to follow up on Mr. Bromley's question about the investigation or the report that is being formulated on the reorg of the college. The answer that I heard was that there's going to be a report at the end of March. I wondered whether or not there is any intention to involve the Standing Committee on Social Programs or other Regular Members in the

consultation for the development of this report. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Most definitely that's been our approach. Since we got the contractor on board he's compiling all of the information. He has been interviewing and doing the research within the college and outside the college, former workers and so forth. We are committed to the standing committee. I believe there is a planned date for our upcoming session with the standing committee on March 11<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to presenting to the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister, but that isn't what I was intending. I think the Minister probably knows that particularly the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs but all Members have an opinion on how the college should work, whether it is working or isn't working. My question to the Minister was whether or not the contractor would be consulting with Regular Members. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, the consultant, again, has been engaged with the college. Our view is to present to standing committee and we can get their input, as well. Into if there are challenges or issues or concerns that may be brought to our attention, and reintegrated that into our findings. We want to present that on the 11<sup>th</sup> and have a report, documentation, obviously, tabled in this House, if that is the wish of the committee. We want to present and then share feedback from standing committee on the actual draft report that the contractor would have heard. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks. I'll take that as a no, that we're not going to be consulted prior to the development of the report.

My other question has to do with schools planning, again, and I realized afterwards I hadn't asked about the decision which came down a little while ago about francophone schools in that we have been ordered, basically, to provide or to do expansions at both schools here in Yellowknife and in Hay River. So what are the department's plans in and around expansion of the two francophone schools? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi. Within our department, we've been working very closely with both schools, the francophone school board. We are setting up a meeting as a follow-up on the next step, and I believe that meeting is coming up very quickly during this session and we can bring Members up to speed on that after we meet with them on what we're going to be planning as the next steps. So that's where it's at right now.

Again, my department has been actively involved during the discussion, since the decision came down. Mahsi.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks. So can I get some kind of a timeline? I know you're talking with the French school board, but does the department have a sense of whether or not there's going to be an expansion in the next five years, the next 10 years, in the next one year? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that response we'll go to Ms. Eggenhofer.

**MS. EGGENHOFER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can advise that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment has been in conversations with the Department of Public Works and Services and the tender documents are being prepared for starting the process of the expansions of the two schools. I expect them to be in the paper very soon.

As well, we have worked very hard with Ecole Boreale in Hay River to negotiate a shared facilities agreement and I'm going down, I think a week from now, to finalize those negotiations. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the deputy minister for the info. I'll look forward to seeing those tenders. That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

I move that we report progress.

---Carried

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny):** I'd like to thank Mr. Lafferty here, and to Mr. Heide, Mr. Devitt and Ms. Eggenhofer. Have a good weekend. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort our witnesses out of the Chamber. I'll now rise and report progress.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main 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.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The seconder is Mr. Lafferty.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Awww!

**MR. SPEAKER:** If I had a second choice, I'd pick you, Mr. Menicoche.

---Laughter

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 22, third reading of bills.  
Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan):** Orders of the day for Monday, March 4, 2013, 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
  - Bill 3, Wildlife Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 9-17(4), NWT Main Estimates, 2013-2014
  - Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk.  
Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:58 p.m.