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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	2685
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	2685
57-17(4) – Economic Development Strategy (Ramsay).....	2685
58-17(4) – Community Safety Strategy (Abernethy)	2686
59-17(4) – Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway – Source 177 Upgrade (Ramsay).....	2686
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	2687
New School for Deline (Yakeleya)	2687
Health Care Card Renewal Process (Groenewegen)	2688
Highway No. 7 Conditions and Closures (Menicoche).....	2688
Equity in Parental Custody Arrangements (Bromley).....	2689
Shortages of Adequate Housing for Northern Teachers (Dolynny).....	2689
Building Capacity at the Inuvik Campus of Aurora College (Moses).....	2690
Aurora College Housing Policy (Bisaro).....	2690
Reinstatement of Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Board (Blake)	2691
Offering Special Rates to Elders for Campground Visits (Nadli)	2691
Health Care Card Renewal Process (Bouchard)	2692
Need for Trespass Legislation (Hawkins)	2692
RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS	2693
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	2693
ORAL QUESTIONS	2695
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	2705
NOTICES OF MOTION	2706
15-17(4) – Referral of Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report to Committee of the Whole (Yakeleya)	2706
NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS	2706
Bill 22 – Territorial Emblems and Honours Act	2706
Bill 20 – An Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act.....	2706
Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act.....	2706
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	2706
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	2723

ORDERS OF THE DAY2723

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, May 30, 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 (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 57-17(4):
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, later today, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy Advisory Panel's "What We Heard" report.

This report summarizes more than 80 engagements with our territory's residents, private sector, governments and other stakeholders on the opportunities and challenges that they see for the NWT economy.

The advisory panel's report documents what people had to say, it includes informed observations based on the perspectives and expertise of individual panel members, and it provides 90 recommendations to guide the drafting of the final Economic Opportunities Strategy.

These recommendations support several messages that the advisory panel has heard:

- People are essential; we cannot advance our economy without a growing healthy population.
- Our resources, including our people, are largely unrealized.
- Economic opportunities and development must be considered according to the benefits that will be provided to the NWT and its people; and
- We must build our economy from the ground up, using the local entrepreneurs and community-based businesses that provide the sustainability and growth of our community economies.

Mr. Speaker, our government has a vision of a territory in which a strong economy provides jobs and opportunities for our people and their communities. We are developing and implementing

plans and strategies that will make this vision a reality. Our work is interrelated. Initiatives to develop and sustain our grassroots economy, for instance, will be affected by the Mineral Development Strategy. Economic development is integrated with labour development, as it is with the Land Use and Sustainability Framework and our work to address poverty. Investments in managing our land and environment help us use our resources wisely and sustainably, while continuing to protect the health of our land and our people. A thriving economy is made up of healthy, educated people. We need people to own and run businesses and employees to work in them. People need education, training and healthier lifestyles to play a role in the economic life of the territory.

Our government is working hard to finalize a Devolution Agreement that will provide us with the authorities and resources to build our territory's economic future. When we do, we will need to have strategies in place to guide the critical economic planning and decision-making that we have fought so hard to gain. Effective governance ensures that economic development leads directly to social development and protection of the environment. We can't have one without the others. As our economy grows, we will be able to make more investments in prevention and early childhood to stop problems before they occur. The GNWT already has substantial social, environmental and economic responsibilities. Devolution will enhance our capacity to manage those responsibilities.

The NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy is one example of this foundational economic planning.

The process to develop this strategy was initiated by Members of this Assembly in 2011 when we took office, with a promise to invest, first and foremost, in partnerships and building solid relationships. Alongside a sustainable Mineral Development Strategy, it was identified specifically in our Caucus priorities. We have said, many times, that it is only by working together that we will be able to realize the full potential of our territory and the kind of future we envision for our people.

Mr. Speaker, the process that we are following to develop our Economic Opportunities Strategy is evidence to this.

The work is being led by the NWT Economic Opportunities Governance Committee, of which the GNWT is a member alongside its partners: the NWT Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Aboriginal Business Association, the NWT Association of Communities and Canada's Northern Economic Development Agency, CanNor.

Government and business have come together, and now, thanks to the work of the advisory panel, our partnered approach has been extended to our territory's many leaders, stakeholders, organizations and residents.

Together, our goal is a strategy that can be a guide for a partnered approach to supporting the growth and development of NWT business and industry over the next decade. It will provide a tool for us as leaders to move forward in the same spirit of partnership and cooperation in which it is being created. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Colleagues, before we move on today, I'd like to welcome back former Member, former Premier, Mr. Joe Handley is in the House today. Welcome.

---Applause

The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 58-17(4):
COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northwest Territories know their needs and priorities and communities should take the lead on determining how to address issues, like community safety, that matter to them. The Department of Justice is committed to assisting communities, and the NWT has been recognized throughout Canada as a leader in community-based initiatives like our community justice committees. Today I would like to speak to Members about another initiative we are introducing to support our people and their communities, the Community Safety Strategy.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, crime, violence and substance abuse continue to be issues that our people struggle against. Left unchecked, these problems can create a cycle of harm that spreads its effects throughout our communities and damages the sense of belonging, safety and wellness that a strong, healthy society should provide. Dealing with the effects of crime and violence alone is not enough. To create the sustainable, vibrant and safe communities that are a priority of this Assembly, we need to be working to strengthen the social fabric of our communities and establish feelings of confidence, trust, engagement and partnership among our people.

Our new Community Safety Strategy will help bring an end to this cycle of harm. Like our community policing plans, this strategy takes a community-first

approach that empowers them to identify their own priority safety issues. With support from our government, they will work to set their own goals for resolving these issues and develop plans to address them. These will be community plans, Mr. Speaker, that will be effective, sustainable and responsive to local needs because they will have been developed by their residents.

The goals of the strategy are to increase involvement, help people learn what they can do to create healthy, safe communities and encourage innovative ideas. We also expect communities will benefit from increased capacity as they gain experience in developing their own safety plans. The growing sense of empowerment, confidence, accountability and self-reliance that will come from taking charge of their own issues will also help to reverse the cycle of harm and build the social cohesion that all healthy communities need.

Many of our communities have said they want to stop bootlegging; this strategy will help them make plans to do that. It will help them work together on plans for youth and elder initiatives or on-the-land programs that fit with their priorities. Through this strategy, the Department of Justice will be there with the support and tools that communities need to achieve their own safety goals.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Tulita is ready to start working on their own Community Safety Strategy and we will be holding our first sessions there in the next few weeks. This will be followed by sessions in two additional communities in the near future.

A strong, prosperous territory is built on a strong society sustained by a healthy environment, Mr. Speaker. The Community Safety Strategy is one of several strategies this government is working on that will support our citizens, grow our economy and help us protect our environment. This includes work like the Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Early Childhood Development Framework, the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, the Economic Opportunities Strategy, Energy Strategy and Mineral Development Strategy. We know similar approaches to community safety have met with great success. I look forward to telling Members about the difference the Community Safety Strategy is making in our communities in future sessions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 59-17(4):
INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY –
SOURCE 177 UPGRADE

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, achieving our vision of a strong, prosperous territory requires a balanced approach that advances our economic,

social and environmental priorities. This government is moving forward on all those fronts, and the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway demonstrates our commitment to each of those areas.

The construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway will be the largest capital project undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Department of Transportation, working with our local contractors, has been putting Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik residents and equipment to work, upgrading the access road to Gravel Source 177, creating local jobs and business opportunities in the Beaufort-Delta region.

A joint venture consisting of local companies undertook the work to upgrade the 19-kilometre access road south of Tuktoyaktuk to Canadian highway standards.

A significant amount of work has been completed since the start of construction in March 2013. The upgrading of the Source 177 Access Road is now 90 percent complete. Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik residents worked around the clock to blast, excavate, haul, dump, spread, and upgrade the access road before the cold began to leave the ground. The first big push of highway construction activity is now winding down as the weather in the Delta warms up.

DOT contractors are using a highway construction technique that will not disturb the continuous Arctic permafrost that would become fragile if disturbed.

Instead of cutting into the land, geotextile fabric is being applied to the frozen ground with granular material placed on top, creating a layer of insulation that protects the permafrost from degradation. Crews also extended culverts in addition to raising and widening the access road's embankment.

This upgrade work employed almost 150 Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik residents, and involved 14 northern, local, Inuvialuit and Gwich'in contractors.

Mr. Speaker, with almost 50 pieces of heavy equipment working on the project, our contractors reported that every available dump truck, grader, CAT, water truck, driver and mechanic in Tuktoyaktuk received the benefit of gainful employment during the spring construction period. Local contractors will continue compacting, levelling and grading the embankment and side slopes over the summer.

Geotechnical work was also completed, with over 30 people primarily from local communities employed on the investigation project. We are looking forward to the anticipated positive results of the investigation and analysis. The borehole samples taken along the alignment, borrow sources, and bridge crossings will provide the geotechnical information necessary to complete the

100 percent design of the new alignment and bridge structures this summer.

I am encouraged by the extensive and immediate local employment provided by the Source 177 upgrade and geotechnical works. These local employment opportunities will continue through the summer as Navy Road upgrade work commences in Inuvik. I am looking forward to the extensive employment opportunities during the upcoming winter and ongoing as we move forward on the construction of the new highway.

The total Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway construction is expected to require some 5.8 million cubic metres of embankment material, which means local employment on the construction project will continue to grow in the coming years, and the maintenance of the highway will provide local jobs for generations to come.

I congratulate the local citizens, contractors and leadership who are helping to make the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway project a reality that will result in long-term employment, training, economic, social and other benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has a vision of a territory where strong individuals, families and communities share in the benefits and responsibilities of a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous NWT.

This vision is the Department of Transportation's motivation to rely upon Northern experience, talent and skill to build the northernmost segment of highway that will connect Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEW SCHOOL FOR DELINE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to talk about the investment of our children and the people in our communities, especially in the community of Deline. Investment in our education, in our people, is very, very critical. I met with the Deline leadership this morning and they talked solely on the investment of their children, to the point where in 1995 was the first time the government said to the community we want to bring Grade 12 into your communities. The people in Deline said yes, providing you bring the resources that allow sufficient Grade 12 programs. Nothing to this date has honoured that commitment.

The people in Deline say we do like Grade 12 but the resources are not there. We only had three extra teachers that have come along. But the

education is not the same type of education they have in Yellowknife or Hay River or Inuvik. We are still waiting for the resources. This is why students are being sent to Yellowknife, where the parents have to pay their housing, their food, their airline tickets, and the government will not help them get a better education.

It has been proven just today, as Mr. Ramsay talked about in his statement about education being a key point to economic growth, sustainability, wealth and prosperity. People in Deline also are reminded of that. People in Deline know that the quality of education makes it all worthwhile in their community. They have ?ehtseo Ayha School. They say we need to rebuild that school and have a quality of education brought into our communities. We have not heard anything since 1995. The government's going to bring that type of education into the communities. That's why they said we're not too sure, but we were okay by having this Grade 12 come in our communities. They want to come back to the government and say are we going to get the same type of facilities and resources in our communities if you're going to give us Grade 12, because now students and parents are sending their kids out to Inuvik, Fort Smith and Yellowknife to get the kind of quality of education they want to see their children get.

I will have questions for the Minister on this topic.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HEALTH CARE CARD RENEWAL PROCESS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the last sitting of the Legislature, I did a Member's statement on health care card renewal. Many weeks have gone by, and I have to tell you that this has turned into an almost fulltime job for us in our constituency offices to deal with the myriad of people who cannot seemingly get a quick response to getting their health care cards renewed. I've checked with some of my other colleagues and Hay River is not alone. At first I wondered if it was a conspiracy.

It gives me no pleasure to stand up here and complain, as you know. We must always express all the things we're thankful for. I am thankful for our health care system. I am thankful for those cards we have. I am thankful that we can hand them to any place in Canada and they will take care of us. I am thankful that we pay no premium, but you would think that issuing new health care cards on a new program that coincides with people's birthdates would not have been this difficult.

Let me give you a few examples. I had a constituent that showed up for a medical procedure in Yellowknife three days before her birthday when

her card expired, only to be told by the health care professional that she, in fact, had to pay for the service and then she would get reimbursed later. Her health care hadn't even expired yet and they were telling her this. Where is the communication with the people on the front line that are telling health care professionals what to say? Somebody's got to be in charge of this.

I had a senior constituent in the south who had a \$1,500 bill and was told just pay it and you'll get reimbursed. Well, I have a news flash: Most people don't have \$1,500 sitting in their back account to pay for a health bill when they're not expecting it. Most people don't have that. A lot of people don't have that kind of money, and health care procedures can be extremely expensive. Now, through a lot of phone calls and a lot of wrangling and stuff being faxed and phone calls back and forth, that situation was resolved, but that is a real life example.

I had a husband and wife in Hay River that both sent their applications out for renewal at the same time. The husband got his card back; the wife didn't.

We have pharmacists in Hay River that are actually bankrolling, are carrying the costs of medication for people whose health care cards have not come in and, out of the goodness of their heart, are financing the pharmaceutical for the client. That's not their job. We should not be asking them to do that.

I've heard rumors that maybe they lost some of the data in Inuvik. I don't know about that, but I did make the same statement several weeks ago.

I will have questions again today to the Minister of Health and Social Services on the process for health care card renewal. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HIGHWAY NO. 7 CONDITIONS AND CLOSURES

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Transportation spoke today of a new road. I want to raise my issue of my own road, Highway No. 7. I asked Members to keep their hands on the steering wheels and eyes on the road. We need to focus our resources on Highway No. 7. This well used, unreliable transportation corridor failed again, mostly simply, with a common washout at kilometre 221.

These road failures are common and a huge inconvenience to business, industry and the general public. Even people who are not travelling suffer from the delays in the delivery of goods and services due to the road closures and poor highway conditions. It is a disincentive to development and a

barrier to what should be one of the most prosperous regions of the North.

I was recently in Fort Liard, on my spring visit, on the newly reconstructed portion of the highway from the border. There were dust clouds arising from vehicles travelling barely 20 kilometres an hour. Earlier this year Highway No. 3 was a scene of a tragic accident under conditions that were arguably better than what we often experience on Highway No. 7.

This terrible tragedy is avoidable. We cannot lose any more lives. Furthermore, industry plans to have at least 250 trucks moving between Fort Liard and the border this summer.

I call upon the Department of Transportation for a full dust control program for the safety of the residents of the Deh Cho communities, the travelling public, from the border all the way to Fort Liard.

I have made light of road conditions on Highway No. 7 many times as an MLA, from highlighting the attractions of bathtub-sized potholes, to comparing chipseal to pie crust made to be broken, but Highway No. 7 is our only road. It is a key piece of infrastructure just like any bridge, airport, ferry crossing or ice road. It is a gateway, a lifeline and a road home. People depend on this Highway No. 7 to make a living. To encourage companies to stay in the North, maybe we could build or even reconstruct, in this case, the highway that meets our national transportation standards.

Once again, on behalf of all the residents of the Northwest Territories, especially those in the Deh Cho, I call upon this government to get to work on Highway No. 7 and put its money where the rubber meets the road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EQUITY IN PARENTAL CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to focus on a difficult issue of seeking equity on parental custody arrangements to serve the best interests of children and parents caught up in divorce.

Data shows that when it comes time to determine custody arrangements in divorce, children are most often put in the exclusive custody of the mother. Statistics Canada indicates this is so in 80 percent of cases, with fathers at 7 percent of cases and shared custody in only 13 percent.

Our family courts make custody determinations on the basis of individual circumstances. The first priority must be to set conditions in the best interest of children. There is a growing voice in our society

pointing out that our 13 percent rate of shared custody and a 7 percent rate of exclusive custody by fathers could indicate a built-in bias. As a role of fathers as equivalent parents and caregivers evolves in our society, we need to ensure this new reality is reflected in family court decisions.

Family health and early childhood research shows that children prosper and develop best when they have the advantage of the blended parenting of a mother and a father. Equity in custody arrangements allows both parents to forge deep bonds with their children. It promotes gender equality in parenting of children and recognizes both parents as significant contributors to a child's development.

Setting custody conditions providing a meaningful role to both parents can contribute to reductions of disputes, and child financial support arrangements are most often performed when access to both parents is assured.

This government has taken progressive steps to use the trauma of divorce by instituting pre-divorce counselling programs and parental educational alternative dispute resolution services. Parenting coordination and counselling services are essential supports to minimizing the impact of divorce on children and ensuring an ongoing role for fathers as well as mothers. It should be expanded.

Research shows that the best parent for the child is both parents. When that's no longer possible in a home, we need to ensure that the additional efforts to meet the best interests of the children include every possible measure to share parenting equitably.

Children don't do divorce, parents do. Let's examine our attitudes and ensure both parents have a full opportunity to raise a healthy child under creating arrangements. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SHORTAGES OF ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR NORTHERN TEACHERS

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is said teachers open the door for our youth. I say government needs to fix this door. The recent pleas for better housing from our territorial teachers and from the NWT Teachers' Association should be a wake-up call for residents and for this government. A recent housing summary report asked this government to do something concrete to alleviate the longstanding issue of housing shortages and unacceptable living conditions across the North. This April 29th report further brings awareness and understanding of the current barriers faced by this housing crisis and calls for solutions to fix the door of affordable and acceptable housing for teachers.

A tall order? Maybe, but the consequences of not carrying out the number of recommendations will in itself create the ultimate fate of education in the North. We need to heed to the basic essential standards that teachers are looking for. We need to take proper care of them, which means providing affordable and adequate housing where it is needed.

We further realize that there are many other needs in our small communities, as well, and that this ask cannot trump those other basic expectations of our communities. In other words, we need to make the proper and meaningful investment in everything that is right to make our small communities safer and economically viable.

Ultimately our investment in proper living conditions for our teachers will pay dividends of better retention of these professionals, produce a higher quality of education being delivered, resulting in a higher student achievement and, in return, produce stronger and more prosperous communities.

We need to open the door to change. So I will be asking our Minister of Education, Culture and Employment later today if his department is in the business of fixing this door of opportunity. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE INUVIK CAMPUS OF AURORA COLLEGE

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently we had a bunch of graduation ceremonies through our three campuses in the Aurora College throughout the NWT. I'll just read off some numbers for you here. We had 84 in Yellowknife at the Yellowknife Campus, 41 at the campus in Fort Smith, and a whopping 16 in Inuvik. Something is wrong here with the numbers and it's not because we're not getting the enrollments into the school, it's because we're not putting the programs where the programs are needed within the communities that are asking for them.

We have great facilities in the community of Inuvik at the Aurora College and we have an excellent staff. However, I'm very concerned about the future and the success of the Aurora College campus.

The government needs to focus and support by investing in our students, in our families, in our organizations and the communities who want to build capacity within our northern society. In fact, just earlier today we heard from the Economic Development Strategy that people are essential. We cannot advance our economy without a growing, healthy population.

Furthermore, it says a thriving economy is one made up of healthy, educated people. We've heard reports; we've heard news reports in the NWT that

we can't meet our needs within the diamond mine industry because we don't have the skilled labour workforce. Well, we can do something about that. We can start investing in our Aurora College programs not only in certain areas such as in Yellowknife where we have a lot of diamond industries, let's look north, let's look north to the Aurora College campus where we have a lot of students that come from the Sahtu and the Beaufort-Delta region that are going to be impacted with all of the big projects we have on the horizon.

Such projects as the fibre optic link, the satellite stations, Inuvik-Tuk highway, Mackenzie Valley Highway, offshore drilling, everything that's been said over the last 19 months that we've been sitting in the House. The government, the Minister, his department, the board of directors of the Aurora College have a great opportunity here to invest in the Inuvik region and the Sahtu region, by putting more programs in the Aurora College campus to create local capacity so that we have local people leading the way for all these projects that we have on the horizon.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON AURORA COLLEGE HOUSING POLICY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to speak again about the Aurora College housing policy. About a year ago I stated in this House that I believe the Aurora College housing policy is discriminatory. Nothing has changed in the 12 months since I made that statement. I still believe this policy to be discriminatory and I believe it is a human rights issue. Why do I believe it's discriminatory? There are a few reasons.

Unlike other learning institutions across Canada where students are treated on a first-come, first-served basis, the Aurora College policy is written to specifically exclude local students from Aurora College housing. The policy unfairly affects students at all campuses, not only Yellowknife but Inuvik and Fort Smith as well. If no college housing is available, the student must live in market housing at market rates. Why do we expect local students to be able to expect market rent housing when we don't have the same expectations of non-local students?

As well, there's no consideration for household income in the evaluation criteria for the allocation of student housing. Why is it not a consideration as an extenuating circumstance?

In addition, the policy is lacking in clear definitions and often contradicts other GNWT generally

accepted policy, the GNWT Affirmative Action Policy, for instance.

In practice, there are many inconsistencies between the Aurora College housing policy, as written, and the actual application of that policy. I appreciate that housing cannot be supplied to every student, but to deny Inuvik, Fort Smith and Yellowknife residents even the chance to apply for housing in their community is unfair. There seems to be a recognition that the policy is not working but no will to correct it. An organization that recognizes a policy failure should be acting to revise that policy and provide equal opportunity to all.

That being said, I understand the college has been doing an in-depth review of their housing policy over the past five to six months, and I understand it will be an agenda item to be discussed at their June board meeting. I commend them for this action and I look forward to a fair policy as a result of their debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REINSTATEMENT OF BEAUFORT-DELTA HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today is on the reinstatement of the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Board.

One of the main reasons for setting up regional health authorities back in the 1980s was to provide for local input and influence on the way health and social services are delivered.

In the Beaufort-Delta, people had a way to voice their concerns up until 2010. That's when the last government dismissed the board and appointed the deputy minister of Health as the public administrator. Then, in 2011, a public administrator was appointed. That was shortly before the territorial election. At the time, the public administrator told the media that after the election a new board would be appointed.

The current Minister confirmed that in this House last year on February 8th. He said, "The department will work with the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority to appoint a full board as soon as possible."

Now, here we are 16 months later and we are still without a board. That's three full years without a voice in our health care system and no way to set regional priorities for service. It is very frustrating for everyone in the region. We continue to have communities without nurses and a lot of other problems. It is action that is lacking along with the accountability.

When there is a regional board, its members have to listen to the people and explain the decisions they make. That system designed by the government was in place for well over 20 years. The government is very overdue on keeping its promise to the region and I will have questions later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON OFFERING SPECIAL RATES TO ELDERS FOR CAMPGROUND VISITS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the middle of May, people of the Northwest Territories have been enjoying our many campgrounds. Our campgrounds have seen good ties with families and friends and are home to many cherished memories. They also welcome visitors to the Northwest Territories who sometimes travel remarkable distances just to enjoy spending a few days.

Our campgrounds attract a lot of tourists, and many of them are elders. We do not recognize seniors in our current rate structure. Earlier this year Cabinet agreed to increase the tourism marketing budget. We could create even more incentive to visit the NWT by offering a senior discount for out-of-territory visitors to our campgrounds.

The North American population is aging, and as more people retire they want to travel as much as they can. A large number of RV tourists are seniors. Even a small discount on their campsite is a meaningful way to welcome them to the NWT, recognize the respect we hold for elders in the Aboriginal culture, and help offset the expense of travelling all the way up here.

The cost of implementing a discount will likely be offset by increased numbers of visitors, who might even decide to extend their stay. At certain campgrounds you might look at ways to build a discounted rate into a special elders package that can include visits to nearby locations, boat tours, fishing, or late summer aurora viewing. The possibilities are endless.

The NWT has a huge tourism potential in every region. We have an opportunity to tap into the growing market of retirees who enjoy the open road and the adventures waiting for them north of 60, and offering a special rate for elders on campground visits is a key to unlocking that potential.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HEALTH CARE CARD RENEWAL PROCESS

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, along with my colleague, we had concerns about the health care card renewal system and the way the process is going. We continue to get these concerns from constituents, and we've also heard from our colleagues throughout the Northwest Territories that this continues to be an issue.

We are getting examples of people that are asked to apply three months before the expiry of their birthdate, and those cards are expiring without getting renewals or even notification that they've been renewed and updated. The department, when we've asked them about this, have given us several different examples or excuses and also have indicated that, well, worst-case scenario, have them pay for it and we can pay them back later.

I don't know how we can ask that from our residents when they don't have the confidence in us renewing their health care cards, never mind us paying them back thousands of dollars.

I'm not here to complain about the staff or take any shots at the staff that are implementing this health care. My concerns are how it was implemented. Residents are getting applications mailed back to them several times. These applications are missing a certain piece of information and instead of phoning them and getting back to them right away, it's mailed back to them, asking for them to give the information and then send it back through the mail system. Very slow. No wonder we're not getting them approved in time.

Also, residents are calling the 1-800 number and the mailboxes are full. Obviously, we don't have enough manpower on this issue.

I would also like to take the time to thank the medical clinics, the health centres, the pharmacies that have been helping our residents to fill out these applications and get things done. We're not halfway done through the year and this process still hasn't been solved. I think we need to put more resources to a solution to this, and if we need to put more resources to it, I would recommend we put some of it into an insurance type of program for the South Slave, and obviously, I would be supportive of it being in Hay River.

I will have questions for the Minister of Health later on today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NEED FOR TRESPASS LEGISLATION

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As our government prepares to take over land

management, it's time to examine our policies, and perhaps it's time to look at trespass legislation. I'm not talking about the hunters or snowmobilers who enjoy their time as they sneak across the hinterland, or those people who are out picking berries or walking their dogs. I'm talking about those people who interfere with public and private property within our northern communities.

This is a very real issue. I've travelled the North and I've heard complaints both in Inuvik, Norman Wells and, yes, even here in Yellowknife. Many Yellowknife Centre business constituents have come to me and talked to me about difficult challenges they've had to deal with when it comes to people obstructing public access. It's time to do something.

Right now their hands are tied and they're looking for leadership from their government. When you have someone blocking the entranceway of a building and you're trying to provide customer service, and you have someone accosting just passersby, they're not technically breaking a law. You don't think the RCMP has anything better to do? They call. They don't come. There is nothing the business owners can do. It is frustrating for business people.

If you're a homeowner, do you need to have to put up a fence for people who constantly are walking across your property and showing no regard?

It is time this government takes a quick look at this situation and says, is there a strategy? Possibility? Is there a way we can start thinking out of the box? Is it time for trespass legislation? Is it right for the North?

There may be several solutions out there, but trespass legislation could be one of them. For example, a store or a restaurant owner or a mall owner won't tell our hotelier. They all want to provide good general public access. But again, if someone is obstructing it, they may not technically be breaking a law, but they are interfering with good harmony of good, normal, law-abiding citizens. The variety of reasons is far too many to talk about here today, but I can tell you poor abuse of behaviour tends to be the highlight of the bigger problem.

It would give people like storeowners and property owners the ability to say, please move on, stop blocking my customers and allow me to have my space that I pay for. Again, they may not be breaking a technical criminal code, but we must do something. It is time to empower our people with the right opportunity.

Places like Saskatchewan and many other provinces have enacted and updated their laws to deal with trespassers and help them deal with this problem.

Once again, we need some timely action from this particular government. I have raised this issue on a

number of occasions. I am hoping Minister McLeod will have a chance to look at this issue, take it seriously and see what we can do for all northern residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Returns to Oral Questions

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 118-17(4): GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Bromley on February 21, 2013, regarding the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

There are a number of tools that will be available post transfer date related to setting securities. The Northwest Territories Waters Act has provisions for securities which are set by the boards. The boards also set securities under the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations. Post devolution, in addition to the boards' processes that were mentioned, the Government of the Northwest Territories will have the authority to set securities under the Territorial Land Use Regulations. The GNWT will also be responsible for the mirrored version of the Territorial Lands Regulations which do not specifically mention securities; however, security provisions can be included in individual leases.

As we prepare for the transfer date, the GNWT will be reviewing existing NWT legislation and transferring federal legislation, regulations and policies to identify issues to be addressed. Differences in environmental securities between existing territorial legislation and regulations and the new mirrored legislation will be assessed as part of this review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 211-17(4): GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Bromley on March 8, 2013, regarding the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board formally requested additional information regarding water treatment options from the Giant Mine Remediation Project Team. In response to this request, the project team carried out analysis of treatment technologies and approaches for treated effluent discharge.

The analysis determined that ion exchange is the best viable option of the four options reviewed as it allows treatment to drinking water standards, providing a large reduction in treated arsenic levels from the original proposal.

This option eliminates the need for a diffuser and subsequent mixing zone in Great Slave Lake, and thus addresses a number of the concerns the project team has heard from the community.

While the approach proposed to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board in the original developers assessment report is considered protective of the environment, treatment by ion exchange will achieve better results and can be implemented in a manner that addresses public concerns. The project team is willing to revise the original approach to water treatment and work to implement ion exchange. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize our 2013 Educational Hall of Fame award recipients in a ceremony we held this morning. They are Beverly Masuzumi of Fort Good Hope, Bill Gilday of Yellowknife, Andy Norwegian of Fort Simpson, Jill Taylor from Hay River, Anne-Mieke Cameron from Yellowknife. We have a couple more, they're not here, but they will be presented. I'd like to also recognize Dolphus Nitsiza, who is here from my constituency in Behchoko. I'd just like to say congratulations to all the Education Hall of Fame inductees and welcome to our Assembly. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Minister's statement, I will be tabling, this afternoon, "What We Heard: Report of the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy Advisory Panel." Two members of the advisory panel are here with us this afternoon. Its chair is well known to all of us, a former Premier, Minister and deputy minister in our Assembly and government, Mr. Joe Handley, and beside Mr. Handley is Mr. Rory Campbell. Rory is a former deputy minister of Economic Development and also Agriculture and Foods for the Alberta government, certainly a very valuable member of the panel who provided the external perspective in the panel's engagements on the strategy. Thank you.

I'd also like to recognize all the Education Hall of Fame inductees and all the other visitors that we have here in the gallery today. It's good to have a crowd here today. Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize two constituents of Yellowknife South visiting here from William MacDonald School, Braden Helyar, student, and Mr. Paul McDonald, a teacher at William MacDonald. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a couple of constituents from the Great Slave riding. First, Emily Gosselin, who is with us here as part of William MacDonald School, as well as Bill and Cindy Gilday.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to give a special welcome in the Legislature to my partner Lucyanne Kendo and her daughter Brittany Jewel Kendo. I'm proud to have you by my side and that you get the chance to see me here live. As well, a very big welcome to my daughter Diedra Villeneuve and her partner's mother Donna Huntis, who is in the gallery as well. Last, but not least, a congratulations to Mr. Andy Norwegian on the Education Hall of Fame Award today. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I recognize Anne-Mieke Cameron, a resident of Weledeh who received the induction into the Hall of Fame today under the Premier's selection. So, congratulations to Anne-Mieke. It's great to have her in the riding. She's probably accompanied by her husband Les, and I can't really see these folks, but I'd also like to offer my congratulations and welcome to all those people that received the award today and were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

I'd like to welcome William Mac student Delaney Taylor, a resident of Weledeh. I'd like to recognize Joe Handley, former Premier, a former resident and former MLA of Weledeh. I'd also like to recognize Amanda Mallon, a resident of Weledeh, a long-time teacher recognized in many ways, and also any other Weledeh residents that I can't see behind me. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely blessed to have two schools in my riding, one of which is William MacDonald School, and I want to officially welcome everybody from William MacDonald here to the House and I hope you have a great tour. I have a number of students here from my riding and I'm very pleased to recognize Seth Casaway, Dawson Chwelos, Jaiyden Demeies,

Bryce Jeske, Brooke Pelley, Blair Russell, Paige St. Jean, Leah Thompson-Astels and Alliks Traverse.

I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I didn't recognize two of my former colleagues, Mr. Bill Gilday and Ms. Anne-Mieke Cameron, who I worked with a while ago, I won't say a long time ago, but congratulations to them and to all the Education Hall of Fame recipients. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have quite a list of people to recognize in the gallery, so bear with me. First of all, I'd like to say congratulations to the Hall of Fame education recipients. From the Sahtu, Beverly Masuzumi. I'd like to congratulate her. She and I went to high school together and now she's in the Hall of Fame and I'm in the hall of... Well, I can't really say, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

And all the other deputies. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize former Premier Handley, the Canol hiker who did the whole 222 miles on the Canol hike. I'd also like to recognize Rory Campbell, also a member of the economic strategy team. Welcome to the Assembly.

I'd also like to recognize people from the Sahtu from the community of Deline, the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada. I'd like to recognize Paulina Roche, Phebie Kenny, Jimmy Dillon, Freda Taniton, Danny Bayha, David Modeste, Tommy Betsidea, Diane Andre, Gina Dolphus, Joanne Tutcho, Betty Tetso, Michael Neyelle, Andrew John Kenny, Frederick Kenny, Morris Neyelle, Raymond Tutcho, Leonard Kenny, Patricia Modeste, Leon Modeste, Christine Gaudet and Brian Gaudet. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome them to the Assembly.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Brittany and Lucy Kendo from Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize one of the William MacDonald students who I believe is a constituent in Yellowknife Centre. Alexia D'Astous MacDonald. I hope I said that correctly. Thank you for coming today.

I'd like to use the occasion to recognize a long-time friend, Terrance Courtorielle, up in the front there. We've known each other since we were kids. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the Princess Alexandria School Grade 6 class, their teacher Jennifer Tweedie; their chaperones Terrance Coutorielles, Ken Cunningham and Colleen Cochrane; and the students. I'd just ask the students to stand up as your name is called. Your name is going into the record of Hansard, so your names will be here forever. Riella Bordey, Marcel Cayen, Hannah Courtorielles, Elli Rose Cunningham, Keisha Giroux, Jacob Harder, Kadin Hare, Zackary Horton, Ashley Lamalice, Carson Smith, Tori Blake, Carson Borchuk, Lisa Boutillier, Katesha Buggins, Shayla Buggins. I'd also like to recognize our new Education Hall of Famer Jill Taylor. Congratulations, Jill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's also my pleasure to welcome, for the 11th year in a row, the Grade 6 students from Hay River. I'd like to thank all that coordinate that, so today I'd like to recognize the other half of the group. Chaperones Rodger Blake, Sherryl White and Charlene Lafferty; and students Ira Cayen, Jayden King, Hunter Krushaar, Megan Kruger, Mathew Lafferty, Dustin Lamalice, Sierra Balsillie, Madison McPhee, Alicia Nadia-Hancock, Morgan Roach, Jimmy Roach, Trevor Sabourin, Bradyn Schofield, Ethan Schofield, Nickolas Zuwala, Taylor White. I would also like to add my congratulations to a very well-deserved recipient to the Education Hall of Fame today, Jill Taylor, who does many, many things in our community. That could be a Member's statement unto itself.

I'd also like to recognize my constituency assistant from Hay River, Orlanda Patterson, and my constituency assistant from Yellowknife, Wendy Morgan. I'd also like to recognize Mr. Bouchard's constituency assistant, who was very helpful in planning this trip, Myrtle Graham. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I'd like to welcome all guests here in the gallery. Thank you for taking in our proceedings today. It's always good to see a full house. I'd like to also welcome Debbie Gordon-Ruben in the House here as a former constituent of mine up in Nunakput. It's always good to see people from home.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 262-17(4): NEW SCHOOL FOR DELINE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. In the 20-year capital needs

infrastructure plans, I see that that the ?ehtseo Ayha School is not scheduled for new construction until 2020, 2021, or 2018; I'm not too sure. They have two different dates on here. I want to ask the Minister, in regard to this project, if he would be willing to work with the people in Deline and if he could look at moving this project to a closer date other than seven or eight years from now, in regard to the new school.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This project, along with others, will certainly be a part of the capital planning project. There are upgrades that will be happening within the ?ehtseo Ayha School in Deline. Those are just some of the upgrades that we are working towards. Then the long-term plans will be part of the capital project for the particular school along with other schools.

I will continue to commit to working with the DEA and DEC's to make that happen, and also the leadership of Deline.

MR. YAKELEYA: The parents of Deline are sending their children out of that community. There are other communities in the Northwest Territories where they're seeing that their children are getting better education in the larger centres such as Yellowknife, Inuvik and Hay River or Smith. The facility in Deline, the school is not adequate to give them the same type of equivalent education as the larger centres. If we can look at that issue here and help the people in Deline look at a proper facility with proper resources, proper students, then the parents would keep their children in the school.

I want to ask the Minister, the time length of the construction to have this new school, would he be looking at working with the community of Deline to see if there are ways that we could bump up the capital process of this infrastructure so that it could be built within a five-year period?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Those are exactly the types of discussions we are currently having. We've heard from the Deline leadership, also the DEA, and also the DEC's for their regional perspective on expediting certain capital infrastructure from the communities on to our capital plans. As part of the educational renewal process that's before us, we've involved the community members, and we've listened to the small community capital initiatives. Those are in the forefront of our discussion as we move forward.

One of the pillars on the educational renewal is to focus on the small communities, whether it be the funding, the capital projects and so forth. This is an ongoing discussion we will be having, and we want

to expedite those capital projects that are in play for a number of years so we can move forward.

MR. YAKELEYA: We have about 850-some-odd days left of this Assembly, roughly two years, and we have two cycles of our infrastructure, two cycles of O and M. That is giving us a short window of opportunity to work with the people, work with the people in Deline and this department, this government. Can the Minister commit within a two-year time frame to sit down with the leadership in Deline and say this is the type of design, what type of design are you thinking about if you were to take this project and go through the capital plan process so that within two years we know that they could look forward to a new school?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I can definitely commit to meeting with the leadership. There has been discussion and also conducting a regular system of all facilities in the Northwest Territories. Deline will be part of that process along with my colleagues from Public Works and Services. We work diligently together on those educational infrastructure facilities and will continue to work with DEAs and DEC's because they are the primary contacts. They give us excellent feedback on which capital we should be focusing on. We will be meeting with them and also the leadership that is here with us. We will continue to push that forward. Mahsi.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the Minister's commitment is to sit down with the Deline leadership to look at the ?ehtseo Ayha School and the new school for that community. In the Minister's meetings, can he also sit with the leadership and talk about what kind of support this government can give for parents who are sending their kids to Yellowknife, Smith, Inuvik, Hay River for a higher education and to see where the government can possibly help these parents who are now paying for their own kids to get an education by sending them outside of their community?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, most definitely those are discussions that we need to have with the Deline leadership, the DEAs and DEC's as well. Just offering some of the initiatives that have been undertaken by Beaufort-Delta, as an example, e-learning is a prime example that we will continue to invest. There have been discussions on fibre optics. Those are just some of the discussions that we will continue to have. Education renewal is another one that they have been part of and will continue to push this forward. It is a big piece of work for the Northwest Territories and the Legislative Assembly. We want to make those changes that reflect on the small communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 263-17(4):
OFFERING SPECIAL RATES TO ELDERS
FOR CAMPGROUND VISITS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you enter the Northwest Territories, we are quite fortunate to have rest stops and campgrounds right from Enterprise leading up right to Yellowknife. My question is to the Minister of ITI.

In these campgrounds that we have, I wanted to come to an understanding. Right now we are at the height of tourism season starting. What kind of rate structure does ITI have for campgrounds for daily to long-term usage in the campgrounds? Mahsi.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those rates would vary from campground to campground and region to region. We have our campgrounds operated by contractors. We also have seasonal passes that are available to the public and to tourists that travel into the Northwest Territories. The rates would vary somewhat from region to region. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, what are the common types of services that one can expect if you do use the campgrounds, or perhaps on weekends or daily rates? What kind of services should people expect? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, services available would be dependent on which park or campground the tourist would find themselves in. We are constantly looking at upgrading services and facilities in our campgrounds and parks around the Northwest Territories, but as Members know, it is always a challenge to find capital dollars to be putting into campgrounds.

We are fortunate enough to receive \$2 million to upgrade facilities around the territory this year. We are looking forward to upgrading some facilities. Some would have shower buildings, kitchen shelters, and electrical hook-ups for RVs, depending on which campground you would be in. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, as you know, we come from a culture of habit and respect for elders and especially senior citizens that travel long ways, especially as we turn to increase our potential in tourism. Why is there not discounted rates for senior citizens that use the campgrounds, especially as they travel a long way to be up here in the North? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That's an issue that I can take back to the department, but predominantly

tourists and folks that arrive in the Northwest Territories in RVs would be seniors. So we will take a look at that and I thank the Member for raising that concern. I do believe there are senior discounts on season-long passes. As to campground, a nightly rate, and there's a discount for seniors, again, it may vary by park, but I'd be more than happy to get that information back to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for making a commitment, but I'd like to take it a step further. Can he commit to an immediate discount of rates to seniors, in terms of using the daily campgrounds, effective immediately? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That would be difficult in that we have contractors operating some of our parks around the Northwest Territories who would be looking for a certain revenue stream in the operation of those parks. So for this coming season I wouldn't be able to commit to that, but as I mentioned to the Member, for next season we could work with contractors that aren't offering discounts to senior citizens and see if we can come up with a plan to offer discounts to senior citizens in our campgrounds. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 264-17(4):
COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY
FRAMEWORK

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Justice and I want to follow up on his statement from today about a Community Safety Strategy.

I was really pleased to see, and I totally agree with the Minister's statement, that the people of the Northwest Territories know their needs and priorities, and communities should take the lead on determining how to address issues. I think that this is going to be a great initiative and I just would like to ask the Minister some questions about getting a little further information about this particular strategy and what it means.

My first question to the Minister would be to advise me and the House on how this particular strategy was developed. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What has been developed, the strategy is basically a skeleton or framework that will be able to go into the communities, we'll be able to work with communities so that they can set their priorities based on this framework. The framework was

developed in cooperation from a number of different organizations, including the Department of Justice, the RCMP, as well as input from communities, so the types of things that they would like to see that will help them develop their own individual strategies. So it's more of a framework that will be able to be used by the communities to help them set their priorities.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that explanation. I guess I would like to know if the Minister can tell us at this point – I recognize that it's a framework – what sort of content is going to be within each individual community strategy. What sorts of activities are you anticipating the community would undertake? What sorts of particular initiatives or what services would a program require to set up their Community Safety Strategy?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: That would be presupposing what is specifically appropriate for every individual community. The framework offers the tools to help them set their priorities based on resources they have in the communities, resources that are available regionally, resources that are available territorially. Communities need to set their priorities and each community will have their own individual Community Safety Strategy. I'd hate to presuppose what anyone would look like, given that every community in the Northwest Territories has their own unique realities.

MS. BISARO: I guess I also don't want the Minister to presuppose, but I was hoping I could get a few examples of the sorts of things that might be in a Community Safety Strategy.

I'd like to know from the Minister, in terms of implementation within each and every community, is this going to be an initiative or a strategy that is going to require a certain amount of funding? Is it going to be a request within the budget for funding for community safety strategies?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: There are a number of programs that already exist in the Northwest Territories. It's about creating access to the different programs and services, whether they are health programs, whether they are education programs, or whether they are justice programs. We need more money. It's difficult to say at this point in time. We will have a better assessment of that after we have created the pilot in these first three communities, Tulita being the first community that we are going into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: He mentioned three communities, and there's one mentioned in a statement and I would be interested in knowing the other two.

My last question to the Minister goes to how a community can get a Community Safety Strategy. If

my community, for instance, wishes to have a Community Safety Strategy, what steps does my community or I have to take to ensure my community gets on to the list to get a Community Safety Strategy? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I would like to know what the three communities are as well. We did have the three communities identified. We had discussed them in business planning. Since that time, we've had a couple of changes and we have had to reconsider the communities that we are going into. We haven't decided fully on what the other two communities are going to be, but we are working on that right now. We hope to have those communities listed in short order. So for now, it's Tulita. We will get back to the Member as soon as we can with the names of the other two communities.

I forget the other part of the question, so I'll sit down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, she's out of questions, so we won't get it until tomorrow. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 265-17(4):

HEALTH CARE CARD RENEWAL PROCESS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today on the renewal of NWT health care cards, I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he could articulate for us some of the challenges that they have faced in the process and how those challenges have been addressed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is working with all of the health authorities and also the health centres right across the territory to try to make this renewal of health cards as smooth as possible.

As of the middle of this month, we were to process 11,600 health care cards starting in January 2013. We have about an 86 percent compliance. We have about 86 percent of those processed, so there are a lot of health cards being done. Overall, we need to process about 38,000 health care cards in 2013.

For the most part we think it's going fairly smoothly. We do have some glitches in the system, but for the most part it's going well. We are trying to ensure that people are not left without coverage. I think that's the main point. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: When there are glitches and people are not getting health care cards in a timely manner, what we have been doing... Constituents have been providing us with a list of names and scenarios and we've been taking that to the Minister's office. Some, as Mr. Bouchard had

indicated, have not had a lot of success in contacting the insurance office in Inuvik. Mailboxes are full when you call to leave a voice mail and so on. I'm sure this is a big undertaking for them, too, but what would we tell people, what would we tell our constituents if they are not receiving their health care card in a timely manner, if they are frustrated with the process? What would the Minister like us to do? Would contacting MLAs, going through his office, is this a satisfactory method of resolving this, in his opinion? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Clients who have applied for renewal will continue to get coverage. The fact that they may not have the physical health card in their hand at the time may not be that important. I recognize that individuals want to have that card in case of travel, but for the sake of seeing a physician or getting pharmaceuticals, it shouldn't be an issue.

Individuals, if they apply and their health card is not there on time, has not arrived by the time their old health care card has expired, we are still going to be able to provide coverage for those individuals.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: That is very good to hear, and I'm sure the public will be glad to hear that, too, because it is a little different than when I questioned the Minister during the last sitting of the Legislature. That is a little bit different.

Has the department, in response to the concerns about a lack of health care card, revised the policy so that people who haven't got a physical health care card in their hand are still receiving coverage? Has this been an amendment to the policy in light of these problems?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The anticipation is that things would go smooth and that an individual that gets a postcard 45 days before their birthday will then have, essentially, some time – I believe it's four months even after their birthday – to apply. But their coverage is intended to continue as long as they have actually applied, whether they have the card or not.

That is just something that we're doing now, because, of course, ideally, people would apply for their cards, go through the regular system, the card would come on time and they would be covered. That was the planning that took place. That was the intention. We were planning along the lines of success.

However, since there are some failures in the system, we're saying that if you've applied and the individuals know where you're trying to get a service from the doctors, from the drug stores, then we will continue to cover. People that haven't applied or people that don't have an old card but are indicating that they are a resident that would be eligible will have to pay up front and then bill for

reimbursement if they are eligible for a health care card.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure I understood everything that the Minister just said, but it seems like in there somewhere he said that if you have applied for your card and you were a holder of a card previously that you will get coverage. I'd ask the Minister if he would commit to communicating that out to the folks at the front line so that there's no confusion when a person who is a bona fide NWT resident shows up and their card has not come in the mail yet. If that could be communicated somehow, because there does seem to be some misunderstanding about that even on the front-line worker level.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I will commit to having the department advise the health centres and the drugstores that individual clients who prove that they have applied could do one of two things. The drugstore or the clinic can do an immediate check to see how far along in the process their card approval is, or also just to prove that they have applied and they will be covered.

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

QUESTION 266-17(4):
BUILDING CAPACITY AT THE
INUVIK CAMPUS OF AURORA COLLEGE

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my opening Member's statement earlier today, I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment some questions in regard to the Aurora College campus in Inuvik and the lack of programs that are actually at the campus itself, in the facilities.

I would just like to ask the Minister, starting off: How are programs distributed throughout the three campuses in the Northwest Territories? How do we decide which campus gets which program and moving forward from there? That will be my first question. Just how are programs distributed, diploma programs, certificate programs, throughout the three campuses in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would just like to congratulate all those graduates, over 141 graduates between the three campuses. That's a huge accomplishment for those individuals and I'd just like to applaud them for that.

The programs that have been distributed through the three campuses are based on the needs of the communities and through the venue of the Aurora

College Board of Governors. As you know, the Board of Governors is meeting in the next two weeks, I believe in Inuvik, and those are the opportune times to ask those questions or give ideas and suggestions on various programs that should be delivered.

I understand where the Member is coming from. I will be addressing that with the current board chair and also the president. As we move forward, I would encourage also the Members to approach the board representative from a regional perspective. In that fashion, they do make the decisions as a board of governance. We provide them up to \$30 million to deliver programs across the Northwest Territories. I will be forwarding that information to the board governor. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister can't answer the second question I was going to go into, but has the Minister, speaking with his colleagues on the Executive Council and Cabinet, talked about what types of programs are needed for the Inuvik-Tuk highway, for the early childhood Children's First Centre or the other projects that we have going on in Inuvik? Has he spoken with his Cabinet colleagues to say we need these programs in Inuvik so that our leaders, as stated in the statement earlier, do get addressed and we want to hold accountable providing those programs? Has he spoken with his Cabinet colleagues to get those exact education programs for the Aurora College so the local people can become our leaders in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, yes I have. We will continue to pressure that at the Cabinet level. At the same time, I have a board chairs meeting that consists of the college and all the education board chairs, and we discuss the communities' needs. If there are ideas generated or suggestions, then we will work with that. At the end of the day, the Board of Governors makes that decision based on the communities' needs. They work with the community representatives what is required, whether they be the activities happening in the Beaufort-Delta, Sahtu region or Deh Cho region. It will be based on that. We get a lot of feedback. From the feedback, we discuss around the table with educational leaders and develop programs based on that. This is an area that we closely monitor. We will continue to make changes to our programming for the Northwest Territories that will benefit the North. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Speaker, being new to the Legislative Assembly, I'm finding out new processes, the way things are being done. My understanding, from what the Minister just said, is the board of directors make the final decisions on where programs are being offered. Why is there not a process where the Minister might make the final

write-off on where these programs are sent? Or would the Minister take those recommendations from the board of directors, bring it back to standing committee, and standing committee can have some recommendation into how those programs are being delivered?

Obviously, we have a strong voice here, small communities, rural and remote communities that do need these training programs. Would the Minister be open to having that as a process, bring in recommendations from the board of directors to standing committee and having dialogue from there so that we have a greater interest in how these programs are being offered throughout the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, we do go through an annual basis before we distribute funding to the college so they can deliver programs, trying to get feedback from the Board of Governors on what is needed and to make changes.

As we know, there are a lot of community learning centres for the Northwest Territories that need to be fully taken advantage of. There are all of these different programs that should be delivered at the community level. I will take the Member's suggestion seriously into consideration. I will be working with the Board of Governors, the chair and also the president to move this forward and identify what changes are required at the regional or community level. I will bring that forward for the Board of Governors. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 267-17(4):

HEALTH CARE CARD RENEWAL PROCESS

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will follow up on my colleague's questions on the health care cards and the renewals. I am wondering what the department is doing to commit resources to speeding this process up and the backlog that is currently happening in the system. What is the department doing? The Minister indicated 11,000 have been completed but they are estimating that there is somewhere around 35,000 to 40,000 that have to be completed, so we are only about a quarter of the way done. What is the department committing its resources to speed the process up and make sure it works faster?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Perhaps I wasn't clear. There are 11,600 until birthdates, until the 16th of May of this month, and at that point we had processed approximately 86 percent of those. But right up until the end of 2013 we will have about 38,000 people right from January too. So another 26,000 and some-odd cards, people whose cards will expire from May until December. Then the rest

of the people, the 3,000 or so residents of the NWT, their cards will be expiring in 2014.

MR. BOUCHARD: I guess my question is still what kind of resources? Obviously, we as MLAs are getting e-mails, three or four a week from different people that are having difficulty getting renewed. Obviously, the process is not working quickly right now. What resources are we committing to make sure that the process works quicker?

The residents of the Northwest Territories are frustrated right now. Myself and Mrs. Groenewegen have given you several examples today of people who have applied, including myself. My card would have never renewed before my birthday. I had to go to the pharmacy and get it updated. What is the department committing to resources?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I'm not sure that putting more resources in the Inuvik office, which is responsible for processing the cards, is the answer. Perhaps we could deal with trying to provide them some assistance in the processing of the cards.

The process is that people in Inuvik are dealing with the cards as they come in. They're processing and sending them to Ontario, they're being printed, and then they're being mailed out to the individuals in the Northwest Territories that are to receive health care cards. But if I can commit to the Member that we will contact the Inuvik office and see if the issue is a lack of manpower. If the issue is a lack of manpower, we're prepared to put some individuals in the office to process the applications. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: As I indicated, some of these applications are going back and being mailed. We've looked at the website, and the website seems like it's very inefficient. So these applications are being returned to people incomplete. Is there not a quicker way, either by phone call or e-mail, or an e-mail on the website that somebody can send information to or their questions to? Obviously, the applications are coming back, people are phoning in, the phone number is not working because half the mailboxes are full when somebody calls and they can't even leave a message. So I understand maybe the resources and the bodies may not be the answer, but definitely communication systems. Is there a way that we can improve the communications system for residents?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, I think there is a way that we can improve the communication and I will have that discussion with the executive, and they will, in turn, have a discussion with the people that are responsible for making sure that the lines are open when people want to get a hold of information.

The reason that the applications are often returned is an issue of ensuring that people are eligible for health care cards when they apply for it. There is information that is needed on the health care card that guarantees that those individuals are eligible,

and we are trying to comply to previous issues where people that were not eligible for health care were holding NWT health care cards and that was a huge issue. We think that we've arrested that issue with this type of diligence, and if that's causing some further delays, then we will try to address those delays as soon as we can. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along those lines of communication, what are we doing for the health care centres, the health clinics, the pharmacies, to provide them with information, to provide them with this excellent line of communication? Because that's where residents, my residents that I talk to, have been going and several residents have been going to get the information. It seems like the pharmacy has a separate line of communication that they can use. What are we doing to assist those groups, those private groups that are basically carrying the ball for the GNWT?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: It's no secret that the majority of the issue seems to be focused in on communities outside of Inuvik and outside of Yellowknife. Definitely we are looking at how to close that gap.

Like I indicated, we thought that it was an anomaly that individuals were having issues, but if you look at the numbers, we have a fairly high compliance rate. Most people are not having issues, they are getting their cards on time. We have taken time to ask individuals. There are some in the system that do come forward to MLAs, that indicate that there is a problem. We are trying to address those problems as quickly as possible. But I will touch base with the executive to make sure that if there are simple things that are missing on the application and so on, that they are not returned, that a phone call is made to fill in information that can be filled in with a phone call. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 268-17(4):
REINSTATEMENT OF BEAUFORT-DELTA
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are from earlier today in my Member's statement, to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Since the Minister promised last February to appoint a health board to the Beaufort-Delta, what steps have been taken to actually reinstate the board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess aside from having some contact with the MLAs from the Beaufort-Delta, we have not discussed reappointment of a health board with the Aboriginal governments or the other municipal governments in the Beaufort-Delta. We have continued to work with the public administrator in the Beaufort-Delta.

One of the reasons, perhaps the main reason that we've continued with this system is we did not have a chief executive officer. Today I'm pleased to announce that the Beaufort-Delta has hired a full-time chief executive officer. That individual has started work there with the public administrator. We figured the public administrator would provide some continuity. The chief executive officer will be coming down to Yellowknife to meet with us and we will talk about plans about what we should do as far as a board goes in the Beaufort-Delta. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: In speaking to some of the members that sat on the last board, I know one of the major concerns is to have financial experience at the table. With that said, I'd like to ask the Minister what issues stand in the way of getting this board reinstated and why is it taking so long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The previous board was disbanded. It was for reasons that I'm not totally familiar with at this point. However, one of the requests from the Beaufort-Delta, in speaking to some of the leadership, there was an indication that if we are going to reappoint the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Board, that individuals sitting on that board should have some knowledge, good knowledge of sitting on a board, good knowledge in being able to read financial statements, having some skills to sit on that board, and they're able to effectively report the workings of the board back to the communities. They said, don't just pick people to sit on the board; pick people that are going to be functional, that are going to be effective, that are going to improve health services in the Beaufort-Delta. That's why it's taking some delay to be able to bring those types of people together.

MR. BLAKE: That leads me to my next question. When can the region expect to see a new board appointed?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The process of appointing a new board is going to start immediately. We are looking at the governance. In 2011 we had a report done by a consultant. The conclusion was that the system, as it is, is not sustainable. We are working with a Joint Leadership Council that includes all the chairs and all the boards looking at a sustainable government system first. Once we have a good system that we think that we are comfortable with right across the Territories, we are going to put the board in place. We also recognize that we were

waiting for the CEO to come in. That has happened, so we can start the process. In fact, I've had one discussion with one leader about starting that process. We are also possibly looking at if the governments would allow an advisory board and some other structure. But again, I will consult with the four MLAs from the Beaufort-Delta before I start to move on reappointing the board in the Beaufort-Delta.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Short, final supplementary, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister, will we see this board in place during our term here?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I hope to have the Beaufort-Delta board in place, whether it be an advisory board or a management board, before the end of this government.

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

QUESTION 269-17(4):
SHORTAGES OF ADEQUATE HOUSING
FOR NORTHERN TEACHERS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all Members of this House will agree that teachers are intrinsic to the successful future of our young residents and, indeed, to the future of this territory, and so we need to make sure we take proper care of them. That means providing adequate housing where it is needed.

We are all aware of the multitude of needs in our small communities, and Members constantly press the government to make meaningful investments to help our constituents. An investment in teachers who guide and prepare students to fulfill a productive life is no less meaningful and long overdue. This has also been pointed out repeatedly by the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

My first question I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is: What is he doing to work with the NWTTA to ensure our teachers have access to proper accommodation so that we can do a good job for our students?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Our government, obviously, supports the teachers that are out there, the value they bring to our schools and also our communities. We've also met with the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, between myself, Minister R.C. McLeod and also Minister Abernethy, to discuss what's out there, their assessment, their survey that's been conducted, and I would just like to say thank you to the NWTTA for releasing that information to our government. At least it's a tool that we need to work

with. I believe that as a partnership we can move forward. We are doing that in collaboration with our partners, the NWTTA, between the three departments, and we want to find a solution. It's all coming together, so that's what we're working on.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, I am quite glad the Minister is taking this issue very seriously in his department. I think it's important for the public to understand exactly how widespread this issue is so that they can support our teachers across the North and to find proper accommodation where need be.

I am wondering if the Minister can provide this House with a bit of a breakdown of the number of teachers sharing accommodation in the territory who would rather be in individual housing. Would the Minister have this type of information here handy today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, this is an area that the NWTTA, again we are working closely with them. The NWT Housing Corporation, Robert C. McLeod is also partnering this. Of course, the NWTTA conducted a survey with its members just recently. Of course, I will be seeking their permission to provide the results of the survey to the Members. At this point in time, we do not collect information on the teachers sharing accommodation. That is information that will be shared between the NWTTA and our community departments. We all know the small communities; there is a shortage of housing. We need to deal with that. How we will deal with that is in partnership and talking about the opportunities. Those are areas that we will continue to discuss among the parties that are here, the three Ministers and the NWTTA, and with the communities as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, it appears that the issue is probably more widespread than we are probably led to believe. As a long-time businessman and someone who is an academic, I know that you can't do decisions unless you have good information, and to make some good decisions, you need the truth and you need the facts. We need to drill down information, as I just asked earlier here. We need those types of specific information. We need to do that type of research.

I will be asking the Minister here today if he thinks that we should be funding NWTTA a little bit more so they can drill down and provide us more specific research so that we can actually do the type of decision-making that we need to do in the future. Can he provide that degree of funding in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association, we value their survey that was conducted. They shared that information with us. It is to some degree evidence-based that the Member is referring to and has been referred to in the past. We need to use

evidence-based when we come up with various investments into the communities dealing with the housing and other infrastructure as well. Information that was released in a recent survey, again, we are working closely with the NWTTA. We will continue to press that matter. The Housing Minister is also involved in this because we are talking about housing for the Northwest Territories, whether we are professionals, teachers, the social workers and others. We will continue to press that with the communities as well. Committee also needs to work with us because they have the assets and also infrastructure in communities, as well, to work with. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DOLYUNNY: Mr. Speaker, what I am hearing today is good news. I'm glad the Minister is taking this seriously.

Finally, I would like to link the work on housing to what we heard in this House before about the education renewal project that the Minister has been undertaking over the last few months. I understand that many people have been involved in the discussions of this project. I am hoping that the NWTTA is one of those partners. In my mind, reviewing the education system in light of the needs of the NWT's teachers is very worthwhile work. I fully support this initiative. Again, all this is for naught if we can't ensure our teachers those proper accommodations that they are requesting.

I would like to ask the Minister if he can assure me and the Members of this House that teachers' housing will be fully addressed in this education renewal initiative and that we will find concrete solutions in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, that is part of our overall plan to find a concrete solution. That is why we are involved in partners such as NWTTA and also into the departmental discussions that we are currently having to find the solution at the community level. We know that teachers' housing is very, very critical, especially in the small, isolated communities, and adequate housing to stay in the community longer. So that is part of the vision that we're currently discussing, and to develop a better relationship with their students as well. The longer the teachers are staying in the community, the more beneficial it is for the communities as well.

I will absolutely commit to making an availability of adequate teachers' housing an important part of this education renewal process. One of the pillars is to deal with the small community schools and the professions at a community level. So, yes, that will be part of the process.

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

QUESTION 270-17(4):

HIGHWAY NO. 7 CONDITIONS AND CLOSURE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I made a Member's statement on one of my favourite topics: Highway No. 7. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation about some of the maintenance plans for this summer. I indicated there was a failure at culvert 221, but that's, I believe once again, because of the age of the highway. I would like to say that the DOT and the contractors – I think it was Rowe's Construction – have to be commended for acting quickly in the repair of that bridge, but it did reduce the road restrictions.

However, more importantly, my question is about dust control this year. There are 250 trucks being planned for the community of Fort Liard because of the Lone Pine discovery across from Fort Liard. That section from the BC border to Fort Liard is very dusty and I would like to ask the Minister about the dust control program that will have to happen there. Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the entire length of Highway No. 7 it's 254 kilometres long. There are going to be nine sections, about 53 kilometres in total that will have the application of calcium chloride and the dust control applied to it. We believe that will greatly enhance safety.

We're working with industry on a plan for the access road to Liard, and I know the Member mentioned 250 trucks. There's a possibility of two wells being drilled near the community and it could, in fact, be upward of 700 truckloads going into the community or near the community of Fort Liard. So we're working on a solution with industry on the access road and the application of calcium chloride there for the community of Fort Liard.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'm really pleased about the dust control program for the sections and I encourage him to complete them, but there is that 32 kilometres from the BC border right to Fort Liard. I really believe that if the influx of trucking is up to that many as the Minister indicated, 700, we really should consider, and hopefully our winter road program industry is able to assist, I believe that 32 kilometres should have calcium applied to it to manage the dust for the safe travelling, because the residents of Fort Liard utilize that section going to Fort Nelson quite often and almost on a daily basis.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: As far as the section from the border to Liard goes, I know there are nine

sections that calcium will be applied. I can get that information for the Member from the distance from the border, the 32 kilometres to Liard.

But the application of calcium chloride will be done near bridge crossings and other areas where it's possible to pass. So, from a safety perspective, that's where the application will be applied.

If there is more truck traffic coming out of BC to Fort Liard, this again is something we're going to have to take a look at, and if more calcium is needed to be applied to that section, that's something we'll have to take a look at. Again, I think working with industry, maybe there's a solution there as well.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I believe that's the thing, is that there will be a lot of dust. I don't know if the approaches, like bridges, et cetera, there's an increased likelihood of accidents there, but I'd surely like to see if perhaps the Minister can meet with industry with the most up-to-date plans and look at possibly some dust control on the entire length of it. I know that that dust is really fine and hangs in the air, and it hangs over that highway system and it really must be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We are up to approximately 20 percent of the entire length of Highway No. 7 that we will have some calcification of calcium chloride. Again, we will sit down with industry, and I know the folks we have on the ground in the region are always talking to industry and community leaders down there about working together and trying to come up with solutions. We will continue to do that and hopefully we can have more of Highway No. 7 have that application of calcium chloride for the safety of the travelling public. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just quickly, can the Minister's office forward to my office the dust control program for Highway No. 7? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We will get that information for the Member today. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 271-17(4):
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources. Work is beginning, under the authority of a federal water licence, for the deconstruction of the roaster complex at the Giant Mine site, but I've heard that AANDC no longer has water resource officers in Yellowknife. Their water

licence inspector positions are all vacant except for one in Inuvik.

Given the significant potential for environmental and human health impact from the Giant Mine roaster complex deconstruction – as we all know it's full of arsenic trioxide and so on, 16 tonnes, I think – this raises serious issues around inspection and enforcement of terms and conditions. So will the Minister commit to urgently confirming that its project partner, which is also the regulator, will have a full complement of qualified water inspectors on staff here in Yellowknife to monitor safety and compliance throughout the term of this work? Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have folks monitoring the work of the Assembly, the questions being asked, and yes, we will follow up forthwith on this urgent issue. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: This government shares responsibility for the health and safety precautions for air quality monitoring for the deconstruction project. Air sampling stations are located in town at Sir John Franklin, Niven Lake and on Latham and they will be monitored, but it's been pointed out that fence line monitoring would be much more effective for providing an early warning system and a better indicator of site conditions and management responses. So rather than waiting to say, hey, containment have arrived, yikes, will the Minister commit to have ENR meet with AANDC project partners to amend the plan for sample collection to include air sampling stations at the fence line between the roaster complex and town, and continue sampling 24 hours a day, not just during operations, with no shutdown during winter hiatus and active operations and that the results be made publicly available on the Internet? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have an air quality program coordinator that is involved in this whole project. So I will be talking to the deputy. We will be looking at the concerns the Member has raised and the suggestion he's made about the different location and we'll give it its due and full consideration, recognizing the urgency of the concern. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I will look forward to what the Minister concludes on that one.

On the issue of emergency response, the worst situation would likely be a fire during the deconstruction, which would cause immediate downwind threats to human health. AANDC says there's an emergency plan in place and warnings would be issued, but even if I heard a siren, I wouldn't know what to do. Go inside? Listen to the

radio? This information should be easy to communicate through ads and flyers delivered to homes.

Will the Minister again commit to contacting his partners and urging them to advertise and distribute detailed information on how residents will be informed in case of an emergency and what they should do in the event of a toxic cloud moving towards town or some other such event? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As with the other concerns that have been raised, I will be reviewing the concerns with the deputy and the officials involved in monitoring this project and involved to ensure that the safety considerations are addressed. We will go over the concerns raised by the Member, and if it requires getting in touch with our partners and revising whatever communication and emergency response plan is there, then yes, we will take the necessary steps should they be required.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, thanks to the Minister. I look forward to that information. Thanks for those amendments.

There are also concerns with the dust management plan for deconstruction sets action levels for toxic dust conditions so high that site activities will not trigger any management response whatsoever.

Will the Minister commit to provide information to this House on how action levels for dust conditions were set and an explanation of why those action levels prompting dust control are set so high?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for oral questions has expired, but I will allow Mr. Hawkins to get his questions in today.

QUESTION 272-17(4):
NEED FOR TRESPASS LEGISLATION

MR. HAWKINS: I look forward to all four questions today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to make them very short with maybe a quick explanation and some quick bullets after that. While travelling into the Deh Cho, I've heard Aboriginal people say they'd like set aside lands protected and trespassing raised as an issue. Recently I was in the Sahtu and Aboriginal people told me there that they want trespass protection on their lands. I've been in Yellowknife and other areas, and whether it's private business or even public lands, trespassing has turned out to be an issue. My Member's statement said enough. I'll just ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs what is he prepared to do regarding trespass legislation that can help people all around the North to deal with this type of problem.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue across the Northwest Territories. I agree with the Member; there are other mechanisms in place to deal with this particular issue. I take the Member's point, though, on the need for trespass legislation. I have reviewed trespassing legislation across the country and in many of the other jurisdictions it is administered by the Department of Justice. Seeing that, I've had a discussion with our Justice Minister and he has committed to me that he will have his department have a look at the opportunity of trespass legislation, or we'd have to weigh that, again, against all our other priorities as far as legislation goes.

MR. HAWKINS: Is that a commitment to investigate this problem about seeing what's possible, working with his partners at the Department of Justice?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The commitment was to look at it and see if there was anything we can do.

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

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 72-17(4):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 2, 2013-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 73-17(4):
RESULTS REPORT 2012-13 20/20:
A BRILLIANT NORTH
NWT PUBLIC SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Results Report 2012-2013, 20/20: A Brilliant North, NWT Public Service Strategic Plan."

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 74-17(4):
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING
COUNCIL 2012/13 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 75-17(4):
NWT TOURISM 2013-2014 MARKETING PLAN

TABLED DOCUMENT 76-17(4):
WHAT WE HEARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS:
REPORT OF THE NWT ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following three documents, entitled "Agricultural Products Marketing Council, 2012/2013 Annual Report;" "NWT Tourism 2013-2014 Marketing Plan;" and "What We Heard and Recommendations: Report of the NWT Economic Opportunities Strategy Advisory Panel." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Notices of Motion

MOTION 15-17(4):
REFERRAL OF ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION 2013 FINAL REPORT
TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 3, 2013, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report, be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

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

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 22:
TERRITORIAL EMBLEMS AND HONOURS ACT

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 3, 2013, I will move that Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

BILL 20:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
TILCHO COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I give notice that on Monday, June 3, 2013, I will move that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Tlicho Community Government Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 21:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
DENTAL PROFESSION ACT

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 3, 2013, I will move that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 72-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I call Committee of the Whole to order. We have one document before us today and I would like to ask Ms. Bisaro what the wish of the committee is.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to recommend that we consider Tabled Document 72-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): We will proceed with that one item of business after a brief break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. The document we have agreed to deal with today is Tabled Document 72-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014. I'd like to ask Minister Miltenberger if he has opening comments, and if so, could we please proceed with them.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, I do, Madam Chair. I am here to present Supplementary

Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014. This document provides for an increase of \$6.610 million for operations expenditures and an increase of \$93.005 million for capital infrastructure expenditures in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The total supplementary request is \$99.615 million.

Major items in this supplementary estimate include:

- \$75.5 million to carry over funding for infrastructure projects. This funding was approved and lapsed in the 2012-13 fiscal period. Carry-overs for capital infrastructure expenditures in these supplementary estimates represent about 32 percent of the 2012-13 revised capital budget.
- \$17 million for the Department of Transportation to provide funding for the realignment of the Ingraham Trail due to the Giant Mine Remediation Project. The net effect on government operations is nil as these costs were previously appropriated under operation expenditures.
- \$2.954 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for the NWT Enterprise Wide Electronic Medical Records System Project. These costs will be partially offset by funding from Infoway Canada.
- \$600,000 for the Department of Transportation for planning activities associated with the Mackenzie Valley Highway. These costs are fully offset by funding from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

I'm prepared to review the details of the supplementary estimates document. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Miltenberger, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, I have with me Mr. Mike Aumond, deputy minister of Finance; and Mr. Paul Guy, deputy minister of Public Works and Services. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. I'll now go to Members for general comments. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thanks to the Minister for his opening statement. I note we're 32 percent carry-over. That's a pretty high number. I believe if that's the case, our capital budget from last year was about \$225 million; \$75 million, or about a third of that, was carried over. I know in the 16th Assembly we had a Deputy Minister's Infrastructure Subcommittee that tried to focus on getting that number down. I think the lowest we reached was about 24 percent. Maybe I could get the Minister's perspectives on this. This was a relatively modest capital budget compared to the capital budgets we had during the 16th Assembly and there was some justification for not getting everything done, but it seems less so now. Maybe I could get the Minister's perspectives on this. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. The numbers, the percentage of carry-over is higher than we would like, and every year we try to move as much of the work through the system as possible. Again, it's something that we continue to work at, but I appreciate the Member's comments.

The good news is we have, in fact, money that we can spend in addition to we're committed to the projects, and we're going to be coming forward, as well, with an additional capital plan here in the fall. So we will be applying ourselves once again to see if we can make sure that we get all of these done as physically possible.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister. I'm glad to hear that. I think one of the things we did was we moved our discussion of the capital budget to the fall, an October session, and that was supposed to help a whole lot because it allowed a lot of planning to take place so that when April 1st hit, things were off to a running start. There were a couple of other things that we did specifically. Are those not working any longer, or why is this still high? We did some really major things to address this.

I think another thing we did that I recall is we moved from a D level estimate on costs to C level, which is a much more refined and reliable cost estimate level. So we did some really significant things. It seemed to help, but obviously it isn't.

Are there other things that we didn't identify that are the issue, and if not, how are we looking at this to ensure that those best efforts the Minister referred to lead to some efficiencies?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: It's worth noting that while the overall percentage of carry-overs is up, on a numerical dollar basis, it's about \$26 million less than last year. We had some major projects tied to Health and some to Transportation tied to contracting and some design issues that we have worked our way through.

The anticipation is this year that we will once again try to set the bar as high as we can. I believe the system is working. I think the changes we made are good ones. But every building season you have to look at the type of projects, the complexity and these other variables that we sometimes don't have complete control over. We're confident that, once again, when we sit here next year that we will have concluded these projects and, hopefully, a greater amount of the projects in the upcoming capital plan for '14-15.

MR. BROMLEY: I don't have anything further. I guess I'm not inspired by that particular response because I've heard it many times before. The proof will be in the pudding, but I do take the Minister that he will be putting best efforts out there. I guess I throw out the idea that looking for some specifics might help direct those best efforts. That's all I have.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I appreciate the Member's exhortation to do better and noting how difficult he is to be inspired, so we will really try to make sure we can have this discussion next year and maybe it will have a different outcome.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. If there are no further general comments, we will turn in our document, please, to page 5. The 2013-14 Supplementary Appropriation, No. 2 (Infrastructure Expenditures), Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, community operations, not previously authorized, \$6.452 million; total department, \$6.452 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 6, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$50,000; advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$108,000; total department, not previously authorized, \$158,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Human Resources, capital investment expenditures, directorate, not previously authorized, \$117,000; total department, not previously authorized, \$117,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. On to page 8, Finance, capital investment expenditures, office of the comptroller general, not previously authorized, \$28,000; office of the chief information officer, not previously authorized, \$572,000; total department, not previously authorized, \$600,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 9, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$4.414 million. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just more of a clarification on some of the asset management lines in this budget category, the first of which is the deferred maintenance - various for over \$2 million. If we can maybe just get the department to highlight what some of those top line entries are for that supp. Thank you.

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

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The projects that are identified under that rolled up number include projects that have extended over two years that are represented by contracts that we have in place, and those specific contracts we have are work related, with fall protection on a roof health facility here in Yellowknife, placement of an unground fuel storage tank in a health facility here in Yellowknife, replacement of windows and doors on a school in Hay River, and a siding replacement on an office building the government has in Fort Simpson. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$4.414 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$298,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Public Works and Services, total department, not previously authorized, \$4.712 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 10, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health and social services programs, not previously authorized, \$26.077 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to follow up on the Stanton Hospital line items here. What was the budget? I understand that this is work that wasn't done. It was supposed to be done. What was the budget for the work that was to be done in the year that this carried over from?

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

MR. GUY: Madam Chair, on Stanton Territorial Hospital, the budget was \$345,000 for seclusion room upgrade and the amount being carried over is \$286,000. On the planning study for Stanton Territorial Hospital, I believe the budget was \$5 million. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I have to say that this has been a decade-long procrastination in striving for an effective response by the government to the deteriorating conditions at Stanton Territorial Hospital. I know others regard this as an utter disgrace and failure to deliver on our responsibility to provide priority and best care hospital services for the people across the NWT. Here we have yet further information that we are continuing to fail to perform these duties even on the relatively modest work that has been authorized in light of the work that we know is needed in the order of 200 to 400 million dollars of infrastructure work to upgrade this deteriorating facility. As a result, again, the health care of our citizens is compromised. There is a lack of security, lack of safety. There is lack of efficiency in delivery and failure on preserving dignity in patients because of the lack of privacy. Meanwhile we are taking on new projects at the drop of a hat that are costing us tens or hundreds of millions of dollars.

What are we going to do to get this up to speed? Again, six years in politics working on this. I know my colleagues have worked hard before me and recognize the deteriorating situation now. Committee has had tours of the hospital. We realize the difficulties that it presents in delivering this health care. What can be done? Where is the accountability on this? What are we going to do to accelerate and start addressing this? So far I ignore the deficit. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, if you actually look across the whole health care system, I think the government, Health and Social Services, Public Works and Services has and is doing a commendable job in terms of infrastructure in Fort Smith, Hay River. We have done Aklavik.

In my life as a politician, we opened up the Inuvik hospital. We are looking at facilities in Norman Wells, places that had older infrastructure, places that had no infrastructure. At the same time it is now clearly Stanton's time and we are putting in money. There's \$20 million in next year. We recognize that we're going to be putting significant dollars in once the planning studies are done.

The commitment is there from this Legislature, from the government, but we shouldn't make, I don't think, sweeping condemnation of the whole system when you look at all the things to be done. We have to address many needs and I think we've done that in effective ways.

So, clearly, we are now committed to getting this project done. It will be probably the biggest project we will have done and that will be bigger even than the Tuk-Inuvik highway and it's definitely bigger than the bridge. So we are going to put those resources to bear and it will be done.

MR. BROMLEY: Obviously, I have a lot of problems with the Minister's comments. We're not talking about facilities elsewhere; we're talking about Stanton Territorial Hospital, our premier health service centre for those that are in desperate need of care. They come here from across the Territories.

I'd say there is certainly no clear commitment that the Minister continually refers to with budgets like this for the work that's required. We're talking more than the Tuk highway, which is probably a 300 or 400 million dollar project or more. We know it's well over \$300 million and we're talking about \$2 million budgets and \$5 million budgets. We're continuing to procrastinate here.

So I ask the Minister where is the clear commitment that he's referring to here as we take on new projects and dedicate whether we throw \$60 million on to a project this year and not a territorial project.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member and I will have to, I suppose, agree to disagree in terms of our commitment, our commitment to Stanton, our commitment to managing a whole system for all Northerners wherever they live.

Recognizing that Stanton is our flagship, it is now in need of the repairs. That need has been increasing. We're going to be putting in \$20 million next year. The class C estimate will be done this fall, and as that comes due and as we look at it, then we will look at the financing and timeline. But I don't think that the Member should doubt for a second that we don't recognize, we this Legislature and we the people of the North devalue Stanton. The commitment is there; maybe not to the level that the Member would want, but it is there.

MR. BROMLEY: Again, I'll leave it at that and I don't see the commitment. We've dedicated a paltry \$5 million to this long-ignored situation and half the work got done. What kind of commitment is that? I'll leave it there.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I don't know if that was a question or a rhetorical question. I'll move on now to Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I also agree with my colleague from Weledeh here to a certain degree. There is a definite need. What we're seeing here today is just a very small glimpse of what potentially might happen. We're hearing numbers from the Minister of \$20 million investment in the future, but we're talking a much more larger project than that moving forward.

I have grave concerns myself as to what are we going to do in the interim. We've heard the word "flagship," and I believe it is our flagship in our delivery of premier health care services in the Northwest Territories.

That said, that building, that infrastructure was designed for only about 10,000 visits per year, and it's clear from the administration that we're doing twice that. We're doing about 20,000 visits per year. This building is well beyond its capacity today and I am very fearful that we're putting at risk patient care, even though I know what we're delivering there is ultimate care.

The people that are working there, I commend what they're doing. We saw physiotherapists, eight of them, working out of the size of a closet and you can't have that. You can't continue on that pathway. So I agree with Mr. Bromley; we need to have a serious look.

We're seeing some commitment here, but as I am well aware in government here, I hear the word planning, feasibility study. That means it might get done; it might not get done when there are competing priorities as things come up. So unless I see something firm and fast on a budget, in my mind it's a potential and I will leave it at that.

Madam Chair, my question has more to do with the Electronic Medical Records System Project where we see a line entry of an appropriation of a little over \$2 million. I realize that this has been a multi-year, multi-term commitment. I know we've got federal funding. If I can get some explanation here as to where we are at with this EMR total budget and what does this \$2.9 million mean in terms of the scope and detail we are at today with EMR. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. With regard to the Stanton budget, the budget is reflecting \$20 million for next year and every year forward until it's complete. Those numbers are clear commitments, and once the class C estimate is in, we will be having an even more refined discussion about the timelines and cost and what money needs to be put on the table. But right now we have that number in there.

We are also going to be doing, as we are obligated to under our P3 policy, a review of the project to see what is possible through the P3 side.

With regard to the medical records, I'll ask the deputy minister of Finance to give the breakdown of numbers.

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

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The \$2.954 million that the carry-over requests represents roughly two-thirds, approximately, of what would be a planned expenditure in '13-14 of \$3.954 million and really represents the entire portion of the Canada Health Infoway contribution for the project for the 2013-14 fiscal year. So far the

GNWT, through the Department of Health and Social Services, has spent approximately \$4.4 million on the project and the estimated total for the project to conclude in 2015-16 is approximately \$10.3 million. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am just writing these numbers down and doing some math here. So if my math is accurate, we're still a bit a ways here from completing our journey in the electronic medical records and I'm hearing 2015-16 as the completion of roughly about a \$10.3 million investment, at which I believe the GNWT will be on the hook for about \$6.2 million and Canada just over \$4 million.

So my next question is with us being relatively – I'm going to use the word loosely here – I'm going to say maybe more than halfway through our budget process with EMR, yet we are of significant disadvantage because health-specific privacy legislation is still not active. This is something that was worked on way back in the 16th Legislative Assembly, and is not even on the radar for the 17th Assembly and we're nearing the completion here very shortly, Madam Chair, of EMR. EMR works, as far as I'm concerned, hand in hand with specific privacy legislation relative to health. Are we in line of completing everything, in the Minister's opinion, so that we can actually finish the budget and still have all our ducks in a row when it comes to the full implementation of this EMR program? Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The project timelines are there even with the carry-overs. The commitment is to get it up and running. The benefits are very clear about the value of electronic medical records.

With regard to the comments about legislation, the questions and queries about legislation and the plan of the department, I would ask the Minister of Health to respond to that particular question. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Health Information Act is currently being drafted and the bill will be introduced in this fall session of the 17th Assembly.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Just to close my comments with respect to EMR, with this being a supp for EMR, will we be looking at a further budget line in the upcoming infrastructure budget in this fall? Are we

going to be seeing the completion here of this full EMR program in the fall sitting of 2013?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes. The '14-15 budget will contain appropriate inclusion of this particular project.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess if I can add up all the dots here that we talked about today, is that we should see the completion of EMR from a financial standpoint. We've heard from the Minister of Health that we're going to have the legislative standpoint in place, or at least starting this fall. So, as far as we're concerned, this is a \$10.3 million project where we've had supplementation of a little over \$4 million from Canada, and that there should be no need for any other supplementary or other budgetary line for EMR after the 2015 budget. Is that my understanding?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The plan as it now exists on a go-forward basis is, yes, that we have carry-overs this year. The plan will have further reference and the intent would be to have it concluded through the next two cycles, so that by '15-16 the project will be complete.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Department of Health. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to add my voice to the comments that have already been made by Mr. Bromley and Mr. Dolynny. I, too, have been waiting for some comprehensive renovations at Stanton and we're still waiting, so I just want to add my voice of discontent to those of my colleagues'.

I have one question with regard to the planning study. As advised, this was a \$5 million budget and we are carrying over almost \$2.2 million, which suggests that it's getting there. It's maybe 60 percent done. But I'd like to know from the Minister when this planning study is expected to be finished. He's advised us that there's going to be money in the next capital budget for this particular project, but is it going to be a situation of a planning study not being done until the end of this fiscal year and we're then carrying over the \$20 million because we're not ready to go to any, you know, to further the project? When is this planning study going to be done?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The design work is scheduled to be completed this fall, 2013.

MS. BISARO: If we have design work done this fall, what's the time frame after that? How soon

would we go to an RFP or a tender process, and how soon would we expect a contract would be awarded? When would we be able to start construction?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Another piece that has to be done and we will be working on tied into this class C estimate is the P3 analysis. There is going to be \$20 million in the budget upcoming for '14-15, so the actual schedule, without having seen the class C estimate, I don't think, is clearly in place, but I'll ask Mr. Guy if he would want to add any particular detail that he may have.

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

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. In terms of the planning study work that we have done to date, we have completed the operational plan, the needs analysis, functional program, the technical evaluation, the block planning study. Those are all key components to the completion of the planning study.

The next piece which we have been working on since early January has been developing the schematic design, and that is working towards the class C cost estimate. Once that work is complete, then we will know what the cost of the facility will be and how our funding will need to be cash flowed going forward on that. That will then also feed into both the capital planning process, but as well, as the Minister said, there is a P3 analysis going on as well. That is being done in parallel so that we are not waiting until our schematic work is done. We are doing in parallel to help expedite the process. We are working towards that fall date. Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Madam Chair, and thanks to Mr. Guy for that explanation. My next question was whether or not the P3 investigation would further hold up the project. I am really glad to hear we are doing two things at once. I imagine many people in the public don't think the government can do that. I am very glad that we can.

That is all I have, Madam Chair. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have questions and concerns, but the first is in regard to the proposed Fort Providence health centre. I could probably safely say that the community looks forward to the construction of the new health centre to replace the old building. We are looking forward to seeing it realized. I just wanted to see if there is a commitment from the Department of Public Works or the Department of Health and Social Services to meet with the community at some point, more likely

the contractor has to be involved with that, but to ensure that the community residents do have input into a building that more likely will service the community for the next 50 years, and whether that opportunity will be forthcoming very soon.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Madam Chair, yes, Fort Providence health centre project was just recently tendered and contracted and awarded in late May to design/build construction project and just working through the initial steps. A commitment has been made, working with the Department of Health and ourselves, the contractor and their consultant, to come forward in late June or early July to meet with the community to discuss the design concept and provide an overview of the project and the schedule moving forward.

Construction is slated to start later this summer and we are anticipating that the project will be complete by early in January of 2015. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. NADLI: Madam Chair, at this point has the department had any preliminary ideas as to the fate of the old health centre, realizing that, when the community health centre is completed, there will be a decision that will have to be made regarding the old health centre?

MR. GUY: At this point the existing health centre will be used to continue to deliver programs and services until the new facility is complete. At that point the Department of Health and Social Services will have to make a decision on whether that facility is surplus to their needs. At that point we would go through the Disposal Policy to see if there is another use or whether it would be surplus, sold or demolished. We have not done that work yet. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. NADLI: Madam Chair, my next question is in regard to the health station replacement on the Hay River Reserve. I understand that there is a building that is sitting there empty, unoccupied. I just want to clarify if the building is complete. What is the \$180,000 for?

MR. GUY: Madam Chair, the project is substantially complete. There are some minor seasonal deficiencies and project manual documentation, owner's manuals and things like that remain to be completed by the contractor. Whatever there is, nothing that I am aware of that would prevent the facility from being used at this point. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Has the department had any discussions with Health and Social Services as to a timeline of what we could perhaps expect as an opening and the operation of the health centre on the reserve?

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Madam Chair. The department has had discussions with the Deh Cho Health and Social Services and also the Hay River Health and Social Services on a way to open up the health centre. We are looking at providing the health services from the Hay River Health and Social Services in that office and trying to determine what the level of needs would be for clinical needs on the reserve. So whether or not there would be, as you know, we only have one doctor in the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority. So we would be using locums and nurse practitioners to assist in the operation of the clinics in Hay River as well as the new clinic on the Hay River Reserve. So we've had initial discussions. We fully intend to make that building operational as soon as we can.

MR. NADLI: While we're on the topic, is there a commitment of perhaps a date that we could see it eventually open? I think the residents and potential staff look forward to a new building that perhaps could be enjoyed by the residents of the reserve instead of currently travelling the road and going into town on the other side of the river. So is there a specific date that we should expect it to be open?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't have that information with me. The last information I have is there was some issue about the land tenure. The Hay River Reserve, the majority of the land is federal land, if not all. So we're just sorting out the land tenure and I believe that that has been sorted out. So I could maybe commit to trying to get the centre opened this summer.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We're on page 10, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health and social services programs, not previously authorized, \$26.077 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to ask a quick question on the health centre and long-term care facility replacement in Norman Wells. I want to ask the Minister when this facility will be completed. I understand it's stretched out over a number of years to a regional plan and I wonder if that's to help the financial situation that the government is in. It doesn't do much for us and I've been hearing some of the people in the leadership saying why are we stretching it out so long. This facility is greatly needed and appreciated, and I'm just asking about the rationale as to why it's done over a longer period than original and approved when we had this type of a discussion in the Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The schedule that we have, based on the cash flow that we have today, we're working towards having the foundation materials. They're scheduled to arrive on the winter road this year. The pilings and foundation are scheduled to be installed in February 2014. Then the project is still scheduled for completion in October of 2015. So at this point we would be working on the design and getting the materials marshalled in. Between now and February the foundation will be put in and then it will be into full construction throughout next fiscal year. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health and social services programs, not previously authorized, \$26.077 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$4.273 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Total department, not previously authorized, \$30.350 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 11, Justice, capital investment expenditures, court services, not previously authorized, \$421,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Corrections, not previously authorized, \$187,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Services to public, not previously authorized, \$239,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, not previously authorized, \$847,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. On to page 12, Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$5.940 million. Mr. Bromley and then Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Bromley.

Mr. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to ask about the plans for the interior works on the Kay Tay Whee School in Detah. I understand that that work was originally scheduled for last year, but there were some reassessments of the specific needs. I know the needs have been accumulated; the school has been adding grades on both ends. I think preschool classes have been added as well

as Grade 7 and Grade 8 this year. So there is an obvious need.

When can we expect this work? I think the kids are out of school next month. Are we on the ground next month in getting this work done for the fall? Thank you.

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

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The project was delayed last year because we were working on addressing those scope issues that had arisen. We have done some work on that over the past year and we have revised the scope and we have been working with the Department of Education. We've developed the work plan to move forward with that project this year. We've now presented that to Education and they are going to respond, and our intent is to move forward this summer with that work. We will go over when the classrooms are empty. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to Mr. Guy for that information. How long has Education had it and when do you need an answer to get the work done by this fall?

MR. GUY: We are following up with Education now and would expect to have an answer very shortly. Given the size of the project, we're confident we can move forward and be substantially complete by fall. We would have to commit to get back with the actual details and times, but we are following up with Education now. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that offer and I'd like to be notified whether or not Education has confirmed things within the next two weeks. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We will do that, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Anything further, Mr. Bromley? Thank you. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am directing my question to the line entry of over \$3 million for the Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Samuel Hearne School replacement in Inuvik.

Madam Chair, for the record, the facility itself is a great facility. I had a chance to tour that with a number of our Regular Members. I think the school and people of Inuvik should be very proud of that infrastructure. However, my job as a Member here is to look at all cost expenditures. My job here is to look at protecting the public purse. So, again, no disrespect in my questions, but they need to be asked and this is why I'm here today.

I have taken great pride in doing my own forensic audit on this project from the ground up going back

as many years as almost two Assemblies. My concern with this is that we continuously see this line entry of remediation work, teardown work, demolition work. This has popped up a number of times now in different budgets. We've seen it sometimes in negative supps, which means taking it from one pot of money and putting it into another pot of money. We are seeing it now in an infrastructure budget. I've seen it now located in the operations budget. So this project, in terms of how we do a public works and services is, in my mind, a little bit cumbersome. I've followed this project and I'm confused. God forbid if someone was not following this project, would, in my humble opinion, never know exactly where these monies are coming from and what exactly is the scope of this project.

My first question is: This \$3.64 million that we're seeing here for remediation work is adding to the cost of what? Where are we at right now with the terms of demolition and what is the total scope of the demolition project, if I can add that as a whole, to remove the two schools which are now vacant and probably causing some concern for vandalism or safety? That's my first question.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. This money is carried over. It's been identified to do the work that's laid out here in terms of dismantling the old structures. There is a bunch of work to be done tied to that, so I will ask Mr. Guy to lay out the detail.

I appreciate the Member's comment about the O and M money and capital money and over the number of years, so we can have some discussion on that. But I will ask Mr. Guy to speak to this, but this is not adding to it. The project is complete. The big total is there. This is money that's already just being now spent to do the final cleaning up.

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

MR. GUY: Thank you, Madam Chair. This funding, as the Minister indicated, is to fund the remaining capital work associated with the completion of that project. This funding was in the original appropriated budget. It's just funding that was not spent or contracted until now.

Essentially, these funds are for the remaining landscaping work, site grading, soils, finish grade, hydroseeding, plants, planting, sports fields that are to be located in the area of the existing Samuel Hearne Secondary School. When that is removed later this month, then we have to go in and complete the capital works that are going to occupy the space where that building once was. Our intent, once this funding is approved, is to go ahead and tender that work later this summer, hopefully within the next month or so.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Again, I appreciate it. I didn't quite hear what the final total is in the response. I did hear we were adding some sports facility equipment, which begs to ask my next question in terms of the whole project cost. Now, we've got policies that say, well, you can't add the remediation work to the total asset, and you can't depreciate as a whole asset, but it clearly begs the question, we're removing buildings, we're adding infrastructure, we're adding infrastructure that is being used by the school, but yet it's not adding to the whole capital cost of that project or allowed for depreciation.

Can the Minister indicate, or the deputy minister indicate, how do you capitalize this stuff after it's put in place? Is it a separate item or entity or is it part of the school that we're going to be capitalizing and depreciating as assets as we move forward for the years to come?

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

MR. AUMOND: Thank you, Madam Chair. As the \$3.64 million, which was a part of the original appropriation for the construction of the school budget, that portion is going to be capitalized. The remediation that the Member is referring to, which is funded through O and M dollars, not only through our own accounting policies but it's also the policy that the federal government uses and every other government in the jurisdiction in Canada uses. That will be funded through O and M. As we demolish those buildings, we're not adding to the assets. We're actually taking care of a liability, for the most part, and we'll use our vote O and M money for that purpose. But the \$3.6 million that is being asked for a carry-over here, that money will be capitalized.

MR. DOLYNNY: I guess, just so I can put it again, connect all these dots for a project of this magnitude, this \$3.64 million is being capitalized and it will be added to the whole asset cost of the new E3 School. Is that a yes or a no?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, we have tried to indicate that that number was already there in initial appropriation and is now being expended and it is now being accounted for at this juncture with this carry-over request. Now it is time to use that. It is not going to be added to the project cost. It is already part of the project cost.

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, so it is not added to the project cost, it is part of the project cost. I will have to analyze Hansard tomorrow to find out what exactly that meant.

Again, I am extremely confused and probably somewhat disappointed again with the way we are handling our large-scale projects, the way we are handling remediation work and our demolition work, and how we kind of peel it off and call it something else, and we don't look at the total project as it is in terms of what did this project cost taxpayers. I will continue my championing of the system to show that we have to do things better. I am hoping that the Minister approves of that statement, is that it is confusing.

I am good with numbers, but I can tell you that, for the life of me, I have had to struggle with trying to understand how our Public Works and Services deals with these types of projects. It just does not make sense at all. I know that the Auditor General of Canada is also in my court and they have also asked those same questions. I will work with the colleagues I need to work with to hopefully bring some clarity as we move forward so we don't repeat this type of endeavour with large-scale projects. At the end of the day, I think the public deserves to know and has to have transparency and clarity on where we are putting our money. Quite frankly, right now those two variables are not in the current process. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I will take that as a comment. Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, \$5.94 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Advanced education, not previously authorized, \$240,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Total department, not previously authorized, \$6.18 million

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 13, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, not previously authorized, airports, \$5.068 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Highways, not previously authorized, \$42.258 million. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, I will start my first line of questioning regarding the Deh Cho Bridge. We see a line entry here of \$3.315 million. Can we get maybe some explanation as to... Is this new money? Is this holdback money? Is this to complete deficiencies? Is this to complete what many of us know that there have been some issues with the height railing? We know that we have some closures this summer to one lane. If we can get a little bit more explanation as to exactly what this \$3.3 million is in the supplementary. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, this money is carried over money, so it is not new money. I will ask Mr. Aumond if he can speak to some of the detail of what the money is going to be put to, the use it is going to be put. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Aumond.

MR. AUMOND: Madam Chair, the work will be undertaken to take care of seasonal deficiencies but also some electrical work, Texas gate, some bridge rail extension and some engineering and miscellaneous services as well. As the Minister said, this is not new money. It is money carried over from the previous year, last year.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Madam Chair, I appreciate the deputy minister for clarifying that. The second question I have in this category is regarding the Ingraham Trail or the Giant Mine remediation, or we refer it to as the Highway No. 4 bypass area. There is a \$17 million allocation. We were led to believe in the maps of distant past that this \$17 million was earmarked from the Infrastructure Canada money. This was federal money assigned to enhance infrastructure across the Northwest Territories. It was part of a larger number that was earmarked for many other communities, townships and hamlets throughout the Northwest Territories. This money was put into budget in 2013-2014 or previous budget, and it appears that it's up for a supplementary here and I'm not quite understanding with the terminology here. It sounds like there's a different account that it's coming from, or a different category that it's being attributed to. So if I could get some clarity as to what exactly or why are we seeing the \$17 million reappear today in this supplementary appropriation.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: When the Giant Mine Remediation Project was initiated, the GNWT's share that we put on for a lot of the surface work, \$23 million back in 2004-05, and as the remediation project proceeded, the issue of the road became relevant and to the fore. So what was a decision that was made, that \$23 million was in O and M. So it was agreed that we would reprofile and reclassify \$17 million of that \$23 million to cover the cost of this road that's being put in around Giant Mine. So it's not detracting from other capital projects, it's not being taken from a pot that was dedicated for other areas or other communities or other specific projects, it's tied directly to the broader Giant Mine Remediation Project.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm probably going to have to perform some Magnum P.I. work on this project. I was led to believe that this money was Infrastructure Canada money and that only in the last number of years, that because of the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, that this money was deemed remediation work and all of a sudden it was being categorized to a new pot of money.

My question still remains that the area of Yellowknife was earmarked for a \$17 million project out of the Infrastructure Canada budget. It appears that this money, in my humble opinion, has now been redirected to another pot of money under remediation under Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, which then begs to ask where is our \$17 million project, which should be earmarked for the Yellowknife area. I'm really concerned that if that's indeed the case – again, I'm trying to follow the money – I think the people of Yellowknife need and deserve an explanation as to why would they be shortchanged a \$17 million project if that money indeed was earmarked originally under Infrastructure Canada. Where is our project?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As much as I don't like to disagree with Members, in this case the Member is categorically mistaken. The money that we're talking about was voted and put aside back in 2004-05 as our part of the broader Giant Mine Remediation Project. That \$23 million was taken, \$17 million of that was in O and M, put it into capital to pay for this road.

I'm not sure exactly what project the Member is talking about that he thinks Yellowknife got shortchanged on. If it's the bypass road, that was Build Canada money, but no one has been shortchanged. That money, that \$17 million from out of the \$23 million that we as a government put on the table as our share of the broader project is being spent exactly where it was appropriated to, which was to the Giant Mine Remediation Project. It just moved from O and M to capital and our liability goes down a commensurate \$17 million by spending that money on the project.

MR. DOLYNNY: Again, I'm not delusional in my thinking here. I do remember, and I do recall, and I did take extensive notes during previous budget periods.

Madam Chair, I'm going to leave it at that. I mean, I don't want to waste more of committee's time. I will investigate and I will report back to committee. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to talk about the amount of activity that happened on the winter roads, and of course myself and the Minister have personally experienced that 701-kilometre road trip from Fort Good Hope to Fort

Simpson. The Minister was appreciated by the Sahtu people.

I wanted to ask about the capital infrastructure on what he has on the books. It's something that would help with our safety in the Sahtu region. Would the bridge – and the bridge specifically that the Minister and I talked about – the bridge between Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells... The Minister, in his papers, talked about the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road Bridge Program. Is that in line with speaking about what we do about this bridge that is sitting and not being used but has over \$1 million of infrastructure that is not being put to use? I am questioning the Minister on this one here.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money identified here tied to winter roads is clearly going to be put to use, as the Member pointed out. They travelled the winter road last winter. There was a lot of traffic. It was heavily pounded out and, in fact, shut down at different times.

The issue of the Oscar Bridge, I would ask Minister Ramsay if he would want to speak specifically to the fate of that particular piece of infrastructure.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to continue to move forward with the dialogue with industry and community leaders in the Sahtu as we look for ways to enhance the winter road in the region until we get an all-weather road. We will have to continue to work together to build those relationships.

As to the Oscar Creek Bridge, we are hopeful that at some point in time we are going to be able to access federal infrastructure dollars, at which time we will be at a much better position to address issues like the Oscar Creek Bridge and other requirements on that winter road system in the central Mackenzie Valley and continue toward an all-weather road in the Mackenzie Valley. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I appreciate the Ministers' responses and note the activity could maybe be ramping up in a section in the Fort Good Hope area because of the parcels that are going to possibly be taken by the oil companies. There are already two that Shell is going to be working on in that area. I'm certainly looking forward to the Minister's announcement if the federal government does help us with some federal infrastructure.

I also see some other issues with the Mackenzie Valley Highway environmental assessment issue

coming up. I want to ask the Minister with regard to the activity and safety of the infrastructure that we are going to be putting on the Sahtu winter road that would secure the confidence of the people who use that road, that this is going to be sufficient and going to be enough to handle the loads of last year, close to 6,000 loads coming in in a short period of time to serve the oil companies. I'm looking forward to some level of confidence and security that the people who use these roads will say yes, there is enough infrastructure, given the money left in the government's pockets, to ease people's minds getting on the winter road and not having those thousands of loads coming through with some level of safety. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Three key points, if I may. The bill before us talks about putting to good use the carry-over, the money that didn't get spent last year on a critical area. As we all agreed at the start of this Assembly, we would have two years of fiscal discipline and then in year three/four we would add \$50 million to the infrastructure budget. So the capital plan is being referred to Members for their review prior to the fall session. It contains those resources so we will have to have that discussion with the Members.

Then the government, through Minister Ramsay, is at work talking to the federal government, along with Minister Robert C. McLeod on the MACA side, on renewal of the Build Canada Fund. If that comes to fruition and pays off, then we will have, as well, some additional resources. So while we have \$3 billion in unmet needs which far outstrip our resources, those additional resources will be very helpful, and we'll have the broad discussion about making sure they're put to the best use.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya, your time is up. Committee, you're on page 13, highways, not previously authorized, \$42.258 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to get confirmation that, first of all, the Deh Cho Bridge total cost will stay within the \$202 million. Is that correct?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister. The other thing I'd like confirmation on is I understand that as a result of ATCON's work and some mistakes they made or whatever, and their bankruptcy or pulling out of the project, there was a deficiency account established of about \$13 million, and we are pulling from those funds the money to correct the work that's needed to be corrected. Those are in addition

to the \$202 million, but it's no cost to us. It's a liability thing for ATCON, and that that amount is some part of that \$13 million. Maybe the Minister can tell us about how much that is, if I've got that right.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member's comments are accurate in terms of how that money fits into the overall budgetary scheme of things, that it's tied to remediating any deficiencies tied to ATCON's involvement in the project. It's separate from the project.

I'll ask the deputy if he wants to speak to the amount of money that has been expended. Then I will dig back into my memory. I think we've spent there, out of the \$13 million, I think we've spent five, and tied to addressing deficiencies tied to ATCON's involvement.

MR. BROMLEY: That's all I had on the Deh Cho Bridge. Thank you for that confirmation there.

With respect to Highway No. 4, I see that we have lapsed a significant amount of money there, several million dollars. I guess my first question is: What was the budget for that reconstruction? What amount of that original budget was done?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I'm not sure if the Minister actually caught that question. I'd maybe ask if the question could be repeated. The Minister may have that number with him.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Member could just repeat the beginning part of his question, I'd see if I have that number.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question was: What was the original budget for the reconstruction of Highway No. 4? I see we lapsed several million dollars and it's being carried over and proposed here, but what was the original budget for the work that year?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for the project is about \$17 million. As for the budget for that year, I'd have to get that information for the Member.

MR. BROMLEY: I think this is the reconstruction of the Ingraham Trail and not the bypass of the Ingraham Trail. I guess my point is, here we are lapsing several million and in fact we know that the Detah road, which has been stopped at about 30 percent completion for several years now, really requires much less than what has been lapsed here in the order of a couple of million dollars for significant work to continue with maximum benefits accumulating to the community and to the road

infrastructure. I am wondering if the Minister would commit as we go forward when there are lapses – it looks like there are – that they would be identified early on if they are not going to be able to do that work and get that work going on the Detah road with an experienced and enthusiastic crew that is ready to do that work. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the Member for his comments and his suggestions and note that for the record, unless the Minister wants to respond in any other specific way.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Chair, again, we will get that number for the Member on what the initial budget was. I carry over almost \$3.4 million.

Getting back to the Detah access road, we had an opportunity to meet with the Yellowknives Dene and the Akaitcho leadership just last week. One of the issues we talked about was the Detah access road and the importance to get that project complete. I gave the chiefs the assurance that we are going to continue to work to try to get some additional capital dollars from the federal government. When we do, certainly the completion of the work on the Detah access road will be a high priority for us. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that information on the ongoing interest of the Minister there. I guess it doesn't address my point, though, that when we know we are going to lapse from these large adjacent back projects, significant dollars that would be huge to the Detah road project, that we identify those early on and enable that Detah road project to go forward until the bountiful federal government comes forward with additional money. This really is the GNWT's responsibility. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Chair, the fact remains that the work needs to get done on the Ingraham Trail. There are many areas of that roadway that require work. Just recently I was out at, for example, the Cassidy Point access road. There is going to be some work that is required there to get that access road up to grade. There are other areas of that Ingraham Trail Highway No. 4 that require our attention from a safety standpoint. The money will go there. We will find additional funding as we move forward for the Detah access road, but as it stands, the money is earmarked for reconstruction work on the Ingraham Trail. We will address the issue with the Detah road as soon as we possibly can, Mr. Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, I guess I will stop hammering on that point that I don't think the Minister answered it yet. I don't have a problem

with this money being redirected as indicated here, but I am saying as a principle when we know there will be dollars left over, why not direct them to where they can be spent. It would not set this work back. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We will take that as a final comment. Moving on on this page here, I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to ask the Minister in regard to the carry-overs and the incompletion of some of the bridges in the Sahtu. I want to ask the Minister whether there were sticker points that didn't allow the department to say completion of this bridge or this bridge or this portion of the winter road. I'm speaking about some of the bridges, some pieces of road realignment that possibly we are looking forward to. What were some of those sticker points? Was it due to unforeseen circumstances or is it due to staff being overworked or are organizations not also being in line with plans? Why such huge carry-overs in the Sahtu when the activity of oil and gas is wrapping up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. For that answer we're going to go to the Minister of Transportation, Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Member described, there is a variety of reasons why that would happen. There were some issues with the work at Bob's Creek and Strawberry. We continue to work with Pehdzeh Ki Contractors on completing that work and there was a lot of activity, as the Member knows, in the Sahtu. Last winter there was a lot of competition for equipment and workers, and I think that led to some of the work being pushed back or delayed and would result in some of the numbers that we see here in terms of carry-overs.

I guess the positive side to this is there is a lot of work happening. There's some capital dollars that will still need to be spent in the central Mackenzie Valley and we look forward to getting the work complete. Our primary objective is to complete the work. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister is correct; the positive side is that we're racking up the infrastructure to support the thousands of truckloads that the oil companies bring into the economy of the Northwest Territories, specifically into the NWT into the Sahtu. So I want to ask the Minister about the carry-overs. Does the Minister have a suitable, qualified personnel to say yes, because this is happening we'll have someone saying you need to get this contract in place, we need to look at this, we need to look at if there's applications for permits or water licences, we need to do this and put some emphasis into that, otherwise we're going to have carry-overs?

The Minister is right. The oil companies are also and we're also, in the Sahtu, looking to provide services for the oil companies and heavy equipment. Sometimes we can't wait for the department to say, well, here's a contract and you'll bid on it or whatever. The oil companies need you right now at double the price they pay the GNWT. So do you want a nice steak sandwich or do you want pizza? You know, what are you going to go for?

So I want to ask the Minister what to do in the Sahtu in regard to the completion of these projects and not have the carry-over.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As a matter of business and practice as a government, we review our processes and we have to be accountable for carry-overs and we do that. We can look at the things we control. I understand in the circumstance and in the project the Member is talking about there was also issues with the contractor that caused delays and slowed things down. So those types of things have to be managed.

Often we don't control the outcome or how it may end up being finalized. Our job is to make sure the project gets done. In this case it contributed to the delay and I think resulted in some of the carry-over. This coming year steps will be taken to put all that money to good and effective use.

MR. YAKELEYA: I welcome the assurance by the Minister of Finance, and certainly we have to work with the Minister of the Department of Transportation and I know that he's pretty excited about seeing what's happening in the Sahtu. We certainly want to support not only industry but support the communities along the Mackenzie Valley winter road. So I look forward to what the Minister, through this type of infrastructure or discussion, would say that the Sahtu will one day have a Department of Transportation office in the Sahtu where they can make some decisions in regard to this type of work. We've been too long having decisions made outside the region and that is not cool. It's not good and times need to be changed. It's just like the evolution to devolution of the transportation needs to happen in the Sahtu also with this department. I support devolution in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'll take that last bit as a comment. Committee, we're on page 13, highways, not previously authorized, \$42.258 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 14, marine, not previously authorized, \$656,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Road licensing and safety, not previously authorized, \$201,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Total department, Transportation, not previously authorized, \$48.183 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Moving on to page 15, Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, not previously authorized, \$711,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Economic diversification, not previously authorized. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of comments here. I understand that this money is for, I believe there's office space that has been secured, but it's for developing the office space. But this is for moving, transferring the Business Incentive Policy monitoring office from Yellowknife to Hay River and the motivation, according to our information, is a decentralization effort. But I'd just like to point out some of the fallacies here of the plan that this government is pursuing right now.

If you look at, in fact, the number of jobs per capita, Hay River, or the South Slave, has the highest proportion of government jobs per capita. I'm all for decentralization, but I believe it needs to be done in a smart and aware way within the context of what people are facing in communities. By contrast, I think it has something like 13 percent of government jobs, Yellowknife about 12 percent, and then we have regions like the Tlicho, which is down about 7 percent. Relative to their population, they are very low.

I think we need to be a lot smarter about how we do these things so that we achieve the things that we claim to be wanting here with this.

The other aspect to consider is, my understanding is that none of the staff are transferring. I stand to be corrected there, but I note in our briefing that we're looking for staff here. Maybe I'll just ask, is that the case and when are we expecting to fill these positions? I'm not sure this falls exactly under this infrastructure, Mr. Chair. I'll let you or the Minister decide, but I think when we make these sorts of decisions and have these infrastructure costs associated with them, we need to put it all within the context of the big picture. I'll throw that out there and see what people want to do in terms of response as we discuss this particular item.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we'll go to the ITI Minister, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for bringing the issue up. It was part of the government's decision to look at decentralizing some positions. In this case, ITI had the Business Incentive Policy shop. It included four positions. We are currently out to competition for the manager's position. The Member is correct; we didn't have any of the four people that were in those... Actually, there are three out of the four positions that were staffed at the time and they decided to not relocate. We have moved the office there and our intention is to staff the office in Hay River. This is just part of the cost of us doing that. I would suspect, as we move forward and there are other positions decentralized, that we will have to look at incurring further cost to locate offices outside of Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that response. That was pretty clear. I don't really disagree with what he said there as long as we are doing decentralization intelligently. Decentralizing when there is already an overabundance relative to the rest of the territory of government workers is a strange process to achieve decentralization to me.

The other aspect is we want to know what the full costs are. Will the Minister commit to telling us how long these positions remain empty and this service is not provided and report to us regularly on that? I guess I would ask that the Premier do that, as well, as we go through decentralization so we are aware of full costs as we do this.

At some point I think decisions will have to be made. I would love to see decentralization done successfully. I think it is a real opportunity that we need to pursue, but again, it needs to be done with all our eyes open to achieve our goals. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Chair, I didn't want the Member to get the impression that the services were going unrendered. They are being delivered to the public, to the business community. That is being done from the staff here at ITI in Yellowknife until a manager is hired for the Hay River office and that our staff are hired for the Hay River office, but I will make a commitment to keep Members apprised of those positions.

As I mentioned, I fully intend to staff all four positions in Hay River and continue to move that effort forward, but we are servicing the public's needs through a manager here at ITI.

As Members know, there is very seldom a week goes by where there's not a question about the Business Incentive Policy, so we have had some activity there. We have handled that activity. We will continue to do so until we have that staff fully functional in Hay River.

I do take the Member's point that we need to, when we do look at moving positions, that we have what the full cost of doing that is and we are able to secure office space and get an idea on what the costs are going to be associated with moving those positions. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, thanks for the Minister's commitment. I guess there is an obvious concern if four PYs are being done by equal and other jobs. Obviously, they are not able to do their jobs, unless they are super people or unless we have a lot less work for them than what we are paying them for. Obviously, I don't think we can count on that as something to give us assurance that the public is being well served. I know the Minister is aware that I appreciate that he is focusing people to be kept trying to do what they can to make sure the services are rendered until we are fully staffed up again, but there are obvious costs there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I will interpret that as a final comment. Moving on for questions on this page I have Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I know I've had questions on this page or questions about Mr. Bromley's comments, but I couldn't help but hear him say that he is taking a ratio of government workers per population for the South Slave region which, in case he doesn't know, Fort Smith region is not Hay River. That includes Fort Smith which, for all intents and purposes, is pretty much a government town compared to Hay River. It is a sad day that, after how many years of begging for a few decentralized positions out of Yellowknife, any Yellowknife MLA could not sit here and be very happy about some positions going out of here. If Yellowknife doesn't think that they have a disproportionate amount of everything that this government spends money on, employs people in, then let's have that debate in this House.

Thank you to this government that there are a few positions coming to a community like Hay River, Fort Smith and a few of the regional centres outside of Yellowknife. Good on this government. Like I said, it has been years of begging and cajoling. We finally have a government that is prepared to put their actions where they say their commitment is and we see this. It's not large-scale, it's small-scale, but at least it's something and we're happy about that. So I thank the government for that. But my goodness, to hear Mr. Bromley talk about the Fort Smith region as if it's Hay River because we're getting Business Incentive Policy jobs in Hay River, it's sad.

Anyway, that's all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. We'll take that as a comment. I

didn't hear a question there. Thank you very much. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I feel like I'm at the witness table here, Mr. Chair.

---Laughter

But since the comment was directed at me, I appreciate hearing from the Member for Hay River where these jobs are being moved to. I'm sure it was an unbiased comment. I would ask the Member to check out the Hansard for today and see if I had any complaint whatsoever about the jobs leaving Yellowknife. I think I stated fairly clearly, perhaps abundantly clearly, that I support decentralization, done in an intelligent manner. But I still do appreciate my colleague's comments, all of them. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Again, I treat that as a comment. Next on my list I have Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: I guess I needed to pipe in there a little bit about the comments on the Business Incentive Policy office in Hay River. We're talking about four positions and Mr. Bromley is using statistics that have to do with the South Slave area where we're looking at 300-and-some jobs versus 2,600. I mean, you can use a percentage if you want, but we're talking about 300-and-some jobs compared to 2,600 in the Yellowknife area. So, I mean, it's comparing apples to oranges, and I know this has nothing to do with the debate, but if we're going to start debating this from the House and this is the first four positions we've decentralized, we're going to have a lot of arguments here and it's going to divide us a lot.

I understand my colleague's concerns in the other areas and I'm supportive of decentralizing throughout the territory.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Again, I'll treat that as a comment. Colleagues, if it's okay, committee, I'd like to redirect committee back to Appropriation Supplementation 2013-14. We are on page 15. We last left off on economic diversification, not previously authorized, \$158,000. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I won't be defending Bob. Bromley that is, and for the record, I don't care how he feels, either. So the Premier doesn't have to think he's alone in that category.

But, Mr. Chairman, it should not go without saying, first I will make it clear I've gone on the record many occasions in support of decentralization of positions, but any type of position like this – and I've asked this in the past – I'd like to hear how we put it in the record of this office was evaluated and what type of outreach was extended to the

employees. I've always spoken to an employee perspective of when we uproot...

Mr. Chairman, I can't hear myself over Mrs. Groenewegen talking. Could you assist in chairing?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh!

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm coming at the perspective from the human angle and I've often said that any time we look at something we should always look to the communities first to see where we can bolster two or three. Ten or 20 new jobs in Yellowknife has not quite the same effect as it would in a regional community that needs those employment numbers, needs those investment dollars and needs that type of activity.

But what my question is really narrowed down to is what type of evaluation and incentives were offered to these employees to look at this transfer? I know this will be impacting four families and I'm very curious. As well, on the same token, were they offered packages, priority hiring status, et cetera, if they didn't want to take those positions? I assume they were given first right of refusal to consider to move to the great state of Hay River. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to what happens with affected employees in this case, and as a matter of course I'd ask the Minister of HR to just touch on some of the considerations that are given and efforts that are made to accommodate the affected employees in any particular circumstance, in this case the BIP.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have policies and procedures to support individuals who are affected in this capacity. They are put on a priority list and things like that. I can't say specifically what happened to these individuals because I'm not 100 percent familiar. But what I can do is commit to get for committee the details on what was done for these individuals and I will make sure Member Hawkins gets that detail as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Committee, I just want to remind Members here, we are dealing with infrastructure, we are dealing with the relocation of the office. Questions here today should be operational in need. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: No thanks, Mr. Chairman. I was more curious as to the human impact of this particular one. Minister Abernethy is more than happy to provide me with that type of response. That's all. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Economic diversification, not previously authorized, \$158,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Total department, not previously authorized, \$869,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Moving on to page 16, Environment and Natural Resources, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized \$123,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Environmental protection, not previously authorized, \$125,000. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a question with regard to this expenditure. It's \$125,000 for the purchase of equipment for one community with regard to automated beverage containers. Could I get an explanation as to what this project is and why it's designated for one community only? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for my distraction here. Are we talking automated beverage containers? Okay, it's for Hay River because Hay River is a major regional centre where a lot of the recycling flows through, and it's to assist and provide efficiencies both in dealing with the volume and being more accurate in terms of counting the recycled product. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I guess I'm wondering why this is for one community only. Is this equipment going to be available in other communities as well? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member is correct, and I apologize for not speaking to that point. It is a pilot to see if, in fact, the equipment performs to expectations. There are other places like Yellowknife and potentially Inuvik, but for sure Yellowknife that has a large volume as well. It is a pilot in Hay River. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a \$125,000 counter of cans and jars, I suppose. It seems like an awfully expensive piece of equipment here to be proliferating, especially to simply count the number of cans being recycled. I know we hired some consultant I have never heard of here to come up with that idea. I don't know what that cost us, but I'm pretty suspect about this.

I have had occasion to take recyclables out to the recycling location here for return on deposits. I

believe most of us do that in our own communities. The folks that are counting those do it lickety-split. With the glance of an eye, they can pick out an errant container that should not be in that category of container.

I've also had occasion, as probably several have, to work on fundraising efforts. I believe it's BHP or one of the mines that provides the opportunity to fundraising groups to receive all their recyclables for several months when they haul them out and do the sorting and whatnot. We found it was very efficient and accurate to simply weigh the bags of containers, once sorted, and very accurate, again, on the number of containers that were in those bags. I would suggest that simply coming up with appropriately sensitive weigh scales would be a lot cheaper and just as accurate in meeting the 99 percent accuracy or whatever is required.

I would ask the Minister, as he goes forward with this, to also test some more practical means of doing the work and maybe ask for some local innovative minds to focus in on coming up with a cheaper method of achieving the same result and giving them a chance to do that. I suppose that's a comment, but I'd welcome the Minister's insights into this one.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we proceed with the pilot, we will take into consideration the Member's comments. We have, in fact, been doing this now for quite a number of years, and I'm assuming... I know that the people that are in this business are looking for ways as we try to do more and more recycling and the volume goes in, and we're talking millions and millions and millions of containers, of efficient ways to do this. Part of the pilot will be looking at what we're now doing, which is basically the manual weighing things and that type of stuff, and the efficiency of this particular initiative, keeping in mind, as well, that this money is already there. It's been raised through the recycling program, but that fund is set up where we just have to get permission to spend that money that's been raised through this recycling program. But I take the Member's comments and we will be looking to consider those closely.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the Minister's comments. I disagree, though, that we should be spending the money in this way when I think the Minister is well aware that we need to be recycling more and more things. We've had a request and a commitment from the Minister to add all kinds of things to the things and to list of things that we are recycling that have not been done. To my mind, and I know to much of the public, that is the way we should be going with those funds that they have paid for recycling.

Another consideration, which I hear almost weekly, is that we should not be having an environmental tax on milk containers. People should not be paying for the environmental fee on milk containers. We want people to be providing milk to their kids so... A modest amount, probably about this much, but it would amount to a real benefit for our people.

I'd say there are lots of priorities for these dollars that are coming, our public dollars, as they support recycling.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'll take that more as a comment. Committee, environmental protection, not previously authorized, \$125,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Forest management, not previously authorized, \$607,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Wildlife, not previously authorized, \$292,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Total department, Environment and Natural Resources, not previously authorized, \$1.147 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Tabled Document 72-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Ms. Bisaro.

COMMITTEE MOTION 52-17(4):
CONCURRENCE OF
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 2,
2013-2014,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 72-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, be now concluded, and that Tabled document 72-17(4) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We're just going to be circulating that motion. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I will now rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of Whole

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 72-17(4), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2013-2014, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, that consideration of Tabled Document 72-17(4) is concluded, and that the House concur in those estimates and that an appropriation bill be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations at the rise of the House today.

Orders of the day for Friday, May 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.:

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

16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions

- Motion 14-17(4), Performance Audit of the Nutrition North Canada Program

18. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 11, Financial Administration and Public Agency Statutes (Borrowing Provisions) Amendment Act
- Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Curfew Act
- Bill 14, An Act to Repeal the Pawnbrokers and Second-Hand Dealers Act
- Bill 15, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act
- Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Justices of the Peace Act
- Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act
- Bill 18, Apology Act
- Bill 19, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013

19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, May 31st, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:49 p.m.