



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

4th Session

Day 35

17th Assembly

HANSARD

Monday, October 21, 2013

Pages 2985 – 3026

The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, October 21, 2013****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, 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. Please be seated. Ms. Bisaro.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon on a point of privilege. I would like to speak to a point of privilege from a quote by Mr. Menicoche on Friday, October 18th. I did wait for this opportunity to bring the point up. I wanted to check unedited Hansard. I will quote from unedited Hansard, page 35 from Friday, October 18th. Mr. Menicoche says, "Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The media was quick up that in the capital plan there's nothing for Yellowknife, and I'm glad." Laughter.

I think the Hansard crew may have missed out a couple of words. I think it should say, "The media was quick to pick up that in the capital plan there's nothing for Yellowknife, and I'm glad."

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am offended by the comment from my colleague. I would like to also say that my constituents are offended and all the constituents in Yellowknife. Almost 50 percent of the population of the NWT is here and I don't feel that that comment is one that they will take lightly.

In my view, this is against the very nature of our consensus government that we should be working together, and I don't believe that comment indicates that we are working together and I think I will find it difficult to ensure that we work together in the future.

There is a code of conduct which all Members signed when we were sworn in to the Assembly in October of 2011. I will just quote a couple of things from the code of conduct: "As a legislator, I will do my best to fulfill my duties to the Legislature, the public, my constituents and my colleagues, with integrity and honour. To the Legislature, I owe respect. To my colleagues, I owe fairness and respect for our differences." Those things, Mr. Speaker, I feel were contravened by the comment from Mr. Menicoche on Friday.

It's one thing for us as Members and it's well known that there is a bit of a competition, I guess, between Yellowknife and small communities, within the walls of this House and within the Legislature. It's one thing for us to make these comments when we are in private when we are speaking with two or three of our colleagues, or when we're in a committee meeting or a Cabinet meeting. It's quite another, Mr. Speaker, to say it publicly and that's what happened on Friday.

I think perhaps Mr. Menicoche was trying to be funny, but it was not funny. It was offensive. I would like to ask the Member to withdraw his remarks and to apologize to the Yellowknife residents of the NWT. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the point of privilege, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I take my role as MLA very seriously and when we are in the House, everything is certainly public, Mr. Speaker. But I do stand on my opinion on this matter. I regret that I have to stand in this House on a point of privilege by a Yellowknife Member and the community of Yellowknife because they were offended. I don't believe I said anything out of the ordinary and stand by my opinion, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately, of all the good work we are doing together, this is not a vision I would like to see for a voice from a small community, an MLA from a small community, to be asked to withdraw his view that Yellowknife has benefited from capital expenditures over the years and, indeed, this fiscal year being proposed. I am glad that here we have a unique situation that finally our regions and communities have a major share of capital expenditures. Certainly this is my opinion and I would venture to say the sentiment of many across our great Northwest Territories. People can't get everything all the time, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. I will allow some debate on the point of order. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I side with my colleague Ms. Bisaro in this discussion. As the Speaker knows, our Members' conduct also says we will promote the equality of all our people, distribute resources fairly and justly, and to the

public I owe the responsibility to work for the well-being of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

The Member has inferred that resources are unfairly distributed and that Yellowknife has over-benefitted. Now, he presented no data to back that up. There have been some summaries done, and I am willing to state that, in fact, on a per capita basis, there probably are more resources dedicated to those outside of Yellowknife, but that's neither here nor there.

We need to be standing up for all residents of the Northwest Territories equally. I also have constituents who are personally offended by that statement in the House on Friday, so I seek the same recourse as Ms. Bisaro and I refute the statements by the Member Mr. Menicoche. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the point of privilege. Any other comments? No comments?

My role on this point of privilege that has been raised is to determine whether or not this was at Ms. Bisaro's earliest convenience, which was today. Now that that point of privilege has occurred, I will take this under advisement. Ms. Bisaro and Mr. Menicoche, I will reply back to you Thursday afternoon.

I want to remind Members again, and I said it the other day, we have a unique way of dealing with business, being we are not in party politics, so we have to work together for the betterment of all the people of the Northwest Territories. We are here for them. Let's move forward.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 78-17(4): ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Accountability Framework for Community Governments is now complete. This framework will be an important tool that will allow MACA and community government stakeholders to better coordinate our working relationship based on defined indicators that measure the health and success of community governments.

It builds on the New Deal and emphasizes the importance of responsible and responsive community governments. It provides tools, in the form of standardized key indicators and checklists to ensure they are being met, that community governments can use to assess their performance and determine what support they need.

When community governments find areas where they need help, MACA will work with them to build

capacity to deliver programs and services to their residents.

Reporting completed through the framework will help community governments anticipate problems early on. They can also use the data and reporting format to communicate with residents about their progress and successes. That information will also help the department in setting priorities for programs and training to community governments, and will play an important role in our business and strategic planning.

The department has regularly consulted and worked with partners at the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories.

These partner groups were invaluable in helping us refine the framework to ensure it meets the needs of community government stakeholders, so I would like to thank them for their continued assistance.

With the framework completed, we will be working with community governments on implementation. Municipal and Community Affairs staff will be delivering three regional workshops, starting in November. We want our stakeholders to know how to use the framework and how we will support them if they are having challenges carrying out their responsibilities. We are hiring new assistant regional superintendents in all regions to support community governments in the implementation of the Accountability Framework.

Good governance at the local level is integral to building sustainable, vibrant and safe communities. Through this framework, we will continue to provide community governments with the tools and support they need to respond to community priorities and manage their responsibilities effectively. We look forward to strengthening our relationships with community governments and remaining active, supportive partners.

Copies of the framework will be distributed to all Members of the Legislative Assembly in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POWER GENERATION NET METERING PROGRAM

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NTPC standby charge has acted as an effective barrier for those who wish to install solar panels or any other forms of alternative energy.

Over the last five years, customers who generated power to their own homes using alternative energy were forced to pay a standby rate based on their generating capacity. I am pleased to say because of the hard work of Regular Members on this side of the House, as of October 1st of this year this standby charge was removed.

We also heard this summer that NTPC drafted a proposal for the new net metering program. Net metering allows customers to use NTPC's system to bank their power back onto the grid so they can use a credit at a later time of the year. Originally, Cabinet presented this as a thermal zone project only. However, there is a ray of sunshine out there that consensus government is appearing to work, as Cabinet responded to Regular Members' early input on this and, as a result, standby charges are now gone and residents of both thermal- and hydro-zoned communities are now eligible to participate in this program.

It is good that Cabinet and NTPC are listening as all our communities, not just thermal zones, operate diesel generators and collectively we all pay that much more for it, both in terms of our pocketbooks and our environment.

Northerners are very interested in using alternative forms of energy. We see and feel our power bills and heating costs. We understand how destructive fossil fuel extraction is to our environment, communities and our future, and it's long past time that we adopt real efficiencies and reduce our ecological footprint.

Net metering is a great opportunity for Northerners to think globally and act locally. Customers who have the gumption to install their own solar and wind generators should get full credit for what they produce, as similar initiatives have paved the way in other parts of the world. The Northwest Territories should not rest on their laurels now. We should be pushing the envelope even further to stay ahead of the pack when it comes to incentives for renewable energy.

Power rates are only going to go up, and customers throughout the Northwest Territories need some relief. The majority of us who want to install self-generating power systems are simple wage earners, taxpayers, and supporters of our local economy. A photovoltaic system, or PV for short, or any form of generation unit involves a significant outlay of cash. More people would be willing to make that investment if they knew it would pay for itself a little more each month and make an immediate difference to their power bill.

Not everyone will, or can, subscribe to this program, but those who do, this government needs to give them all the credit they deserve. They are not only doing something for themselves, they're also benefiting their communities, the environment,

and the common good of all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TROUT LAKE SCHOOL

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As previously mentioned in this House in many of my Member's statements, the people of Trout Lake need a stand-alone school.

Officially known as Charles Tetcho School, the school is currently housed in a multi-purpose building. The building is also used as a community hall. The school portion essentially consists of a single classroom. For the number of students, the school is overcrowded and the facilities are inadequate. The Minister of Education has toured the school with me, so he has witnessed the problems firsthand.

Trout Lake has grown in size in recent years and school enrollment has grown with it. Enrollment is expected to remain steady, or even increase in the coming years.

In terms of the quality of school facilities, there's a wide discrepancy between urban centres and small communities. This is simply unfair.

All students deserve a quality education facility, regardless of where they live. These concerns should be considered in light of the department's explicit and well-publicized objective to eliminate the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. The community is reaching out for help. As the MLA responsible for Trout Lake, I'm also seeking support from colleagues and decision-makers.

One proposed option is to expand the school portion within the community complex. However, that would limit space for community activities. I am pleased to say, since then there has been agreement by the community to increase the area being used by the school, but once again it means less community space for local programming.

This is like a band-aid remedy. Upgrades don't address the fundamental problems. The school isn't large enough and it has no room for future growth. By the year 2018 there will probably be improvements to the school infrastructure, but we have no assurance of that. In any case, five years is too long a wait.

A planning study should be undertaken for a stand-alone school. Residents are not asking for a super-school, only for a school that will begin to level the playing field for Trout Lake residents and students. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ANTI-BULLYING PROVISIONS
IN THE EDUCATION ACT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government Department of Education, Culture and Employment has brought forward amendments to the Education Act, in response to a motion passed by this House almost two years ago, February of 2012. I'm very pleased that the government took notice of the request from Regular Members and subsequently took action to bring legislation forward. I do have concerns, however, with the legislation that's presented.

Bullying is an issue throughout our society. It is not confined to our education system and our schools. As stated by an expert on bullying from Simon Fraser University, dealing with the problem requires politicians to not develop a one-size-fits-all approach.

Bullying perhaps affects our youth the most, but it occurs in our workplaces, as well, and it occurs both in and outside our schools. This legislation and these proposed amendments to the Education Act deal only with schools and should be considered nothing more than a start to combating bullying. It's also recognized by experts and non-experts alike that legislation cannot be the only action we take to combat bullying. Members of this House recognized it in the motion we passed. It calls for the GNWT to "establish a territory-wide campaign to denounce bullying, including cyber-bullying, and to provide information and resources for schools, parents, victims and bystanders." If we approve this bill amending our Education Act, it will have no effect unless we also run a significant awareness campaign.

In early August of this year, Nova Scotia's cyber-bullying legislation came into effect. Even the Nova Scotia Justice Minister acknowledged "that this law and this legislation we put forward here isn't the panacea for this issue."

The question is often asked, and is as yet unanswered, can cyber-bullying laws really work. I say not on their own they can't. To be effective, in addition to legislation, they must also have an awareness and education campaign. More importantly, we must have programs to address the root causes of bullying. There must be help for the victim, of course, but there must be help for the bully and his or her family as well.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we will not be effective in our battle to defeat bullies unless we develop broader legislation, legislation which addresses bullying wherever it occurs in our society, at school, at work, at home or at play.

I am glad the Minister of Education brought forward these amendments, but they must be considered as

a first step towards combating bullying, not the last one. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING TOUR TO
SASKATCHEWAN AND NORTH DAKOTA

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I joined the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and colleagues in a recent tour of the fracking fields of Saskatchewan and North Dakota. We were joined by leaders from the Sahtu, as well as ITI and ENR staff. We learned a lot and I am pleased that there is much interest from the public and the media in hearing our impressions.

I was invited, this past weekend, to speak to a local chapter of the Council of Canadians and a group of concerned citizens during an organized global day event of protest against fracking. Titled "Global Frack-Down," the event called for a ban on fracking because people think it is inherently unsafe. It included gatherings of concerned citizens in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, and 26 states and many communities across Canada. Obviously, people who have questions on fracking should not feel alone. Many countries and regions have banned the practice.

Fracking is not banned in North Dakota. Our tour was busy and informative, with meetings from morning until night with industry, regulators, legislators and First Nations. It was also very one-sided, with little on the environmental and social side. Granted, it takes specific direction to find and hear such perspectives.

Consider these examples: Though North Dakota has over 800 open produced water pits, we did not visit one. We did not hear about them, nor did we learn about the 25 percent that overflowed, with an abnormally high rainfall event this spring.

We visited the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The leaders were hospitable and informative, but there was no mention of the fracked well blowout on the reserve last winter which sprayed oil and unknown fracking chemicals into the air and into Lake Sakakawea, part of the Missouri River.

Local media and even inspectors covered that one up. Nobody wanted to get in the way of the oil companies who are making billions, but also paying the reservation \$25 million per month and climbing.

Finally, while on our tour, one of the largest ever oil spills on U.S. soil was happening in the area and no one mentioned a thing about it.

I would like to get into my concluding paragraph, so I seek unanimous consent from my colleagues to complete my statement. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: Though one-sided, many people spoke candidly, saying look out, there is a freight train barreling down on us. They have been overwhelmed with the demands of fracking put on local infrastructure and they said you must get prepared ahead of time. This means hundreds of millions of dollars for the installation of pipelines for oil, for gas, to supply fresh water and to take away the dirty water, a permanent network of roads, housing for big influxes of workers, and so on.

I am doing a little mini-series on fracking, so I will be continuing on this subject. As I said, we learned a lot and I will have more to share on this in the coming days. I will have questions for the Minister. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CLOSURE OF NATS'EJEE K'EH
TREATMENT CENTRE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk today about the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre, which used to operate on the K'atlodeeche First Nation just across the river from Hay River.

Some of my colleagues have referred to this in the House already, and this weekend I had an opportunity to read a post on Facebook, which said, "Where are the Hay River MLAs? Why aren't they saying something about it?" So this is my chance today to say something about it.

I thought I had already said some things about it. I have already met with the deputy minister and Mr. Andrew Langford, who came down to Hay River to meet with our local Metis government. I had spoken to the mayor and council about this. I spoke with the Chamber of Commerce about this, but I guess I haven't spoken in a place where everybody could hear what I have to say on the record. That is why I take this opportunity today in my Member's statement to talk about it.

I was there in the beginning of the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre. I was at the airport when I saw Pat Martel, John Pollard and a group of people all off on a mission to lobby the Government of the Northwest Territories to build a treatment centre on the Hay River Reserve. So, I have been there kind of from the beginning.

The Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre was the vision of a group of people, and some of these folks had been serving on the board up until very recently. A lot of the vision of that treatment centre

revolved around a spiritual, cultural, traditional approach to addressing addictions. That was well and good. The building was built to reflect that as well. It did serve its purpose for many years, but things change and things evolve. The facility became unionized. It is a strange piece of infrastructure in that it is a GNWT-owned facility located on a reserve, managed by a health authority some 600 kilometres away in Fort Simpson that does fall under the Deh Cho Health Authority. It was a bit of a strange anomaly as it was managed.

Things, as I say, do evolve. Addiction evolved. The facility evolved. Addictions now, if you can believe pictures on Facebook, have the ability to give people flesh-eating and bone-eating disease, if you can believe that; but things have really changed. A lot of the vision of the original forerunners on this project was not deliverable at this facility. The Department of Health and Social Services...

Could I have unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: The cultural and traditional diversity of many of our regions in the territory also came into play, because you can't just take one set of cultural practices and traditions and apply it to everybody who is supposed to come to a territorial facility on the Hay River Reserve, so that caused some issues as well.

The facility is closed. The contract has ended. For the record, I did not appreciate not knowing about it, because there were many people who are from Hay River who worked there. I didn't appreciate that.

However, it is now a new day. It is time to move on. It is time to work with the government and the department to find out what that facility can be re-profiled as, and to look at the many good recommendations of the Minister's Forum on Addictions and find out how we can best use those resources to address a very, very challenging need in our territory, that of addictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
STANDING COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the short time that I have been here, two years, the time has flown by so fast. One of the practices that we do within one of our committees is that of public accounts. The NWT doesn't actually have a public accounts committee, and that responsibility goes to

the Government Operations committee of the Northwest Territories.

In March of 2013, this past year, we had the opportunity of having a public accounts practice with the Comptroller General of the NWT, where we sit down and we go through the consolidated and non-consolidated reports for the GNWT, where it really comes down to the financial accountability of the Northwest Territories and how dollars are spent within this government. It was almost a practice that was done backwards, where we did the public accounts practice after we approved a main estimates budget and operations budget for the GNWT. That needs to be addressed on a better situation within this government.

Members of the Government Operations committee had the opportunity over the last year and a half since we have been elected into this House, to go and get some training, to go to these conferences and meet with public accounts committee members whose sole job is to keep the government accountable. It was an eye-opener for me as a new legislator, and I'm sure it was an eye-opener for a lot of members from the Government Operations committee who were able to attend this conference.

What it comes down to is we have to do things better within this government. It talks about being accountable for the dollars that this government spends, but doing it in a practice where we get the reports before we make the decisions on how these dollars are spent. Usually, like I said, what we've seen is that it has kind of been a backwards practice after we have approved the dollars. Sometimes you go and say, well wait, this department didn't spend their dollars properly. What we've also got to do is, in the future, not only question the Comptroller General, but we've got to start looking at bringing more witnesses to the table. I know this government has contribution agreements with district education authorities, health authorities, Aurora College, all these organizations, where we give them millions and millions of dollars without seeing the programs and how those dollars are spent.

I commend the work that the Government Operations committee has done, and continue to support the work that they do in bringing all departments and witnesses forward to make sure that our dollars are spent wisely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like my colleague Mr. Bromley, I too wish to speak about fracking and concerns that continue to march on.

We've recently seen the uprising and the protest in New Brunswick. Even across the three territories, we saw marching of Northerners expressing their views. I always welcome the views, both those I obviously support and, of course, I always welcome the views that I don't necessarily agree with. It gives me a chance to learn all sides of the equation.

Although I have yet to find the point where I make up my mind whether I fully will support hydraulic fracturing or not, I will tell you that this government needs to ensure that we develop good policy that enshrines every bit of protection to Northerners and northern landscapes into regulation long before we let any more fracking happen.

We must not march forward with the momentum of opportunity and forget about what damage we can cause. Things to think about are well integrity, from the design to the construction to the testing. We must make sure these things are considered in the public policy design. Chemicals going in... We've often heard about the registry that talks about making sure that everyone knows what chemicals are used. Often you'll hear the saying from the industry, "Well geez, that's everything in the kitchen that you'll find underneath your sink." Well, I can tell you, I'm not going to drink some of the stuff under my kitchen sink, and I can tell you most Northerners will be skeptical about how safe it is as well.

Fracking fluid can come in many forms, be it water, oil or gas, but whatever fracking mechanism we choose to use as Northerners, if we choose this to happen, let it be chosen by Northerners, not by the industry.

When we were in Saskatchewan on the fracking tour, we heard from their chemical engineers about making sure that you're well aware that it's not just the chemicals that come out of the ground that are pumped out, but how do they change over time; time, pressure and heat. These are all consequential things that happen that not a lot of people put a lot of concern behind. Quality of water, quantity of water, full disclosure, things like safe disposal of all chemicals. There cannot ever be enough monitoring of these types of things.

Although time is marching on for my Member's statement today, I will tell you time should not march ahead of us on this particular problem. We must heed the words given by Stephen Covey, which is, "Let us begin with the end in mind." So if Northerners want fracking, Northerners accept fracking, make sure it happens the way Northerners want it. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CLOSURE OF NATS'EJEE K'EH
TREATMENT CENTRE

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, the scope of addictions and problems are widely known. It's practically an epidemic. That is disgraceful.

In our territory, 32 percent of residents are heavy drinkers, a figure twice the national average. Alcohol and drug-related hospitalizations are widespread and expensive. Beyond frequent hospitalizations for extreme detoxification, there are injuries from falls and physical violence, and longer-term conditions such as liver disease, heart disease and stroke. Eighty-five percent of crimes are related to alcohol or drug abuse. The courts are congested and the jails are filled. It boggles the mind to consider the social and financial costs.

[English translation not provided.]

Our people keep demanding better service, and rightly so. They should not have to fly south for residential treatment. They should receive care from specially trained alcohol and drug workers, not generic mental health workers. Their option should extend to on-the-land treatment programs.

I know I am not the only one tired of seeing the government take baby steps or even backward steps. What is needed is a giant leap forward. With the right kind of help, our people can heal from addictions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PASSING OF SAHTU RESIDENT
WILFRED HENRY MCDONALD

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An elder said, sometimes you just gotta live. That elder was Wilfred Henry McDonald. With the passing of this elder, over the past weekend I had the opportunity to go to the Sahtu and be with the people in the Sahtu, in Fort Good Hope, Deline, Colville Lake, Tulita and Norman Wells, in honouring the wisdom of our elders who lived on our land.

The Sahtu came together this past weekend because of the generosity and the wisdom of Wilfred Henry McDonald, in paying their last respects to this elder.

Wilfred Henry McDonald was born on July 17, 1935, to Ernest Roy McDonald and Cecilia Karkagee at Good Hope Bay on the shores of Great Bear Lake. His younger life was spent there with his parents and siblings. They harvested and trapped the land. During the summers he and his

family spent time in Tulita, visiting with family and friends.

Wilfred had a big heart and a winning smile. He lived on the land for 27 years. He was a skilled bushman, carpenter and gardener. When you go to Oscar Creek, you will see why I say these words. Wilfred lived there. He lived a simple life. Culture is the key to our survival as people, and Wilfred lived this culture all his life. He loved living on the banks of the Mackenzie River close to Oscar Creek. This was his kingdom. He marked his area out with carving "W" on the trees around his cabin so he could tell people that this was his territory.

Like I said, there were many people who came for the family of Wilfred, and the family is very appreciative of the Sahtu kindness. They say that when one passes away, you see the wealth of one's life by the number of people who showed up to say thank you to Wilfred.

On behalf of myself, the family and the Sahtu, we thank you, Wilfred, for keeping our lives rich with your stories, and the culture strong by continuing living in the bush as a true bushman in the Sahtu.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PASSING OF JUSTIN JOHN CATHOLIQUE

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to send my deepest condolences to the family and friends of the late Justin John Catholique of Lutselk'e.

Justin passed away in his home on July 25th of this year. A funeral service was held in his memory on August 3rd.

Justin was born October 11, 1981. He was only 32 years old. Justin attended Lutselk'e Dene School, also participating in training programs offered in the community for small periods of time, where he learned valuable skills such as small engines and mechanics.

Justin lived in his own log house across from his father. He was a loving, caring, hardworking, natural mechanic. He did not have an opportunity to marry or have children, yet he provided for his nieces and nephews by helping take care of them and he loved them very much.

Justin was a natural hunter and trapper. When winter came, he was always ready to set traps and go hunting. He was always ready to share with the elders and the community. He lived in the bush for periods of time, sometimes all winter. Justin also participated in community hunts and assisted students when they went out on the land on school trips. He taught students valuable bush skills and how to survive on the land. He spoke Denesoline

language fluently and always spoke Denesoline to his people.

Justin was predeceased by his grandmother, the late Annie Catholique; and grandfather, Gerome Catholique, both of Lutselk'e. The late Annie Catholique was famous for her midwifery skills and delivered many children during her time. Justin is survived by his father, Charlie Catholique; his mother, Verna Catholique; and siblings Shawn, Sheldon, Shawna and Jeremy.

Again, I pass my deepest condolences on to Justin's father, mother, brothers, sisters and many nieces, who Justin loved very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Thoughts and prayers go to the McDonald and Catholique families from the Assembly. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Beaulieu.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to acknowledge a group of fourth year Bachelor of Science Nursing Program students and their instructor, Ms. Jodi Brennan, from Aurora College. Please welcome to the gallery the following nursing students: Kendall Gall, Kyla Larocque, Jocelyn Apps, Valisa Aho, Sasha Budd, Merrill Cooper, Axelle Kearnan-Carbonneau, Lori-Ann King, Violca Memedi, Lindsay Ohrling, Megan Paul, Carolyn Ridgely, Diedralee Roy and Tanya Silke.

Nursing is a valuable profession in the Northwest Territories, and I hope each student will find a rewarding career in one of our health authorities. I wish you all the very best in your continued studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Kyla Larocque. Mr. Beaulieu just recognized her. Kyla just got married in April. Welcome to the gallery. I wish you and your colleagues best of luck as you pursue your nursing careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome a resident from our community of Inuvik, Kyla Larocque, and congratulate her on her studies and the fourth year of nursing. All the fourth year Bachelor of Science nursing students, welcome and good luck in your studies. I look forward to having you as part of the working force of the GNWT in the future. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. I would like to welcome everybody here in the public gallery today. Thank you for taking an interest. To the fourth year students, thank you for doing what you are doing, because you are going to be helping a lot of people in the future. Thank you so much.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 341-17(4): HYDRAULIC FRACTURING POLICY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to use the occasion today to ask questions to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I understand that the department is developing a fracking policy, or I should say potentially developing a policy on hydraulic fracking here in the Northwest Territories.

Before we ask specifics about the policy, when will a policy be developed so Members can see it? Is the Minister committed to bringing this policy public at the same time so all members of our territory can have a look at it as to what the government is thinking along the lines of this initiative? This way we can help diagnose if this is an initiative that Northerners want and under what type of conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has been working on a guidance document in a draft form. Initially we started with encouragement from the committee. We have worked with the regulator. We have come up with the draft copy that is now on its way to committee. It is going to capture some of the best practices that we think are critical as we look at the use of unconventional hydraulic fracking that has taken place in the territory and where we anticipate in the central Mackenzie and the Sahtu, it's going to be a practice that is going to have to be managed carefully. We've worked to come up with that, and that will be going to committee. We'll be awaiting committee feedback, after which we will make the draft document public and we'll also be sharing with industry for their feedback. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: On the recent hydraulic fracturing tour that Member Bromley referenced, that we had gone with the Minister and many others, we had heard from Saskatchewan officials, one in particular – I believe he was a bioengineer of some sort or a biochemist – and he put great emphasis on the quality of the water being used and the fact that they're not monitoring the fracking fluids that go in and come out. In their case, yes, they agreed that

they go in and then much of it comes out, but they don't know where it goes after that.

I suggested, well, why don't we put tracers or markers in these things so we have what's called quality assurance programming, so we know what's happening, and when something does happen, we can trace it back to where the problem is. But the way it stands in Saskatchewan, nobody knows.

I guess my question, if I may sort of pull it together, is simply this: What type of quality assurance monitoring programs will be developed in this fracking policy, and has the policy looked hard enough to ensure that the water monitoring and quality assurance is there, to ensure Northerners are safe and protected? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As I've indicated, this guidance document, in draft form, has been worked on for quite some time and we are specifically sending it to committee for their review and their feedback. So we're not in the position, since the Member hasn't seen the document yet, to have that discussion.

It is on its way to committee and we will look forward to having that feedback and discussion with them on a go-forward basis. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the Minister's answer. I think what's important here today in the dialogue, are these are some of the concerns we're going to build on, and certainly we want Northerners to give us feedback.

Earlier today it was talked about the Bakken. There was a rupture in the pipeline and 20,000 barrels of crude had spilled. For two weeks no one was informed. That was almost the exact same time this study tour was there.

One of the things that had arisen when we were in Alberta last year, talking to the BC regulators and the Alberta regulators, is about full disclosure of information.

I ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources: Is there a context being considered about a public registry to ensure full disclosure of information from the start to the finish, be it accidents or chemicals or process, to ensure that the public is fully aware what's happening? I'm going to ask him, are they contemplating a public registry.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we have pulled together a guidance document that captures best practices, and we are looking forward to the feedback from committee, once they've had a chance to review it. It contains a whole host of such practices and we will look forward to whatever advice they can give us. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing a point that this is going to be before committee and it's tough for the Minister to answer all the questions, the one thing I would notice is clear contrast between North Dakota and even Saskatchewan, in this case, and the Northwest Territories is public land ownership versus private land ownership. One of the things they can't seem to get control of is pace of development. It seems they're in such a hurry to get it out of the ground, and it's focused around the interests of these oil companies.

My question for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources is: What type of mechanisms does he envision to help us control the pace of development, so if this is the path we choose, we go at a northern pace designed around what Northerners want and definitely what Northerners expect? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have, and we are going to be taking over April 1st, a lot of the authorities through the Devolution Agreement. We have an environmental assessment process that is in place. There are further regulatory adjustments being made. We have a close working relationship with the Aboriginal governments across the Northwest Territories, especially in the Sahtu where this oil play is taking place.

As a government, we have a stated commitment as we go forward, to this balance between economic development and protecting the environment, which we hold very clear as a priority. So when you combine all of those things and we're going to work with committee on feedback on this guidance document, for example, I think we have the pieces in place to manage this development as we have managed other developments in the past effectively, and we have learned very clearly from some of the things that have happened in the past; for example, some of the other mining developments. As it comes to oil and gas, we are working very diligently to make sure we're prepared and ready. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 342-17(4):
POWER GENERATION
NET METERING PROGRAM

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as a complement to my Member's statement earlier today on net metering and what huge opportunity this has portrayed with Northerners to think globally and to really act locally. We have an opportunity here as a government to make sure that those customers who have taken this risk, that they get full benefit of their investments, and in doing so, we have an opportunity as a government to make sure that we are staying ahead of the pack with

incentives and opportunities for those people who deal with self-generation power initiatives.

My questions today are for the Minister who is in charge of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. To the Minister: Do we know what the actual kilowatt credit dollar amount will be for customers that NTPC will give back to residents that want to put electricity back onto the grid and will there be any difference between a thermal or a hydro zone? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Minister responsible for NWT Power, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent is to provide a reimbursement of the retail rate for the kilowatt hour alternative energy that's generated and supplied back to the grid. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. So, what we're hearing from the Minister is we're going to be giving a retail rate back. I guess to put things in perspective, how close is that to the production costs to us as an organization to this rate? Is there a difference, or is the retail rate pretty close to what it would cost to produce that rate? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. If the Member is interested, we can pull together what we think the cost will be on a community-by-community basis for the two zone bases, the thermal zone and the hydro zone. But clearly it's not going to be the full cost that the Power Corporation has to pay to generate hydro, so the retail rate would be different. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I welcome that information. I'm sure Members of the committee would recommend that it get that as well.

It is documented in some jurisdictions that net metering credits that customers receive are sometimes in the order of two to three times higher than the standard kilowatt base rate, or we heard today is retail rate. Was this something that was discussed as an opportunity, as an incentive for people to put money into solar power? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The rate of power already has a significant subsidy from the government. In addition, we have a significant number of rebate programs that are encouraging people to invest in alternative energy, be it biomass, solar, even wind, buying new stoves, buying the equipment that they need to get engaged in the production of the alternative energy. But there's no other specific subsidy that's attached to this net metering. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what we're trying to do here is think of ways or

incentives so that we can entice those people to start making the investment, because it is very expensive and we do appreciate the money that we do give. But has the GNWT talked about any other type of financial incentives to go alongside what is currently available federally, as potentially consumer-friendly loans, remissible grants, tax credits, or even rewards programs for those who want to take advantage of the self-power opportunities? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. When net metering was initially looked at, the focus was to entice and encourage folks in the thermal community, where the costs are very, very significantly higher than the hydro zone. We've built this array of supports, but the issue of the taxation, of loans, those types of things have not been considered. We have to wait and see how it works in the hydro zone where we'll, in effect, be exchanging one type of renewable energy for another as opposed to the thermal zone where we know we're going to be replacing diesel with solar or wind, whatever other alternative energy is used. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 343-17(4): ANTI-BULLYING PROVISIONS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my questions today to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I want to follow up on my statement where I talked about the amendments to the Education Act. I stated in my statement that the issue of bullying and cyber-bullying is not just an issue that belongs within the Education department or within our schools. It is a societal issue.

I'd like to know from the Minister whether or not – albeit I'm glad that we have these amendments going forward – the Minister and or other departments within the government are considering plans for other legislation. I'd like to ask the Minister how he intends to address bullying in the workplace, for instance. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Since there was a request by the standing committee of this Legislative Assembly, we've initiated our own research and conducted various analyses, and I'll say engaged the general public, as well, and also the standing committee went out to seek information and input from the general public. The legislation and Safe Schools Plan have been developed through this process. It is an area

that pertains to my Education portfolio, where we're going to be amending our Education Act.

When we talk about territorial-wide, it's beyond my mandate. What we're focusing on is the Education Act alone because it pertains to the schools and the teachers that we're responsible for. If it's beyond the other departments, I'm working closely with the Justice department, as well, if that's the case, to initiate the process. We are working closely with the standing committee on those changes as we move forward. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I didn't hear an answer to my question there, except I think it was a no. But the Minister said that the amendments that have been developed are dealing with stuff that falls within his department, but I'm sure that this issue was discussed at Cabinet before the amendments were brought forward. So I still put the question out there: How is this government going to address workplace bullying, because it does exist there, and how is this government going to address bullying that happens outside of our schools?

One of the things that is quite evident when you look at the literature around bullying, is that bullying is the result of a problem; that an individual has a difficulty, that they have run into some kind of maybe it's a mental health issue or another issue, and it needs to be addressed. The root causes of bullying are something which are not really spoken about.

I'd like to ask the Minister what are in the plans of the Education department if these amendments are passed. What are the plans of the department to address the root causes for victims, for bullies and for bystanders? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. This is, I believe, in my view, a gradual step towards dealing with the bullying issue in our schools. Also, working with the Justice department, because the Justice department works closely with the federal government, whether it be the cyber-bullying, there's other legislation within the Justice department that we need to work closely with.

At the same time, in 2003 we established the NWT Safe Schools Working Group that consists of DEAs, DEC's, NWTTA, MACA, the Human Rights Commission, Health and Social Services and Justice. This is an active committee that is engaged when we talk about the whole legislation. Also, the territorial Safe Schools Action Plan has been developed through this process. So, if we're talking beyond the schools, then that's out of my mandate. My mandate is to deal with the Education Act and make some amendments to that, and I need to work closely with the Justice department when we talk about other department jurisdictions, because we have to deal with the Human Resource department as well. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I am, unfortunately, dismayed to hear the Minister say, not in my backyard. I would hope that he, as a Minister, that if bullying is important to him, that he would push it with the other Ministers and bring forward some legislation to address the bigger issue of bullying.

One of the things, though, that was in the motion which the House passed in February of 2012, part of the motion spoke to an education and awareness campaign. It was asked for and it was intended to be territory-wide.

I would like to ask the Minister what plans are in place to put in place an education and awareness campaign on bullying and cyber-bullying. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: To deal with the bullying in schools, it is very important to us. We need to eliminate the bullying in schools. As the Minister responsible for Education, it is very important to me.

With respect to the media, how we are going to correspond and the communications plan for education awareness, we are moving forward on those action plans. We need to develop communication tools so we can work with the DEC's, MACA, the Justice department, Health and Social Services and other departments that are responsible for their part in this as well. We are doing what we can to deal with the bullying in our schools and also in our communities. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Colleagues, before we go on today, I would like to recognize Mr. Gerald Gerrand in our House today, our Conflict of Interest Commissioner, who is in the gallery with us today. Welcome, Mr. Gerrand.

---Applause

And with him is Mr. David Jones of Edmonton. Welcome to the Assembly, Mr. Jones.

---Applause

Thank you. Final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for his response. Unfortunately, I didn't hear in there that we have plans for a territorial-wide campaign to educate not just the schools but the people outside the schools, parents, people in the workplace and so on.

I would like to ask the Minister, he says that there is a communications plan being developed, he talked about a couple of other things that are being developed, I would like to know from the Minister when we can see this communications plan or awareness plan or whatever it is going to be. When are we going to see that rolling out? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. When it comes to bullying, we have to hear from the students, so we are developing an awareness

campaign that will give a voice to the students themselves, and also speaking about the truth and the hurt involved when people are bullied. So these are some of the areas that we are moving forward on, on awareness. With respect to dates, I will have to get back to the Member on the exact date that it will be distributed.

Again, we are working with different departments and different organizations, because when we talk about bullying, it is very broad, so we are moving forward on this through our Education Act amendments. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 344-17(4):
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING
EDUCATION SESSIONS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. I was just informed this morning that ITI is putting on fracking education workshops in Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope this afternoon and tomorrow. These workshops have been, apparently, planned for a long time and yet I have just learned of them today.

I am wondering what role the Ministers of the Environment and Education might have had in developing these workshops. I am wondering: Could the Minister please explain the purpose of these education sessions? Mahsi.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a lot of misinformation out there when it comes to hydraulic fracturing, and the Northwest Territories is no different.

It has been suggested many times that we do more community meetings and workshops when it comes to hydraulic fracturing. At the suggestion of the community of Fort Good Hope, who wanted a third-party workshop to be set up in the communities in the Sahtu – the Member mentioned the communities of Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope – this week. We are also hoping to have meetings take place in Deline and also Tulita. The meeting in Fort Good Hope, folks from Colville Lake will be brought in to that meeting, as well, this week.

It is not a sales pitch by industry. It is being carried out by a third party, a neutral third party. The Indian Resources Council will be delivering the workshop. The more education we can do on the hydraulic fracturing here in the Northwest Territories, the better off we will be.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is fully committed to ensuring people have all the information when it comes to hydraulic

fracturing here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that response. The Indian Resource Council, of course, is a group that represents oil-producing First Nations. It is not likely that we will get a balanced view from them either. I know that ConocoPhillips is a partner in presenting these workshops, according to the Minister's information.

Fracking will have wide-ranging impacts in the Northwest Territories, but I totally agree that it is important for the people of the Sahtu to learn more about what is being planned for their region. It is their land and communities that will be most affected, but in looking at the agenda and speakers, I see that the one-sided tour we had in North Dakota is continuing in the Sahtu.

Could the Minister please explain why the people hired to conduct these sessions are all representatives of oil producers, and how the people of the Sahtu are supposed to make informed decisions when they are not being given the full story? I admit it takes effort to get everybody to the table, all perspectives to the table. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We needed a neutral third party, and I have to disagree with Mr. Bromley's assertion that the Indian Resources Council is not a neutral third party. They were brought in at the request of the community of Fort Good Hope and the leadership in the community of Fort Good Hope. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I understand that the oil companies are hoping to make a lot of money from fracking in the Sahtu, so they can afford to pay for educational workshops and make everything look so rosy, but the government's role here is to make sure that people have the best information.

Can the Minister confirm that GNWT funds were used to pay for these workshops and that similar funding is available to bring in people who are not industry lobbyists? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment would have helped communities fund these workshops that have been much anticipated in the Sahtu. For a detailed breakdown of costs and who is paying for what, I will make a commitment today to get the Member that information. Certainly, we have been looking for partners to help pay for these workshops. That is how we have gone about this, is partnerships, and if that's with industry and communities, that's how we are going to continue to pursue getting people the education that they need when it comes to making an informed decision about hydraulic fracturing here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do appreciate that the people of the Sahtu and the people of the Northwest Territories need to be better informed about fracking. We need to consider the economic, social and environmental benefits very carefully.

When will the people of the Sahtu and NWT have an opportunity to hear about the social and environmental impacts and make informed decisions about what is best for their communities? Will the Minister sponsor a public forum on fracking that will include balanced information on both the positive and negative potential impacts? Mahsi.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Anything we do in that regard would have to be done in conjunction with my colleague Minister Miltenberger, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and we would certainly look at getting the information out there. If it is hosting another community education symposium or workshop, call it what you will, that is what we want to see happen. We need to continue to get the misinformation off of the table and the real facts put squarely on the table. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 345-17(4):
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING POLICY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment on the hydraulic fracturing in the Sahtu.

We have certainly heard Members from this side talk about going into the Bakken and seeing the activity. In North Dakota there were guns blazing toward hydraulic fracturing, so I want to ask the Minister in regards to what we saw in southeastern Saskatchewan and in North Dakota. What are some of the big differences between what is happening there and what potentially could happen in the Sahtu in regards to the jurisdictions and regulations?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, what we heard resoundingly in both southeastern Saskatchewan and North Dakota is that if people could do it all over again, they have the ability to plan and get ready for the development. That is what we have here. We have an opportunity. We have some time on our side. There is an application here to hopefully drill and frack two wells this coming winter here in the Northwest Territories.

I believe we can balance protecting the environment with advancing the economy here in the Northwest Territories and getting people the jobs and opportunities that they require. We have to have an economy here. It is going to be, one way or

another, born out of resource extraction, whether it is oil and gas or whether it's mining. We can plan and we can prepare ourselves. I think that is what we have certainly on our side here. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, certainly I said earlier, I was in Norman Wells over the weekend and people there are ready to go to work. They know what fracking could come to if we don't do it properly. They know the work is there and they are willing to work and there's excitement in the region. Certainly, there are issues that Members have talked about that we need to look at.

I want to ask the Minister in regards to doing it properly, doing it right and doing the best they can. We have an opportunity to work in this area here. Is the Minister working closely with the National Energy Board since they will become one of our key authorities on hydraulic fracking, that we can do it properly in the Sahtu with the National Energy Board?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, we probably have some of the most stringent regulatory requirements in North America here in the Northwest Territories. Nothing is going to happen unless it is regulated. Certainly after devolution, we will have a regulatory authority here in the Northwest Territories. It remains to be seen exactly how that is going to look. We continue to work towards that.

I want to give the Member and others the assurance that this is not going to be the Wild West with wells being drilled everywhere. We don't have the issues that they have in North Dakota with a myriad of different land owners and land tenure arrangements. It is pretty straightforward here in the Northwest Territories when it comes to land ownership and opportunities. We can certainly scale and pace this development in the Sahtu according to our needs and the aspirations of the people of the Sahtu and the people of this territory. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the Members around this table here talking about hydraulic fracking in the Sahtu region. When I was in the Sahtu over the weekend, people in the Sahtu will determine if they will go ahead with hydraulic fracking or not. The people in the Sahtu will decide just what type of scale it will be at.

I want to follow up with a question from my colleague in terms of public engagement in hydraulic fracking for the people of the Sahtu on environmental, social and economics. Would the Minister work with Members on this side in regards to putting on a government public forum that we can have an all-out, good educational discussion on the impacts of hydraulic fracking?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, we can certainly look at that. I would be more than happy to

discuss the opportunity with my colleague Minister Miltenberger of ENR and set out to get some more community workshops and exercises like that underway. One of the things I think will also go a long way to helping community members understand the process is – and I believe the Member saw a big display case which showed a well being drilled and then going out horizontally and explaining the process of hydraulic fracturing in layman's terms – I think if we put that in the local language and also in English, and put these display cases showing the hydraulic fracturing process, put them in either the band hall or community hall in the communities in the Sahtu, I think this will go a long way. If you can visualize what it is, how it works and read it in your own language or English, I think that will go a long way to helping as well. We are looking at opportunities to partner with industry to help us get these display models in communities across the Sahtu. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he and I could go into the Sahtu this winter when Conoco is doing their testing of the hydraulic fracking, if he and I can go into the Sahtu and visit when they are doing their hydraulic fracking. At the same time, we could have a public meeting in the Sahtu in regards to this operation.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, there is probably about 75 million reasons why Conoco does drill those wells in the Sahtu this winter that I can come to the Sahtu with the Member. Certainly, I know industry has been open to getting visits to well sites, allowing people onto their working areas to show them the process, to show them how it works. I must say we had an opportunity near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, to get out on a well that was being fracked. I must say, it wasn't very exciting. Some of the pressures were going up and the lights were flashing, but certainly the earth wasn't shaking. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 346-17(4):

ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT OPTIONS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today about the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre in Hay River on the K'atlodeeche First Nation, I have some follow-up questions for Minister Beaulieu.

Treatment of addictions is a hugely important issue in our territory. We need to use our resources in the most effective way possible. With the closure of the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre, which I believe cost around \$2.2 million to operate, the majority of

that money was spent on goods and services and the employment of Northerners. If we are forfeiting that, I would like to have the Minister explain for us and for the public so that we are assured that what the alternative is in fact the best and most efficient opportunity for the actual people with addictions. We are losing something in the North with the loss of the treatment centre, so we want to be assured that the alternative is in the best interest of the clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money will remain in the treatment of individuals within the Northwest Territories and some of it will be used to develop a youth program which is starting this week. This week we are meeting with the first opportunity to do a youth pilot program in the Deh Cho, so some of our staff are going to go over there. Some of that money is being used to treat individuals that are going out for southern treatment. We are looking at developing on-the-land programs. Again, some of that money is going to developing some on-the-land programs – in fact, we are piloting three of those programs this year – and some of it will go to mobile treatment. The majority of it, with the exception of the money that is needed to continue residential care for people in the South, will be spent in the North. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, that is very good to hear. That is a very good answer. In terms of the southern treatment residential placements that the Minister has referred to, maybe he could elaborate a little bit for us on the diversity of the location and the type of specialization that these facilities could offer clients. How accessible are these going to be? What kind of waiting times, or are these going to be readily accessible for our northern residents? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The four residential treatment facilities that we contract with in the South, one is sort of a culture-based residential treatment that's been in existence for many years, a very successful residential treatment facility, and that is in Edmonton. There are two in Calgary; one is a residential treatment facility for women and the other is a residential treatment facility that we thought had a lot of success. Another one is in Nanaimo, British Columbia, which is another treatment facility that we selected that we thought had good successes in the past.

The process of getting out to those treatment facilities has been streamlined considerably. Previously to get into Nats'ejee K'eh, you had to be going through counselling for approximately six weeks, then, after that, wait for the next intake. Most of these programs have weekly intakes and

we're trying to connect to the very next intake, once a person presents themselves as needing treatment. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thanks again to the Minister on that elaboration of what the other options are for residential treatment.

With the re-profiling of these monies that have gone traditionally into the treatment of addictions, what would be the process or the dialogue that would take place with respect to the actual facility of what was in Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre? Is there a possibility still that that infrastructure can be utilized in, perhaps, specialized treatment, if not residential, some kind of a facility? What's the process? Who's going to be involved in that dialogue and is there a possibility that that infrastructure can be used again under the umbrella of treatment for addictions? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, it is certainly possible that that facility could remain with the department and be used for some form of residential treatment or support treatment overall across the territory. We are going to be having those discussions with the K'atlodeeche First Nations. It is on the reserve there, and that facility, at one point, was something that they had lobbied for, brought onto the reserve and initially was mostly a cultural treatment facility before it became a medical treatment facility. So there's a possibility that we may run mobile treatments out of there. It's also possible to train councillors in a facility such as that. All of those options are still open for ourselves and anybody else who's going to be involved in building the future for treatment in the Territories. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Interjection

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: That's fine. There are only two women; it's hard to keep us straight.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, thank you to the Minister for that response. I had mentioned in my Member's statement that we were disappointed that the sort of affected... This is a territorial facility. I understood that probably if it was ever re-profiled, it would continue to be a territorial piece of infrastructure. We were disappointed when the MLAs for Hay River and the MLA for Deh Cho weren't really part of that.

As these discussions proceed, and certainly with all due respect to the K'atlodeeche First Nation because it is on their land, is it possible that we could be included in that dialogue at some point to share our thoughts? And the Standing Committee on Social Programs as well? We would like to be a

part of that. We found out after the fact of the closure. We would like to get in on the ground floor of the planning, if that facility is going to be reutilized. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, certainly that is possible. We would be pleased to consult with the Members that are affected; in fact, all Members, since it is a territorial facility. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 347-17(4):

ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT OPTIONS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wanted to follow up with questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services on the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre.

Until the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre is reopened or another homegrown facility is established, can the Minister of Health commit to streamlining the process for entry into southern residential treatment programs? Mahsi.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly that was one of the earlier objectives when this facility, Nats'ejee K'eh, closed, that we attempt to streamline the process for any individuals who are wishing to go for treatment.

As I indicated earlier, we believe that once an individual presents themselves as needing treatment, we are trying to get into the very next facility of their choice on the very next intake. Thank you very much.

MR. NADLI: My question is to the Minister once again. There has been some discussion in terms of on-the-land programs and what it may mean. Perhaps the Minister could tell us the philosophy behind the on-the-land programs, especially the plans and the status of such an initiative. At what point would the Minister be able to explain to this House how an on-the-land program would work? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, on-the-land treatment is something that was called for by the communities. I do believe that the philosophy of the on-the-land treatment is to get people to go back out on the land for healing. A lot of the Aboriginal people who called for this felt very connected to the land, so we're trying to develop a philosophy around that type of treatment.

Also, in order to gather more information and develop a program, we have hired an individual who will be specifically working on this project, on-the-land treatment, and we're also piloting three on-the-land treatment programs that would be either coming in the spring or some time soon. We are

working on piloting those programs, and we're going to use the materials from that pilot in order to develop a larger, more comprehensive on-the-land program. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for providing that answer.

What would be some of the features in terms of developing an on-the-land program? Would it be a philosophy that's based on the AA program? Would it be a philosophy that's based on First Nations affinity to on the land in terms of the environment? Could the Minister explain? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Certainly some of the discussions that we had early on in the development of on-the-land has been that people have called for an AA-based type of program, then starting that on the land and then using AA as an aftercare program. However, I'm not sure if that's going to be something that will be encompassed out on the land at this point.

At this point, I think the majority of the on-the-land program will be based around the connection the First Nations people have with being out on the land, and using that, I think, as the basis for developing the program. I'm not sure we would have specific counsellors out there, but I do believe that is going to be all part of the program. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of listening to the Minister indicating that there are three on-the-land programs that might be piloted, is there a timeline in terms of when we can expect those pilot on-the-land programs to commence? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't have the specific dates on that with me, but I would be more than willing to provide that to the Members across the floor, on where the programs will be piloted and with whom the programs will be piloted by and when they will be piloted. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 348-17(4):
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS PRACTICES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement today, I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance some questions on public accounts practices within this government.

Would the Minister of Finance, maybe just for education purposes, let me know what his perspective is for the purpose of having public accounts within this government? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The role of public accounts is an important one. When I became Finance Minister, there was a significant delay in reports being done. The public accounts had sort of fallen out of attention and I made it a point, as the Finance Minister, to meet with the Auditor General, along with the deputy minister. We made the commitment that we would pay attention and we would reinforce the importance of time of reports, that the public accounts was an important function, and then the Legislature, as well, took it upon themselves and the committees to take a much more active role. Some of it had not been done for some time. So, between us we've created a renewed emphasis and political commitment to make this part of the budgeting process an important one, and that we're working hard and we've shown success in terms of getting reports done in a timely way. The committee has taken their new authority and they've renewed their interest and they're now taking a much more active role, all of which can only make for a better total budgeting practice. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. I do appreciate the comments that the Minister has made to committee. On my desk I have two public accounts documents that were tabled in this House on February 18, 2013, when we were actually going through our main estimates at the time in terms of making decisions for the '13-14 budget. We are spending those dollars right now as we speak, but once that budget process was done, we didn't get a chance to look at how other dollars were spent in previous years. I'm assured by the Minister that he is trying to get these documents done as soon as possible, but from the recommendations from our last report, what has the Minister done to ensure we do get these financial statements from the government and from our boards and agencies in a timely manner before we sit before our main estimates practice again? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This is a process that has some history to it now, as I've indicated in my previous answer. I've taken this on, along with the deputy minister of Finance, as a critical issue. It's been pointed out clearly by the Auditor General that we were lacking in this area and we acknowledged that. So, we have the political commitment. We have been working with all of the boards and agencies and government departments to make sure that they know that there is an emphasis on this particular function and that these reports have to get done. We've met with chairs and board presidents to make sure that they are clear on this message. It's been put into people's job expectations on how they're going to be measured in terms of the success of their accomplishments of their duties over the year as

another way to move this process forward. As I've indicated, we have collaboratively and collectively shown some success here. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. We have a tough job here as legislators to ensure that dollars are spent and accounted for and that we're spending dollars in the proper way, and with a budget and increasing our debt wall, we can spend dollars in a more efficient way. But with that said, we've got to understand where those dollars are being spent in the previous year and the years before.

Is there any process in place right now from the government's point of view for any of these boards or agencies that we work with that don't get their reporting in on time? Are there any penalties or consequences for them not putting their reporting in on time that helps us make our decisions a lot easier and a lot better for the taxpayer and the residents of the NWT? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. The biggest tool we have is the ones that we are applying and showing progress with. It has become more and more visible as the committee has taken a more active role in reviewing public accounts. Those that are not derelict, but those that are late, those that are tardy, those agencies, boards now have to suffer the scrutiny of not only the Minister of Finance but also of committee, the public, and we've put a value on this process. By putting that value on the process we are, over time – a fairly short period of time – getting all the involved boards, agencies and government departments to recognize that this is something they have to pay attention to and give due diligence and attention to.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do commend the work that Government Operations has taken and the initiatives that they've taken since being more trained on public accounts.

With that said, is there any type of training that the Minister in terms of Cabinet has for their own departments on making sure dollars are spent properly with keeping them accountable for the work that they're doing as well? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have to look at the consolidated public accounts process as part of the overall budgeting process where we do business plans, we do reviews, main estimates, and where we spend a full year either getting ready for the budget or cleaning up after the budget and then having a short, very, very short pause before we renew that process.

Once again, we have skilled, trained staff. We have qualified managers and we now have, of course, this clear political direction from this body, from the government, that public accounts have to be paid attention to and it has to be given its due. We are

doing that and we have folks that are trained to do this. As the Member has indicated, committee members have had special training, as well, in their role as legislators overseeing this process. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 349-17(4):
NURSING SERVICES IN WRIGLEY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services some questions about nursing services in the community of Wrigley. When the highway was first opened up, there were two nurses in Wrigley only because there was increased development expected from traffic, et cetera, in the community of Wrigley. Since then, the two nurses have been removed. They have been removed for well in excess of 10 years now. But now, again the community is faced with the pressures of development as traffic and business increase due to the development in the Sahtu.

I'd like to ask the Minister, where is the department in planning to restore two nurses in the community of Wrigley. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Along with the other communities that currently don't have resident nurses, we are looking at Wrigley. All communities that have a population of under 250 people are essentially not scheduled to have residential nurses in their community in relation to the Integrated Service Delivery Model that we use to provide medical services to the various communities. But recognizing that all of these communities that don't have residential nurses do require some nursing, we're trying to find models that will work in communities such as Wrigley. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. He was talking about models. Is there an actual policy that says the smaller communities cannot have nursing? When I've initially asked these questions, well, ever since I became MLA 10 years ago, there was an issue of having the support of policing as well. Is that still the issue here for returning nursing to Wrigley? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: That certainly is still the issue; it is still one of the issues that we are trying to get around. Currently the communities that don't have RCMP also don't have nursing, so that becomes an issue. I can't recall the exact area or association that we deal with the Nurses' Association that indicates that one nurse cannot be out in a community by themselves, but I do know

that a model says that a population of over 250 can be accommodated by two nurses and also by two RCMP members. That type of model is something that would fit that. With a population lower than that, we are trying to find a way to provide more consistent nursing into all of these communities, but we haven't found a method that would work yet. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I guess the case here, as well, is that the community is expected to have increased development, increased traffic to the community, so the health and wellness of the community will be an issue here.

I would like to ask the Minister, will the Department start considering that and start planning towards that for restoring nursing to the community of Wrigley. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Certainly, when we see an increase in development and also that the consequence of that is an increase in the population. I know that at one point Wrigley did have a population high enough to accommodate nurses; at this time it doesn't. As we see an increase in industry activities in that area, then we would certainly consider that and take it into consideration when we provide nursing to Wrigley. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a case that there never were nurses there. There were nurses there, there was RCMP there, so I would like to once again ask the Minister to look into the situation, take into account the increased development in that area and start planning or accessing the need for restoring two nurses back to the community of Wrigley. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Again, right now the Member is correct that we are currently providing coverage out of Fort Simpson, and that sometimes that is scheduled to be three days a month, from what used to be full-time nurses and the supports necessary to provide nursing services to the community. For sure we are prepared to look at what the Member is suggesting at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Time for oral questions is done. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Hawkins.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 6-17(4): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 3, WILDLIFE ACT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Your loyal and hardworking Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure is pleased to report on the review of Bill 3, Wildlife Act, and commends it to the House.

Introduction

Bill 3, the Wildlife Act, is a product of over 15 years of work to replace existing wildlife legislation which dates back to 1978. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure conducted extensive public consultation on the bill and has reached consensus among its members that the legislation is ready for consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

Bill 3 was referred to the Standing Committee on March 5, 2013. Between April and June 2013, the committee held public hearings in Yellowknife, Tulita, Norman Wells, Tsiigehtchic, Detah, Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Nahanni Butte, Fort Providence and Behchoko. The committee heard from a wide range of individuals, organizations and Aboriginal governments during this public review process, both at hearings and via written submissions. The committee members would like to thank all participants.

After carefully considering and discussing all feedback received on the bill, the committee proposed the amendments discussed in this report. The committee would also like to take this opportunity to raise a number of issues brought forward during public hearings that it agrees are significant to the implementation of the new act.

The committee heard considerable appreciation for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' – the department's – collaborative approach to the development of Bill 3, and the extensive consultation process it undertook prior to the introduction of the bill in the Legislative Assembly. Presenters also commended the standing committee on its effort to consult with the public on the bill.

A number of presentations expressed general support for the bill, highlighting its incorporation of Aboriginal and treaty rights and management and conservation principles as strengths of the proposed legislation. Other individuals and organizations expressed conditional support, or, in some cases, could not support the bill at all for reasons which the committee attempted to address through amendments or recommendations.

That concludes my portion of the introduction process and at this time I would like to turn the floor over to my colleague from the Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

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

Inclusive Wildlife Management

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee believes that, while upholding Aboriginal and treaty rights, legislation should clearly recognize the value of wildlife to all residents of the Northwest Territories. The committee heard that the bill needed to further convey that all Northerners have a responsibility for stewardship that comes with the opportunity to access wildlife.

The committee also heard that legislated wildlife management is contradictory to the traditional Aboriginal relationship with wildlife and the land. A Tulita elder told the committee, "Unfortunately, the Dene way of self-regulation does not fit within the legal system of the non-Dene."

The committee wants to reinforce how the new Wildlife Act upholds constitutionally enshrined treaty and Aboriginal rights and the provisions in land claim agreements, recognizing that land claim and self-government agreements function as modern treaties. At the same time, the committee believes that the legislation should be interpreted in a way that recognizes the fundamental value of wildlife to all residents, and thus proposed that the preamble be amended to include the statement: "And whereas all people of the Northwest Territories have an interest in wildlife as a natural resource and a responsibility for stewardship of wildlife and habitat." The Minister concurred with this amendment, and the change has been made to Bill 3.

Mandatory Harvester Training

Many presenters asked that the new Wildlife Act make harvester and firearms safety training mandatory for all harvesters. The committee recognizes the need to balance the constitutionally enshrined Aboriginal and treaty rights, while still ensuring that sound harvesting skills are taught to all harvesters. The committee has heard from the public how harvester training is intrinsic to traditional Aboriginal lifestyles and skills traditionally passed from elders to new hunters.

In response to public request and acknowledgement of traditional practices, the committee felt that the act should set a standard of safe hunting by requiring safety training for all harvesters, except those who are exempted by the regulations. In this way, and with the appropriate consultation, the Minister may exempt certain harvesters from the safety training requirement, and define the training methodology applicable to such harvesters. The committee believed that training should include firearms safety, practices to prevent

wastage, and harvesting skills relevant to conservation such as identifying male and female animals.

The committee agrees that firearms safety training is extremely important. It acknowledges that Bill 3 sets out provisions for safe harvesting, and applicable federal law has established provisions for safe and responsible firearms training that are beyond the scope of wildlife legislation.

The committee proposed to amend sections 22, 47 and 48 of the bill to provide that no person is entitled to obtain a hunting licence, general hunting licence or otherwise harvest under such a licence until that person has successfully completed an approved harvester training course unless exempt in harvester training according to the regulations.

During the clause-by-clause review, the Minister did not concur with the motions and explained that Bill 3 provides for harvester training to be developed under the regulations through extensive consultation. The public has identified a number of concerns related to conservation and public safety and has clearly requested a high standard of safety training for hunters in the Northwest Territories. The matter of harvester training will be discussed further when the bill is considered by the Legislative Assembly.

I will now pass on the floor to my colleague Mr. Bromley.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Bromley.

Appeal Process

MR. BROMLEY: The committee heard that the act should establish an appeal process for individuals who are denied permission to trap game, particularly in unsettled claim areas. Bill 3 provides for applicants to receive written explanation for the refusal of an application for a hunting licence. The committee proposed an amendment that would add a requirement for written reasons for refusal to issue or recommend the issuance of a special harvester licence. The committee further proposed a motion to allow an individual to appeal refusals to issue any licence, permit or other authorization, including the option of appealing to the Minister.

The Minister did not concur with this amendment, but suggested that an appeal process, independent of the Minister, could be developed through regulations, similar to the model established in the Forest Management Act. This matter will be subject to further discussion by the Committee of the Whole.

Same-Day Harvesting

The committee heard concerns with respect to harvesting and commercial activities involving aircraft. The committee proposed an amendment to Bill 3 that would prohibit a person from hunting

prescribed game, including all big game, within a prescribed time after being airborne in an aircraft. The type of game and the prescribed time limit would be set out in regulations.

The Minister did not concur with this amendment, and again, the committee anticipates that this topic will be a subject of further discussion.

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

The committee heard the view that new legislation should enforce mandatory harvest reporting for all harvesters. The committee strongly agrees that harvest reporting should apply as widely as possible. Bill 3 avoids potential infringement upon Aboriginal and treaty rights by dealing with harvest reporting in regulations, in cooperation with Aboriginal governments. The committee supports this approach, but agrees it could be strengthened by amending the bill to include harvest reporting provisions. The committee further recommends that the department work with Aboriginal governments, renewable resource boards, and all other stakeholders to ensure that as many harvesters as possible report their harvest in a way that promotes a consistent, cooperative approach to responsible wildlife management, including population monitoring and sustainability for game species that withstand considerable harvesting.

The motivation for harvest reporting is stewardship-focused. Creating a culture of harvest reporting for big game is a proactive, conservation-oriented approach to managing wildlife populations and ensuring sustained harvest for all.

The committee moved that the bill be amended to specify that a person who harvests wildlife shall report the wounding, killing or capture of big game or other prescribed wildlife, within a time frame specified in regulations. The Minister did not concur, explaining that it was preferable to deal with harvest reporting requirements under regulations only, in cooperation with Aboriginal governments and local harvesting organizations. This topic will be subject to further discussion by the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, with your concurrence, I would like to turn it now over to Mr. Blake. Mahsi.

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

Other Significant Matters

MR. BLAKE: Throughout the public consultation process, the committee heard a number of issues that it chose not to address through amendments, but still deserve to be recognized as a high priority for the department in the implementation of the new act.

Regulations

The overwhelming majority of public presentations and written submissions called upon the committee

to recommend that the same consultative, collaborative process used to develop Bill 3 apply to the development of the regulations. Members of both the public and the committee expressed concern that Bill 3 contains significant regulation-making powers, and that it is difficult to determine the full implications of the new legislation in the absence of these regulations.

The legislative process does not allow for regulations to be developed at the same time as a bill. The committee confirmed the extent of the bill's regulation-making power is similar to wildlife management legislation in other parts of Canada. The department states in its publication of the Results of the 2012 Consultation and Public Engagement on the Proposed New Wildlife Act, that it is "developing a process and timelines to engage and consult with other government departments, Aboriginal governments, co-management partners, regulators, stakeholder organizations, industry and the public on new regulations." The committee strongly recommends that the necessary resources be made available for this thorough public consultation process. The committee itself also expects to be involved.

The committee heard a number of concerns related to unsettled land claims and land use plans. The committee believes that sections 4 and 172 of Bill 3 are adequate to address these issues. At the same time, the committee recognizes these issues as significant and that they may set precedent in terms of future land claims and land use planning agreements, and wants to ensure that some of the concerns expressed by First Nations governments can be addressed through regulations.

Submissions on Wildlife and Habitat

Many people expressed the view that the process for providing public input into wildlife and habitat management, formalized in Section 16 of the bill, needs to be part of an inclusive forum where all Northerners can be heard. The committee supports the wildlife management process set out in sections 15 and 16 of the bill; however, the committee recommends that the annual meeting of organizations responsible for wildlife management in the Northwest Territories be open to the public to attend as observers with an opportunity to share their understanding of wildlife. The committee further recommends that the department and Aboriginal governments work together to find ways to actively involve stakeholders to foster a truly collaborative approach to wildlife and habitat management and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass the report on to my colleague Mr. Kevin Menicoche.

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

Communications

MR. MENICOCHÉ: The committee heard that the department should help residents understand significant changes under the new Wildlife Act and avoid inadvertent violations of the new act by promoting awareness of the roles, responsibilities and authorizations it contains. Recognizing the complexity of the Northwest Territories' wildlife and habitat management system, the committee recommends that the department conduct an extensive communications campaign to ensure all residents are aware of the new act and its provisions. The committee highlights the importance of ensuring clarity surrounding the process for obtaining licences, permits and any other authorizations.

Enforcement

In order to be effective, the Wildlife Act must be implemented and enforced. As a resident harvester in Inuvik pointed out, the act and regulations "are only as good as their enforcement." Throughout the Northwest Territories, the committee heard concerns about enforcement issues including the need to ensure adequate resources are available for officers to carry out their duties, and to monitor non-resident harvesters particularly along Northwest Territories borders.

Residency

Unless special permission is granted, current legislation requires a person to reside in the Northwest Territories for two years before he or she can apply for a hunting licence. Bill 3 proposes a 12-month residency period before an individual is eligible for a resident hunting licence. This change was a significant source of concern for many individuals and organizations. The committee reached consensus that the bill may proceed with a one-year residency requirement, but asks that the department retain well-defined and stringent requirements for proof of residency.

Over the last 10 years, the department has issued, on average, close to 1,200 resident hunting licences per year. The Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics currently predicts a net increase of 204 non-Aboriginal residents in the next eight years. That would result in an increase of 12 new resident harvesters, at the current rate of participation in resident harvesting activities, and 56 new resident hunters by 2031.

The department has publicly stated that effective measures are available to control the level of resident harvest. In areas with settled land claims, Aboriginal governments also have authority to control harvest.

The change would also allow RCMP and military service personnel, who are typically in the Northwest Territories for a short term, to participate in harvesting activities with a resident hunting

licence. On a further note, a one-year residency requirement is consistent with other Canadian jurisdictions.

Conservation Areas

A significant number of comments and concerns were expressed with respect to the establishment of conservation areas. The committee recognizes that some of the public may feel a great deal of uncertainty in this area. The committee's view is that the act sets out a reasonable procedure to designate conservation zones based on concrete data and in the interest of sustaining wildlife population and habitat. The committee strongly recommends that the department work with stakeholders, and the public, as appropriate, when establishing any form of conservation area. Members reinforce that conservation areas should address critical wildlife issues and thus should only be required on rare occasions.

With that, I'll turn the conclusion over to our chair, Mr. Robert Hawkins.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Menicoché.

Conclusion

The committee is well aware of the significance of wildlife to the people of the Northwest Territories and the complexity of developing new wildlife management legislation. Bill 3, the Wildlife Act, is the culmination of years of effort, dedication and inestimable investment of talent, interest and emotion on the part of a group of people as wide and diverse as the North itself. The Northwest Territories has undergone significant change since the new act was initially developed, and the committee recognizes that it is no small achievement to bring forward legislation that can continue to apply to our ever-evolving political and physical landscape. Members once again commend the hard work and determination of all those involved in every step of this journey. The committee is optimistic that Bill 3 can be assented to in the 17th Assembly, and recognizes the passage of a new Wildlife Act as an important milestone. The committee urges Cabinet to support the proposed amendments and begin the establishment of a renewed wildlife management regime that recognizes the paramount importance and fundamental value of wildlife to the Northwest Territories.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE 6-17(4)
AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure on the Review of Bill 3, Wildlife

Life. Therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Committee Report 6-17(4) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

Committee Report 6-17(4) has been received and will be moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

I'd like to thank the committee for the hard work they've put into that report.

Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Abernethy.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 123-17(4):
24TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VICTIMS
ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE 2012-2013

TABLED DOCUMENT 124-17(4):
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE RENTAL OFFICE
APRIL 1, 2012, TO MARCH 31, 2013

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following two documents, entitled 24th Annual Report of the Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories, 2012-13; and an Annual Report on the Activities of the Rental Office, April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 125-17(4):
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
INVESTMENT CORPORATION
2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 126-17(4):
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION
2013-2014 CORPORATE PLAN

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation 2012-13 Annual Report, and NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation 2013-14 Corporate Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 127-17(4):
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2012

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Annual Report 2012. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mr. Blake.

Motions

MOTION 22-17(4):
APPOINTMENT OF
CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMISSIONER,
CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: WHEREAS Section 91 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides that the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint a Conflict of Interest Commissioner to exercise the powers and perform the duties set out in the act;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of the current Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Mr. Gerald Gerrand, expires November 30, 2013;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers the appointment of a Conflict of Interest Commissioner essential to exercise the powers and perform the duties under the act;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that the appointment of a Conflict of Interest Commissioner, effective December 1, 2013, should now be made;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that pursuant to Section 91 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories the appointment of Mr. David Phillip Jones as Conflict of Interest Commissioner, effective December 1, 2013.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Thank you, colleagues. On behalf of all of us, Mr. Gerrand, we'd like to thank you for your eight years of services that you've served the Northwest Territories. We welcome Mr. Jones as your replacement, but it's sad to see you go. I look forward to speaking to you before you depart

Yellowknife. Thank you for your years of service for the people of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Colleagues, before we continue, I'd like to call a 10-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, we are on motions. Ms. Bisaro.

MOTION 23-17(4):
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Giant Mine leaves a terrible environmental legacy in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS there is still significant concern with the Giant Mine Remediation Project as envisioned by the federal and territorial governments;

AND WHEREAS the Report of Environmental Assessment by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board resolves some limitations with the original remediation plan and presents a reasonable and sound path to a closure program that will build accountability and public trust in the project;

AND WHEREAS the five-year environmental assessment was a thorough and fair process in which residents' concerns were heard and reflected in the review board report;

AND WHEREAS recently the City of Yellowknife unanimously passed a resolution for the acceptance and implementation of the recommendations in the Report of Environmental Assessment;

AND WHEREAS a number of Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly representing ridings in Yellowknife have expressed support for this resolution and the Report of Environmental Assessment;

AND WHEREAS it is time to begin a new chapter for mineral development in the North;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the Government of the Northwest Territories accept the measures and suggestions contained in the Report of Environmental Assessment and recommended by the review board pursuant to s. 130(1)(b)(i) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories urge its federal counterparts to do the same, to ensure the timely and cooperative remediation of the Giant Mine. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Giant Mine site is an historic part of Yellowknife and the NWT, but it is a blight on our landscape, and worse, it is the biggest environmental liability in this country, one which we may have in this community forever, for eternity. I have trouble even contemplating that. One hundred years is an amount of time I can rationalize, even several hundred years, but forever? That's beyond comprehension for most of us and certainly for me.

The federal government has assumed responsibility for the remediation of the Giant Mine site, but we, the GNWT, have also assumed some of that responsibility. Our Minister of Environment and Natural Resources is the GNWT Minister responsible for this project under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. As such, Minister Miltenberger presents our position to the federal government. He represents the interests of NWT citizens in the development of a remediation plan for Giant Mine. That plan includes managing 237,000 tonnes of underground arsenic trioxide dust by ground freezing, remediating the surface, including covering the 13.5 million tonnes of contaminated tailings, managing the open pits, demolition of contaminated buildings, and management of contaminated soils all to industrial standards for future land use, managing site water and releasing treated water through a diffuser in Great Slave Lake.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories also propose that the project would be actively maintained for perpetuity, with vital components replaced periodically. That's the plan, and that plan or project was subject to an environmental assessment performed by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, a body established under the MVRMA, Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. That assessment took quite some time from start to finish, but only because the board was thorough. To their credit, they took the time necessary to do the work and to do due diligence in evaluating the proposed remediation and closure project.

I presented at one of the hearings here in Yellowknife, giving voice to my concerns and those of my constituents. I spoke to a number of issues, but I want to mention two specifically.

First, I was very concerned with the lack of commitment and openness from the developer – that would be the federal and territorial governments – to researching and possibly using different methods to deal with the arsenic problem in future years. The other was a concern about the lack of an independent oversight body for the ongoing – well, eternal – care and maintenance of

the mine site. The project proposes oversight by the developer. That's hardly on. That's like asking the fox to guard the henhouse.

My concerns and those expressed by others through the hearings were heard by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Their press release of June 20, 2013, which announced the release of the assessment report, stated, "After careful deliberation, the review board concluded that the proposed project is likely to cause significant adverse social and biophysical impacts, including cumulative impacts arising from the potential effects of the proposed project in combination with the effects of past mining activities. It also found that these impacts would generate significant public concern."

So the review board made some suggestions and put some measures in their report to address this significant public concern, and some of those measures will mitigate those concerns, and they are the following:

- require that the project time frame be reduced from perpetuity to a more manageable time frame of 100 years;
- facilitate ongoing research in emerging technologies towards finding a permanent solution;
- require independent reviews of the project every 20 years to evaluate its effectiveness and decide if a better approach can be identified;
- a comprehensive general risk assessment and detailed human health risk assessment;
- human health monitoring;
- investigation of long-term funding options;
- independent oversight;
- diversion of Baker Creek;
- improvement of water treatment to a drinking water standard;
- replacement of the proposed underwater diffuser near Ndilo with a near shore outfall immediately offshore of the Giant Mine site.

There were other ones, as well, but for me most notable among these measures are the ones that will reduce the time frame for the project from eternity to 100 years, that there should be an independent oversight body for the project, and that there should be ongoing research toward finding a permanent, better solution for containing the arsenic.

To me these recommendations indicate that the hard work of organizations and individuals fighting the plan of the project developers has paid off. The environmental assessment report contains recommendations and suggestions which address those concerns.

As the preamble of this motion states, the report presents a reasonable and sound path to a closure program that will build accountability and public trust in the project. But the report and the recommendations and suggestions within it must now be accepted by the Ministers responsible for the MVRMA, three federal Ministers and our own Minister of ENR, in order for the recommendations to take effect and have an impact on the remediation closure project. These Ministers can accept any or all of the recommendations, and conversely, they can reject any or all of them. Should the rejection occur, it would indicate a complete disdain for the views of Northwest Territories residents as expressed at the hearings, and complete disdain for the work of the review board.

This motion asks for the responsible Ministers to heed the concerns expressed by Northwest Territories residents and to heed the considered and thoughtful recommendations of the review board in regards to the Giant Mine Remediation Plan. It asks the GNWT to accept the measures outlined in the environmental assessment report and it asks the government to urge the federal government to do the same.

If this government truly listens to its residents, truly believes in the work and the autonomy of our boards and agencies – in this case the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board – then the government will vote in favour of this motion. By supporting this motion, the government will be properly representing its people, will be supporting the will of its residents, and be seen to be responding to residents' concerns.

The report of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is a considered, valid and just document, one which has proposed measures for the betterment of our NWT society, measures which will improve the remediation project, and measures which, if accepted, will assuage some of the fear we feel whenever we think of the monstrous amount of toxic waste stored beneath our feet not far from town.

I ask all Members to vote in favour of this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. I'll allow the seconder, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say something in my own language just briefly.

[English translation not provided.]

Giant Mine is a legacy of underground arsenic that could be potentially dangerous if it ever leaks into Great Slave Lake, and also down the Mackenzie River. For those reasons, I strongly support this motion, along with my colleague.

Of course, the efforts of the review board and the report and recommendations must go forward. This effort has been going on for some time. I really encourage my colleagues and all governments to ensure that this legacy of abandoned mine sites not be left unheeded. We have a responsibility to the environment and also to the future generations. We want to ensure that we hold the environment in high regard as much as we can.

What interests me is the collaboration and also the efforts to try to bring people together in terms of remediating a site. I think a going term these days within the government is collaboration. I would like to see that more so in terms of ensuring efforts are allocated to this legacy and that work is done to ensure that things move forward.

As I pointed out earlier, Giant Mine potentially, if the arsenic is not contained, could leak into Great Slave Lake and Mackenzie River watershed. That is a dangerous scenario. Hopefully it will never happen. To avoid that, this motion speaks to deploying the governments, both federal and GNWT, to move forward to ensure that their efforts to bring the interest groups together, and ensuring the recommendations of the review board report are strongly used as a guideline.

What inspired me to also second this motion is also for the communities along the Mackenzie River, Fort Providence being the first community along the Mackenzie. The water has become a very valuable resource, especially in terms of this day and age. Water is crucial in advancing life and also the whole world, for that matter. For those reasons I support this motion. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the motion brought forward by Ms. Bisaro and would like to thank the seconder for allowing debate here today.

Out of sight or out of mind, that tends to be the issue here with the Giant Mine issues as of late. I think the people of the Northwest Territories are still greatly concerned about the issue, but we only hear it from time to time and it's paramount that we bring this forward here today.

As we have talked and heard that we are sitting on potentially the largest environmental disaster they say in Canada, I say in the world, and yet the world does not know the true issues that face mankind. I think it is paramount that we deal with this today and talk about the mechanisms of this motion.

What we have heard thus far from any of the teams involved is that we are dealing with a remediation plan, and I get it, but when you look at the fundamentals, the levers, the nuts and bolts of it, this is nothing more than a safety plan. I am not saying that we don't need to do it – I think we have

to do it in order to protect the safety of all the residents in the Northwest Territories – but there is very little mention about a recovery plan. I think this is something that is missed in the message. Having something in perpetuity forever, even if it is down to a hundred years, I don't want this burden on my grandkids; I don't want this burden on their grandkids. We have the power to deal with it today. We have the power to create dialogue to make sure we are not just dealing with the safety issue but that we are dealing with a full recovery issue.

It has been brought forward, I have brought forward that there is ingenuity all over in the world. In fact, we have patented technology here in Canada that deals with repatriating the gold that is in the tailings ponds. There is a process. It is Canada-wide. It talks about using high-pressure hydrochloric acid to get the gold out of the tailings ponds where, God forbid, we can actually repatriate this gold and use the proceeds to actually do the remediation work and do the recovery work, and yet this goes unnoticed. Why don't we investigate it? Well, it's not in plan number 58; it's not plan 59.

We are worried so much about protecting bureaucratic jobs, worrying so much about protecting pensions out there, that no one is seeing the forest for the trees. Because no one wants to bring out that idea, because it's too risky, we can't talk about it. Let's stick with the plan. I am saying, people, take the blinders off, both sides of the House, both the territorial and federal. Let's find a solution out there. There are seven billion people in this world. There has to be someone out there who understands how to fix this problem.

Earlier last week Mr. Hawkins brought a motion or an idea to the table and we had to repeat his message countless times. Why? We don't know why. Selective hearing maybe, I have no idea. It was a great idea, but yet we still have not received a formal reply from this side of the House. Which really basically says, will you take this idea over to your federal counterparts and talk about it? Nothing more. It's not a promise. It's not about spending our money. Well, I guess indirectly it is spending taxpayers' money; we all pay taxes. But really it's an idea that we need to foster and move forward.

This motion is broad-based and I appreciate its content, but it speaks to us doing something rather than sitting on our hands on an issue that affects everyone, and will affect my kids and their kids.

We have to deal with it. I support the motion. I have the opportunity to thank the Members here for allowing me to speak towards it. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this motion and I appreciate the mover and seconder for bringing this motion forward.

A massive amount of work has been done for a long period of time and is represented and boiled down in this report. The report says, "We have concluded, as a review board, that there are major significant impacts from this project." They further concluded, not surprisingly, that there are major and significant public concerns, and they have, I would say, done a pretty good job of recommending measures to address those significant concerns and impacts.

What we have here if we fail is a tangled web of consequences and liabilities that extend across this country. The consequences are something we don't want to consider; we want to avoid. I think this report goes a good ways in making progress on that front.

The first one is – and many of these issues have been spoken about and expressed very well from a broad range of interests and people and groups and so on, the Yellowknives Dene First Nation for decades – we don't want an in perpetuity solution. That is not a solution. This report recommends shortening in perpetuity – that is infinity – to 100 years. Now, even that is a grievous undertaking, but it says no to in perpetuity. We want a solution implemented, and this board has recommended that and listened to the public, even if it is four generations and they also put in some review time frames every 20 years, so that is just about every generation. Let's take a look and see if we can tune up even further.

They have said we don't want to freeze it in place forever. That's not a solution. That is a temporary stopgap. Albeit that may be acceptable in the short term, we want to find this permanent solution that actually deals with this massive and insecure storage of a highly toxic substance, in this case arsenic dioxide, a very deadly substance.

The funding, we have all seen programs come and go from governments. Here we are talking about in perpetuity. Now 100 years, several generations of funding. Where is the certainty that that funding is going to be there every year to do the due diligence we need to keep this situation secure and safe while at the same time we put in significant and meaningful effort into resolving it? This board addresses that issue of funding.

Oversight, my gosh, this grey hair – I didn't have it when I started working on this, and I got grey hair at a young age. Ecology North was started because of this issue in 1973, 1971. I am so old I am starting to forget those numbers.

We need a public, independent and legally binding environmental agreement that governs our public oversight. This has been said repeatedly over and over again for decades. This board is recommending that they see the requirement to this.

Health effects on people, again – and I'm trying to personalize this – I and many others have been case studies of the health impacts of this arsenic and other heavy metal contaminants in Yellowknife. Other members of my family have been part of the health studies and so on. Many of our gardens have been sampled for soil contamination. Health effects on people is a big one. This board has addressed that in this solution, in this environmental assessment. Baker Creek goes right over storage chambers and presents a very high-risk situation because of the vulnerability of those chambers to intrusion by the Baker Creek. This is addressed in the environmental assessment we see before us.

The treated water quality and diffuser Ms. Bisaro talked to, and I and others have talked to at various hearings. Again, this assessment pays a good level of attention to those.

Impacts on traditional use, something that is often glossed over. Again, for many, many decades now, our Yellowknives Dene and other Aboriginal people, those staying in the area, had to travel for miles to get away from the contamination and do so to this day. Those are impacts that have not been properly discussed and they are called for. A proper discussion is called for by the board, the review board.

Community engagement, again, I have to say I was on a community engagement committee sponsored by DIAND, and it soon became very apparent that it was not going to be real engagement and I left in protest over that. That was again decades ago. Again, I very much appreciate the board addressing this point as well.

This is not a perfect report, but this goes a long way to indicate to me that this review board has done their work; they have heard people from a broad-sweep range of the public interest. They have heard the concerns. They recognize them as real concerns. As we have heard today, there's probably no more serious environmental issue in Canada and perhaps a much wider geographic scale.

Finally, I would say, why are we doing this? The board has made the recommendations while we are doing this, unfortunately, because Ministers have a record of ignoring the recommendations of these review boards despite millions and millions of dollars put into these reviews, heart and soul of all kinds of people. The Ministers ignore these reports and say no, we don't like that, we don't like that. We negotiate with you and get you down on that one. It is sad, but that's where we're at. That is why we are at the table today saying, Ministers, endorse this report, get on with it, the people have spoken. Mahsi.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I need to go too much further than what has been offered here already today, but I do want to make it very clear that I am certainly in full support of this motion. I am certainly glad that it is here today to discuss and hear.

I think that when we hear the narrative provided by people like Mr. Bromley, who in some ways is an historian on this particular issue, he has seen the passage of time on this particular project. He complains about his grey hair. When I started the Assembly, I had a full head of hair. See what this has done to me?

In all seriousness, the issue of how this is going to be a perpetual, ongoing monitoring project where the concept today, as I see it, has a passive solution. I think they've fixed it, they've tidied it up and they've swept it under the carpet. I think that Member Dolynny was quite right; if you don't see it, it is not an issue. I think what is happening here is a lot of people don't see the volume or magnitude of the problem. We hear about it. We hear the number. The reality is, it doesn't make a lot of sense to a lot of people. Because it is buried under the ground, we don't get to see it, we don't get to smell it, we don't taste it. It is not like the gallows are hanging over us every day where we can look at it and go, oh my goodness, watch out for that glacier of a problem. We don't see it. If people were to understand, and I don't have the right size to give you a sense of magnitude and I'm not going to try to pretend to say it is exactly like this, but if people could see and visualize that there is more arsenic there than, say, the court building downtown type of thing, people would be, oh my goodness, that's a lot of arsenic. When the reality is something as minute as a sliver of a Bayer Aspirin could kill you and all of a sudden you're looking at the size of less than an Aspirin to the size of a building and you think, is this what's hanging over our head. It is that type of illustration that I think the public needs to be fully aware of.

The deciders in this case I think have missed the point. It is about what is best for the public. I think what they've done is they've decided what is best for administration, what is best for them. Yes, they may be doing a great job. I'm not going to suggest that they are not employing some of the best engineering and the best philosophy of today, but that is kind of like the issue I've been raising as of yet, is the fact that we are trying to solve yesterday's problems with today's technology, but today's technology is nowhere near able to address these problems for the future. That's why I believe strongly that innovation is so important on this particular one.

It is time, as the report has said even under Section 5.1 where they talk about wanting to have active research as a permanent solution to this problem. It

is almost like saying once we've put this problem on ice, we will forget about it. By the way, that is exactly what we've done. INAC has put the arsenic problem on ice and it will be forgotten about and no one is going to pay attention to the \$1.9 million of today's dollars being spent under the care and maintenance of this problem.

Over 10 years ago it was \$1 million a year of public money, of federal government money under DIAND stewardship, which is now under AANDC but federal government money at the end of the day. That's why it's so important to be relentless on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, to wait for technology to be stumbled upon I think is a mistake. It's chasing a rainbow and just hoping it comes over to your area one day and there's the pot of gold that revealed itself. I don't believe that that is going to be the case. I believe the only way we're going to find a solution for Giant Mine is if we actively pursue one.

I'd like to point out a section within the report, and at this time, Mr. Speaker, I want to give thanks to Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, who has provided me with some areas to focus in on. I really appreciate his passion and how he works so hard on these types of things. I do admire his ability and concerns and experience and, as I said, his passion. I don't think we can underscore his passion and concern of the environment. There's a clause here, or a chapter and a line here that I do want to point out. It says, "Many people of the public, including elected officials such as band councillors, expressed their concern that active research to identify a permanent solution is a necessary requirement of the project." This isn't this side of the House speaking. This isn't me speaking. This is the public speaking about what they want. Hence, that's partly probably why Ms. Bisaro has brought this motion forward, is because enough is not being done.

Today we need the government to adopt this report and then, even more so, take the bold and innovative step in implementing it and finding a solution. If we don't do this, as I said earlier, the Giant Mine arsenic problem will just sit on ice and will long be forgotten. That, Mr. Speaker, is a big shame. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Members who brought this motion forward and articulated their concerns and the concerns that they've heard.

As responsible Ministers, we are obligated to look at what we're doing, what we've done and the contents of that report. We're going to do that. We're going to do it in a very thorough way, and we will look at all the recommendations and there will be a response forthcoming.

In the meantime, that motion is a recommendation to government and we will be abstaining, but before I sit down, I do want to point out that I concur there has been an enormous amount of work done, time, money and effort by many, many people over a long period of time. This is going to be a billion dollar project. It's one that we have to look at and deal with very carefully. We are well along that path. We all want to achieve the same end. We've got some further recommendations from the review board and we will give them very clear and serious consideration. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I will allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I want to, first of all, thank the seconder, Mr. Nadli, for seconding the motion so we could bring it forward. I would like to thank all of my colleagues who made comments for your support. To Mr. Hawkins, the arsenic trioxide fits in a rather larger building. It's the Bellanca Building, not the courthouse, unfortunately. So fill up the Bellanca Building and that's our 237,000 tons of arsenic trioxide.

I appreciate Mr. Miltenberger's comments that he recognizes the amount of work that's been done. This motion asks that Mr. Miltenberger, and hopefully the federal Ministers as well, represent us properly by recognizing the work that's been done is the right work. The report is thorough, the report is just, the report is valid. I exhort the Ministers to recognize the concerns of residents and that the concerns of residents have been addressed through the recommendations and suggestions in the report and ask again that they endorse the report and start putting the recommendations in place.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for a recorded vote, and thank you again to my colleagues.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All Members in favour, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins.

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

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Blake, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod - Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod - Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MR. SPEAKER: In favour, eight; opposed, zero; abstentions, eight. The motion is carried.

---Carried

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: Bill 3, Wildlife 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; Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act; Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act; Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act; Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013; Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015, with Mr. Dolynny the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with our consideration of Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015, and we would like to start with the Department of Education, and Transportation, time willing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Okay, we will continue on with that. Please open your capital estimate books to section seven, Education. To open that up, we'll go to the Minister of Education for opening comments.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I don't have opening comments, but I do have witnesses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, do we agree we can bring witnesses into the Chamber?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort witnesses in.

Alright, Minister Lafferty, please introduce your witnesses to the House.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. With me to my left is Dana Heide, associate deputy minister with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment; and also, to my right is Tammy Allison, facility planning consultant within ECE.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Heide, Ms. Allison, welcome to the

House. Committee, in my mistake earlier I said section seven. It's section eight of your 2014-2015 Capital Estimates. With that, we will go to general comments. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Welcome to the Minister and guests, witnesses here. I guess I just wanted to throw out general comments here because I'm very concerned about the paucity of projects and especially meaningful work and progress on many of the major issues we have on education infrastructure.

Less than 2 percent of our capital budget this year is dedicated to this department, our second largest department and probably one of the very highest priorities we have as a government in an area where we're not shining, and we know we need to do what we can both in terms of how we do things and the places we do them in. Amazingly, this is the second year in a row. As low as this budget is this year, it's even lower than it was last year. Albeit we ended up spending more than predicted, it was still very, very modest.

My big concern here is education, which this department is a critical department in many areas. Education is one of the very critical areas that it's big in. If I look at the capital infrastructure budget for the education aspects of this department it's hardly detectable. It's less than half of even the less than 2 percent. So we're getting down beyond the undetectable, or into the undetectable area.

You know, we'll be bringing out some specifics, I'm sure, as we go into the details here, but I think there are major areas in every region. In my area in Yellowknife here, we certainly have been pushing some things with little action. They're long overdue. Probably one of the biggest is Mildred Hall and, of course, probably Sissons is the biggest where again we've been talking about it for a long, long time and it's a shambles. We're now doing a planning study this year, but again, amazingly, my jaw dropped when I didn't see any intent to act on the plan in this coming year's budget. This fiscal year we are doing a plan and then we're going to put it on the shelf and let it become dusty and out of date, I guess, for a while.

Again, this is not fully the fault of this Minister. I think it's Cabinet that has come up with this very unbalanced budget. I guess I'll leave it at that, and maybe in terms of a question for the Minister, what's happening here? This is a priority, you have the backup of this Assembly. Why are we not more successful at getting a balanced capital budget and getting going on these areas that we have been lax on for so long to the point where education is being compromised because of an infrastructure situation that we have the capacity to deal with? I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We'll allow Minister Lafferty to respond.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. This whole capital planning process, we go through it every year on an annual basis. Some departments get a fair amount of projects and some don't. It's just the reality of it. We follow through with the process that's been set as part of the capital planning process and all of the departments follow the government-established capital planning process. You know, I can just lay it out where the protection of people, the protection of assets, protection of the environment, financial investment, and also program needs and requirements.

This is also my priority as Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Every year we go through this. We push so many projects into our system and at the end of the day we receive a few of them. As with any other department that will be before you, it does fluctuate. I can state that over the last five years as the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, we've had upwards of \$290 million projects over a five-year period. So we've done okay. We'll continue to push those forward on an annual basis during the capital planning process.

I just want to reiterate that as a department, we're very serious about all the capital projects that are before us and we'll continue to push them through the system. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Bromley, any further comments? No. Thank you. With that, we'll continue on to general comments with Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Just in this year's capital budget you do have a planning study for Trout Lake and their need for a replacement school. That's how I've been approaching the community. The community has always said they want their own stand-alone school and they certainly do want to see renovations there. In fact, kudos to the community of Trout Lake, one of the fastest growing communities in the Northwest Territories. Many young families are moving back and that has resulted in many children now. They've actually got 20 in the school right now and those numbers are only going to increase in future years.

Just in terms of the planning study instructions, what direction would the department be going as they initiate their planning studies? And the same thing, too, that Mr. Bromley asked, okay, you've got a planning study, but the fear is that it will be shelved. I think a planning study is the assuredness of this government to move ahead with a project and I, too, want to see booked expenditures in future years for capital projects such as this.

Maybe the Minister can explain a little bit about how the planning studies and then how the capital actually gets on the books a bit there. I've used almost every leverage working on committees,

Ministers, working with colleagues to try and make this a priority of the House and I believe that we're getting there and getting a planning study is certainly something that the community is looking forward to, working with the department about just how they see the future of their school.

So, just those few comments. Maybe the Minister can fill us in and then I can certainly relay this on to the community of Trout Lake. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct; there is proposed funding for a planning study. That is to deal with the long-term needs of the school. So, it's been identified in the '14-15 Capital Plan. Part of the planning study is to provide a review of the existing school that we've been talking about in this House for years, and the needs analysis of the school. Also the operational plan that will be identified to determine the required scope of work that needs to happen. From there we will be pushing through the capital planning process as we move forward. So, those are just some of the processes that we will definitely be going through. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Menicoche, any closing comments?

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I think the Minister laid it out there, but it still doesn't squash the concern that there's no capital in the future years upcoming. I think the only thing I saw in the books is 2018 or 2019, but I'd like to see it certainly moved up and the community would like to. So, if there's any further remark, it would be that, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. With this particular project and other projects that are identified as part of the planning process, we will be going through the capital planning on an annual basis, of course, and the funding has been identified particularly for Trout Lake. Once that scope of work has been identified, we can put it into the system. Then the decision would have to be made from there. This will give us a tool to push that even further than where we are at now. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Moving on with general comments I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also want to add some of my comments to Mr. Menicoche and Mr. Bromley's comments to the Minister. As I have noted, the community of Colville Lake is looking at expanding, developing their young students, young kids, and looking at a proper

education facility. I also noted those comments in this House that Colville Lake was going to be in the books for planning studies for a new school.

I have been talking to the leadership in Colville Lake, the chief and council. They are asking that for any type of planning studies, that the chief and council be 100 percent involved with the planning studies. They also want to help out with the construction of any type of school that they will receive. They want to be reassured from this department and government that the Colville Lake chief and council will be part of the planning study so they can feel part of the ownership. No different than the people in Colville Lake to build the \$14 million dollar runway, done by the people in their own way.

They are looking at this project and looking at the planning study, that the department gives the commitment in writing and verbal tonight in this House that the planning study will involve them 100 percent in this process. After that, there will be another step to look at securing the funds to build. Even in saying that, they have talked to me and they say they could be a contributor to this process also. They are that confident that they would like to move this project for their community.

The issue of developing the Sahtu has been a long-standing issue of mine, and the Sahtu leadership over the years has known that we need several regional institutions in our region to properly develop our young people. We do have a high population of young people. As a matter of fact, in one of the GNWT's stats and profile for the Sahtu people, in there I found it interesting that there are about 218 young people ready to work, who potentially have that ability right now. With the high interest and the oil companies coming in and working on our lands, it definitely shows that we need to get our people ready for these long-time careers, jobs, either in decentralization, oil and gas, possibly mining, or even self-government initiatives that the community want to take over. So the communities of the Sahtu region have been asking the government for a regional institute, because that is where the activity is going to be concentrated for the next five to 30 years if we get the green light to go ahead with the hydraulic fracturing operations. That is a long-time industry that will be in the Northwest Territories and we need to have our people be prepared for the trades, the academics, to help in the community. Any type of development in oil and gas is going to require some type of certification. Even with the development of the oilfields in the Sahtu region, they possibly will bring in some union organizations. The union is going to have to certify them. If development takes off, oil companies are going to contract the unions to handle their product. That makes for good business sense. The unions are going to hire people who are

certified and trained and they are going to want you there.

In a good business case it makes sense to invest into a regional training institute in the Sahtu. That's where it's going to be needed and required. We should start planning for that, start building for that.

Right now our students go to Yellowknife, Inuvik and Fort Smith. If you want to learn trades, you have to go to Fort Smith. That's where the institution is. That's where the equipment is and it has been there for a while. At the same time, we want to have a training institute in the Sahtu. It makes it easier for families, especially the young families, and it makes good business sense to have it in our region. Partnering with the oil companies makes good sense. I believe they want that too. So I will be speaking on that.

The last point I want to make with our Minister here – I hope we can have some discussion between now and the next election – is looking at beginning a discussion on a regional high school. We have seen the numbers of graduates; we have seen the reports of the quality of education in our communities. Each community is fighting for something that they can have to improve their students' education. We are spending a lot of money building trade centres, additional schools. I think it's time now to have some discussion on the benefits of a regional high school, where the schools could possibly have their grades go up to Grade 9 and have a regional infrastructure building in the Sahtu that can go from grades 10, 11 and 12. Think about this again. It makes a lot of sense. Every school is always fighting for the dollars. Some schools are different from others. Colville Lake is certainly different from Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Deline and Tulita. All our schools are different. Even outside the Sahtu we have different schools, larger centres, regional centres and small schools. We're not all the same. We are treated differently and we know that in the Sahtu, in the small communities, we know that we are treated differently. When I go back, people say, why can't we have a biology class or a chemistry class. It always comes down to dollars and cents.

We don't have the dollars, and it doesn't make sense to have biology in all of the schools. Only certain schools you could, so then we are cheating our children out of good education. In order for them to go into a university program, even one or two students, we have to send them to a larger centre so they can take the required courses, the really true required courses to enter into a profession of a doctor or a nurse. I want to leave it at that, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Member for bringing up

some of the areas, whether it be a concern or ideas and suggestions. First and foremost is the planning process obviously would consist of community involvement, DEAs and DEC's and also leadership. We did receive a correspondence via the MLA from the chief, asking how they can be part of the process. By any means, we want them to be involved because it will have a positive impact into the community and they need to be part of that. So we will be involving the DEAs, DEC's, leadership as well.

I agree with the Member that the Sahtu region, with the economic boost that is happening, there are a lot of activities that are coming. Obviously, we need trained personnel, trained community members. A regional training institute has been brought forward in this House and also in my conversations with the Member as well.

We are working closely with the regional training committee that has been established to identify communities' needs and a five-year plan. That has been discussed. We will be moving forward on that based on those needs, and working closely with the community, the leadership again. As we move further along, we will identify what kind of training is required. I will be working closely with the Member on this particular file.

Just for Members' information, my department will be going to Colville to talk further on the school itself in November, next month, to move things along so it is not at a standstill. I have committed already that we need to move on this.

Regional high school, this is an area that we have done in the past for establishing a regional high school in the region based on the wish of the communities, the wish of DEAs and DEC's and also, again, leadership, that we need to work closely with, if that is the wish that we can work with the communities, the region. Some of the programs may not be offered in isolated communities, such as biology or chemistry. We are learning fast. There is e-learning that is happening in the Beaufort-Delta. I believe that is the way to go now as a short-term measure at this point, and could well be part of the long-term, as well, that we need to take advantage of to deliver. As yourself and other Members have been to Beaufort-Delta and witnessed the e-learning, it is a spectacular program that we need to take advantage of. That is what we are pursuing and I will keep the Members up to speed on the process. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Continuing on with general comments I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to reiterate some of the comments that I made in some of my general comments to the budget as a whole. Like Mr. Bromley, I'm extremely

disappointed in the amount of money that we are putting into education in this capital budget.

I want to focus a bit on some of the projects that are not there. I mentioned those in my general comments to the budget as well. In June of this year, committee received a document which outlined the 20-year needs assessment from the Department of ECE. I appreciate that that document hadn't gone to FMB and the capital budget had not yet been determined, but in looking at that document and looking at only large capital, because there is small capital and large capital and I'm looking at large capital, so school renovations and new schools, additions and so on, there were five schools in the document that committee received in June: Sissons, Lutselk'e, William McDonald, Mangilaluk School and Chief Jimmy Bruneau. They were all on that list as being a priority of the department for renovation, addition, replacement, whatever, but they were a large capital project. So, you take that list and you compare it to the list that we are looking at here in this budget for Education. There are no large capital projects for schools in this budget. There is one large capital project and it is a software project. It is a CMAS replacement or upgrade, whatever it is.

I have great difficulty understanding how we can have such a variation in documents. From June to October, in five months' time, we have lost five major capital projects for schools. If these are important and priority projects for Education, Culture and Employment, then there is something wrong with the way the department is asking for these things to be dealt with. It's a priority in June and they are nowhere on the list in October.

The one school that is in both places – and that is the Colville Lake School addition – in June it was going to be an addition. There was construction money in the budget. In this particular budget there is money for a planning study and then there is no construction money, so we are going to plan for the addition or replacement of Colville Lake School, and we will do the planning, but in 2015-16 there is no money in the budget, that I can see, where we are going to start construction.

I'm really concerned that what Education wants to do and what gets into the budget just do not jibe, from what I can tell. I am concerned that schools across the territory are missing out. We have projects that are on the list now that weren't on the list in June. We have all these projects that were on the list in June that are not anywhere on the list now and I fail to understand why.

Sissons School, for instance, in June it was down for a renovation and addition starting in 2014-15. You look at this budget that is before us, you don't see the words Sissons School anywhere in the education and culture activity in the Education

budget. So in five months' time, Sissons has disappeared off the map. Even if Sissons was on here and was planned for two or three years down the road, that would be helpful, but it's not anywhere that we can see.

That is what I wanted to focus on. If the Minister can enlighten me as to how things can change so much in five months' time, I am all ears. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Again, we do go through a process. Members alluded to various projects in the riding and also other ridings. All of those have been submitted. At the end of the day, we get some projects earmarked or approved as we move forward on this particular planning process. We have to, like all the departments, follow through the guidelines that are set before us.

I will get Ms. Allison to just give us a detailed process because she's actively involved with all the projects that are going through our department along with the process itself. If I can allow Ms. Allison to elaborate, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Ms. Allison.

MS. ALLISON: Mr. Chair, with the capital planning process, our department does identify the requirements as we see fit, based on the building's age and based on consultation that we receive annually from our building users. When we are identifying them across the 20-year span, the thing that it always comes back to is the ranking of the projects, whether it's (a) protection of people, (b) protection of assets, (c) the environment, (d) financial investment and, finally, (e) program requirements. Unfortunately, when we came to the table with the capital planning, our projects didn't come to the top. As the Minister spoke earlier, definitely we have had some great success in the past five years and 10 years.

The one thing I would like to point out is with the planning study, you will not see the approval or the funding for the future years. So if you have a planning study funded for '14-15, you won't see the funding in '15-16, '16-17 to carry the project through, because once you finish that planning study, you then have to go back through the capital planning review and then you would see it secured in the plan, just for clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Ms. Allison. General comments. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of brief comments. I know we have a long way to go here for the education system. Some things I would like to see in the future budgets are proper facilities

for extra curriculum; for example, automotive shops in our smaller communities. I was very surprised, as I mentioned last year, we are building a multi-million dollar school in Inuvik, yet we didn't include a facility or a portion that had an automotive shop in there. I know they do have a small engine shop that's nearby, but times have changed and we need to offer these programs to get our students encouraged in different fields.

Also we had the opportunity this spring, when we were touring with the Wildlife Act, to visit Nahanni Butte. I was really surprised. I thought it was an office building that was their school. A small building that had I'm not sure how many students in there. I just briefly went in to say hi and give them some Tim Horton's. We need to upgrade our facilities.

I feel very fortunate that in the riding I represent we have three schools and one is near being replaced even though it's not on the wish list. I just wanted to make those brief comments. I think they need to start planning ahead here and offer a lot of courses that are really lacking in our schools right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I totally agree with the Member that we need to deliver additional programming into our schools. That's the way to go. The Trades on Wheels has been very successful in the Beaufort-Delta. It's a stand-alone facility on wheels. At the same time, future projects, as the Member alluded to, this is something we need to bring to the DEC's and DEAs and also the leadership. If that is the wish, we can definitely work with them. At the end of the day, we will come to a partnership-driven approach, such as we did with Trades on Wheels. The reason I am referring to that is it has been very successful. Those are the areas that we will share with the board chairs. I hold quarterly board chair meetings in education and I can share with them some of the ideas and suggestions brought forward by the Members. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Is committee prepared to go into detail? Okay, I'm getting agreement. Committee, we are going to defer 8-2 in your capital estimates binder. We are going to go to 8-4, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, labour development and standards, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investment, \$754,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. I'd like to go to 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure

investments, \$2.986 million. Does committee agree? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I just want to emphasize here my complete chagrin in not having significant educational infrastructure projects profiled here, especially given the deferred investments in this area and the great need that the Members have been profiling for the last seven years that I know of.

There is also the area of early childhood development, of course. Apparently we are just putting all of these things on the backburner. I think Ms. Bisaro has profiled a number of things that were on the 20-year plan just a few months ago and are missing now in action. Maybe I could just ask, to start with, with the Sissons project that we are currently doing a planning study on but have no indication of funding, obviously that means you're not intending to spend money to fulfill this plan this coming year. Could I get some clarification on when we intend to act on the plan or whether that will be stored on the shelf and become dusty and outdated?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I believe there are upwards of 400 different projects on an annual basis with a \$75 million budget. Obviously, there will be a lot of infrastructure on hold, but there are also red-flag projects and Sissons is one of them we will continue to push. We know it's a high priority for Members and it is a high priority for my department too. ECE is working closely with Public Works and Services and Education District No. 1, as well, to complete a planning study and to advance the renovation of Ecole J.H. Sissons through government infrastructure planning process. So this is indeed a priority for our department and we are committed to working with YK No. 1 to complete the education plan and planning study 2013-2014. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: Again, I didn't hear when this is going to happen. Perhaps the Minister can give some information on that.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Again, I don't have a date right now, but it is a planning process that we need to make a move on. We have to work with other departments to move that further along with YK No. 1. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: In terms of the Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah, what are the standards for a gymnasium for a school like that and is there any plan to put such a facility in place? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: With any schools, we have to work closely, depending on the population of the students. We have to work with MACA if the school enrollment is under 150

students and also the community to find space availability for a gymnasium. For some schools, we build schools without a gymnasium because there's a gymnasium in the community. So those are some of the reasons based on enrollment. If it's lower than 150, then we have to work with Municipal and Community Affairs and also with community leadership to find a solution. So those are just some of the processes we have to go through within our ECE department, the capital planning process along with PWS and MACA as well. Mahsi.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that. I'd appreciate maybe a commitment to get some information on what their plans are. Part of our problems in Weledeh is the community schools and the gymnasiums or recreational centres have been fulfilling the role of school gymnasiums and yet nobody is taking ownership of them. Sometimes they were built by the federal government, sometimes by GNWT, and both governments have shrugged and said okay, they're your responsibility now, without providing sufficient funds to maintain or replace. So I wouldn't mind an update on what the plans are now.

For K'alemi Dene, I believe we're on the books for some sort of a school gymnasium, although when I look at the substantiation sheets they seem to be substantiating that there is no need. So maybe I could get clarification we are planning to build a gymnasium for the K'alemi Dene School in the near future, if not this coming fiscal year. At the same time, I'll mention that the school was at capacity the day it opened. So is the Minister aware of this and the need to be considering additional space and perhaps this gymnasium will be built with the projections in mind that the facility was full the day it was opened. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. I would have to get Ms. Allison to just elaborate on details. Again, she's been involved with this particular school as far as capital planning projects. So I'll get Ms. Allison to elaborate.

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

MS. ALLISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With K'alemi Dene School, the capacity of that school is about 120. Currently we're showing an enrollment at just over 100. So I think we're in a good area right now. That is something that we monitor annually to make sure that we are within 85 percent range.

Now, with the school standards, as the Minister spoke to earlier, with a school that has a capacity of 120 we would be under that 150 mark. So we would be looking at a joint gym with MACA, which is the existing situation there right now. I believe MACA has actually transferred that facility over to the community. They do use that facility. I was talking to the school. They also have an activity room in their school, which provides about 85 square

metres for doing yoga and light activity. So basically at this point we wouldn't be planning for a new gymnasium unless we were doing it with MACA with us, similar to Detah. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. My understanding is that this is happening based on the substantiation sheet. Okay, that will help focus my attention that it should happen and I'd like the Minister to get going with that. Obviously, a substantial school, a gymnasium again that was shrugged off on to the community and it's clearly in desperate need of replacement in a community that doesn't have the capacity for that. So I'd ask the Minister to go after that and get that back on the books for the establishment of a good school for these kids. I mean, again, immediate occupation of that school at capacity and they need this sort of space to round out and help the approach to their education.

So I'll leave that and just talk a little bit about the plans for the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Some I'm moving away from education in the formal sense here. I'm happy to see the plans for some gallery development and lighting over the next couple of years. I think that's definitely overdue. So I'm happy to see that. I'm also very happy to see the biomass heating system that's being proposed for this year. So I'd support that. There are a couple of years we have on the books, I guess, another boiler for this facility and I don't really understand that. Again, that's in the projections for the fiscal year following the one under discussion here.

So I'm wondering if there's any ready explanation for what that particular piece of capital is all about given that we're putting a healthy amount into a new pellet boiler this coming year. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Just to note, Mr. Bromley, your time did expire. I'll let Mr. Lafferty conclude with that and if you need more questions and more time, let me know and I'll put you back on the list. For that response we're going to go to Ms. Allison.

MS. ALLISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would have to dig for some more information and let you know about that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Allison. Continuing on with the comments on page 8-7 I have Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 88-17(4):
ECOLE J.H. SISSONS SCHOOL RENOVATIONS,
DEFEATED

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to move a motion on page 8-7 regarding J.H. Sissons School and the renovation.

I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to identify the funding necessary to commence renovations on Ecole J.H. Sissons School in the fiscal year 2014-2015. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. We're just to wait for the motion to get circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I would first like to give credit to Mr. Bromley, who has brought this issue up here today. This isn't his first occasion, nor should I miss the point of people like yourself, Mr. Chairman, Ms. Bisaro and there are many other MLAs of course who have brought up the need for J.H. Sissons to be brought up to date. When it comes to the quality of school, the facility needs desperate attention. It's been brought up in committee many, many times. It's been brought up for many years. I think we could speak at length to types of renovations that are necessary, but really it's gone beyond speaking about it. It's now to the point that we must commit actions for it and I know there are many schools out there and in ways that we all find on this side of the House to support. I know I've heard that Mr. Menicoche needs support for his school and I understand that, and J.H. Sissons is just one more school in a long list of schools that need help.

I think all of our schools deserve help. I know Mr. Yakeleya's schools need help and he knows I'm there for him when it comes to these initiatives, as well, and I think no children should be, like they say, no children left behind, but no school left behind in desperate, despicable state, and the school is the oldest school I think in our inventory and certainly here in Yellowknife that has not had any facelift or serious renovation. It's beyond desperate attention required at this point.

So rather than spending too much time, I just wanted to emphasize a few issues here while we were handing out the motion to all Members. I think this Assembly is well versed in the need for this school to be addressed. That said, I will ask for a recorded vote on this particular motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you Mr. Hawkins. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The Member has asked for a recorded vote. All those in favor, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Nadli.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod - Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod - Inuvik Twin Lakes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Sorry about that, committee, just had to make sure we had the math right. All those in favor of the motion, we have seven. All those opposed, we have seven. Unfortunately, the Chairman has to vote in this case to prolong debate. The Chairman will be voting not in favor of the motion. Motion defeated.

---Defeated

Committee, we are on section 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary. Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 89-17(4): STAND-ALONE AURORA COLLEGE YELLOWKNIFE CAMPUS, DEFEATED

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee strongly recommends that the government take immediate action to identify the funding necessary to commence the planning study for the construction of a stand-alone Yellowknife Campus facility for Aurora College in the fiscal year 2014-2015; and furthermore, that the government actively pursue partnership with other organizations and governments such as the City of Yellowknife to support this initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Give us a moment; we are just going to circulate that motion.

Committee, the motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have talked about this subject for many, many years and I know my colleagues have strongly talked about this subject at length as well. The Aurora College, in the downtown of Yellowknife, needs to be established in a mechanism that helps foster growth and further programming for all students of the Northwest Territories. It is constantly under siege when it comes to residence problems, which is they don't have enough residence, even their parking. There is just nowhere for it to grow and go.

I hear constantly from the students, the staff and even some board members about how they see a future with Aurora College in the Northwest Territories, yet they just don't see a future there. It has been stymied for many years and I had often hoped that the department would have seen the wisdom by now to start a planning study to start looking towards the future.

Again, another issue that I am not sure that it's necessary to go on too long, but what I would say, that without supporting a planning study, we can't predict the future. The one organization I think we should take a quick look at this one is in talking with the major, Mayor Heyck, of the City of Yellowknife. The City of Yellowknife wants to be an active supporter in some type of partnership in order to help see this come out with a future of where the college can go. They believe they could provide some type of support. What type of support that would be I am not sure, but this motion leans toward let's get this discussion out there, let's plan for the future. It doesn't not commit long-term capital dollars, but what it does is help describe the type of programming we need out there. That's why it's so important to get behind this motion so that the work gets started. Some may argue that it is not necessary at this time, and I think we have many students that we're failing by not providing the opportunity to continue programming or expand programming.

The last thing I will say is that Aurora College has long talked about wanting to develop university-style programming, and I have supported the past-presidents who have carried that message forward and they said, if they could lean toward a bigger type of programming mandate, they could bring new money into the Northwest Territories. I have often heard about southern institutions wanting to come to the Territories to partner and they actually bring funding models and cash to the Territories to study things like Aboriginal language and culture, but that money and research travels south when they leave and we can't let that continue to happen.

Aurora College does not have a reputation of attracting many people from outside of the territory and I think that if we started planning appropriately, maybe we can become a college that starts to do that. Maybe we can evolve into a university-style campus and into a university maybe someday, but it all starts with that first ring of the bell of enthusiasm and a planning study would be something to that effect.

Aurora College's future will continue at its present pace. The students that attend there are very proud. The professors and leadership there and administration and board are very proud of the programming it offers, but united they all say the same thing, which is that much more could be done. Today this motion says let's take a look at what type of future can happen there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a point of saying that we do have three campuses in the Northwest Territories right now, and before looking at planning to build a new, big

infrastructure, that we look at how we can utilize all three campuses.

I have brought it up here before and have brought it in terms of operations budget in terms of the programs offered in Inuvik. We have a great campus. We have the Aurora Research Institute there. We have great partnerships with the universities to do work up in that region, and that I don't feel that throwing more money at a planning study when we are not even utilizing all three campuses in the Northwest Territories efficiently right now is definitely putting the cart before the horse in this area.

If Yellowknife Campus is being overflowed or filled to capacity right now, then let's look at Inuvik. Let's put more programs up in Inuvik; let's put some programs at Fort Smith and spread the wealth throughout the Northwest Territories. Just because the programs here in Yellowknife are being filled to capacity doesn't mean that we have to build a new big building.

I know that, as I said, in Inuvik we have a really great facility and it is not being fully utilized. This is a great opportunity, and I thank Mr. Hawkins for bringing this motion so I can bring this to the floor, so we can start putting some of these programs that are in Yellowknife, into Inuvik.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I cannot support this motion, with the fact that this government does have only so many dollars to move forward, and with all the great buildings we have throughout the Northwest Territories, let's utilize the buildings that we do have and start getting our people educated elsewhere outside. It doesn't have to be the capital, but let's utilize our buildings and stop wasting taxpayers' dollars when we have buildings out there that can be used.

I won't be in favour of this motion. I know it is something that needs to come down the pipe eventually, but I will not be supporting the motion going forward, knowing full well that we have a great facility in Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have to respectfully disagree with the comments from my colleague to my left. The campus here in Yellowknife is full and it is full to overflowing. It has been in need of some kind of an examination of the situation for probably five years, maybe 10 years now. Several years ago, when the lease was up for Northern United Place, where Aurora College Yellowknife Campus is now located, I believe I remember hearing the Minister say that, well, this is just going to be for a short time, we were going to do a planning study and we were going to look at building a facility to get them out of that space and into a stand-alone campus. That is not anywhere on

the horizon at the moment and it has not been for many years. I agree with Mr. Hawkins that it is time that we start getting serious about determining what we need for Aurora College.

Mr. Moses makes a really good point, that we have two other campuses which do have space and we could be moving some programs there, but I think we also have to accept that students don't necessarily want to go to Inuvik or Fort Smith. I'm sorry to have to say that, but I think of the Teacher Education Program which was moved out of Yellowknife, it was a thriving program when it was in Yellowknife, and it moved to another campus and the numbers in that program have dropped significantly. Unfortunately, we have to face the fact that programs seem to thrive better here in Yellowknife because it is a bigger community, it has better services and all that stuff, which I hate to point out but it's true.

It's time that we have a facility here in Yellowknife for our Aurora College students which does not cause them to freeze in the winter and sweat to death in the summertime; it gives them enough space that they can actually have decent classrooms and it is well overdue. I fully support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's difficult to listen to this, because at the community level, not everybody is in the position at their leisure to move to larger centres. Small communities, we try to at least to bring the services to the people. I think that was the whole philosophy about decentralization in our recent discussions. As we go forward on this, I am just not prepared to support this motion.

The small communities, I think, deserve more resources in terms of ensuring that we do deliver these educational opportunities for people at the smaller communities. At this point, I can see the merit of just really doing a planning study in terms of identifying the possibility, but there are parts of the college that exist in Fort Smith currently in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River and Fort Simpson regional centres. From my perspective, I represent the small communities, there needs to be equal consideration for small communities, which at times lack the adequate resources to deliver proper programs and courses. Therefore, I am not prepared to support this motion. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think this is a good discussion. I would like to see more of this sort of discussion so we can... This has been something that has been bubbling along for a while, but meanwhile the Yellowknife Campus has been festering with overuse. I appreciate Mr. Moses

bringing this to the table. I do agree with his point that we need to come up with a good vision of the role for each of the campuses. I think I have detected really good support. I personally very much support first-class facilities in our other campuses outside Yellowknife. We have put them in place there even to beyond capacity. We are trying to attract people to those campuses and that's appropriate. I think I can justify expenditure of funds to make sure we have first-class facilities on those campuses even beyond capacity.

But at the same time, we are seeing an overuse of the very modest campus here in Yellowknife. The reality is that students want to come here, as we've seen with programs that we have tried to move out to those campuses and the programs have died out. They don't get the enrolments so they stop being offered or return to Yellowknife.

One of the consequences, ultimately, is that we lose people from the Northwest Territories because students are choosing to go south. Some programs, if they are not offered in Yellowknife, and even if they are offered in other facilities, and even though the support is not the same, they are choosing to go south, and in doing so, they are getting captured in that system and they are not returning 100 percent. That, I think, is why I support Mr. Moses' suggestion to come up with a good vision.

We haven't been saying to people, forget about those campuses in Inuvik and Fort Smith and come to Yellowknife. We haven't been saying that at all. It is the students who are saying that. I think we need to recognize that reality. In the meantime, though, we have known for years that we are over-capacity here and there have been all kinds of things bantered about. Maybe Mr. Moses' suggestion of let's come up with a good vision for the three campuses and recognize the realities and then we can work toward that.

I will be supporting this motion at the very minimum, in hopes that it would finesse that sort of examination and solid foundation and basis for moving forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to say that we have a well-established capital planning process. It takes a lot of hard work, working with your colleagues, different committees, working with Cabinet, to get your plans into the capital plan, and having last minute additions is something that I'm not really in favour of, only because it impacts some of the potential projects that I have in my small communities in my riding. Just with that alone, I like Mr. Moses' suggestion as well. Let's re-evaluate this. Let's just not throw motions in at the last minute to force things done. We have to have a good evaluation and

assessment and have a good plan. With that, I won't be supporting this motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly I want to just draw Members' attention up and away from this specific issue that is on the table and just remind everybody about our fiscal circumstances, similar to what Mr. Menicoche was talking about.

We have a very modest capital budget, a very rigorous process that takes a great deal of patience and hard work to get projects on from across the North. It's a process that everybody watches very carefully. We also are dealing with a project – I want to mention this project again – of the Stanton Hospital that is going to be the biggest capital project we have ever done in the Northwest Territories. It is going to take away what modest flexibility we have, so we have to be very careful about layering on new costs that will limit our flexibility, that will make it more difficult to try to meet some of the needs that are out there that have come up through the process.

All of these projects, we are swamped by far more needs than we have money. There is no doubt about that. I am just sitting here listening to the debate, looking at the previous motion in this House to add more money, money we don't have; money, when we add it to all the other things on our plate, that is going to push us perilously close to the milestones and marks that we set as a government and as an Assembly to manage our money, to keep our credit rating, to keep our flexibility. So Cabinet won't be supporting this motion either, just on the basis that we have a plan and we are working very hard to stick to it. We need to all remember that. Not that these aren't good projects, but we can do what we can afford and we are always making choices, and that is what we are doing again in this case here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. We will go to closing comments to the mover of the motion, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, my colleague will remain nameless on this next point, but I will really point out about the thin opportunities for Yellowknife in this capital budget, and I will let the people figure out from the record which MLA said that.

The reality here is that we are not asking for a college to be built. What it is, is a planning study. I think what happens here is that in order to see vision as to where this college should be going, it gives a chance to re-evaluate what's being done now.

Not all college programming is created equal, not all campuses are created equal and certainly not all

communities are created equal, and I understand that. We spend a lot of money supporting the other two campuses and I would say that they are two beautiful campuses, the one in Fort Smith and certainly the one in Inuvik. But yet again it can't be seen as coming at a cost, and I don't support projects that come at a cost in the communities, nor would I. I would hope that colleagues would reconsider and realize that I am asking for a planning study.

We have a very interested and active partner, who could be the City of Yellowknife, to help support this initiative. There are other partners out there that do exist. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment know exactly who those are.

This is not, when we talk about modest capital project additions, a significant expenditure, but to treat it as a walk-on, that it's a surprise at the last minute, I have to admit that I am going to say I disagree with that point.

The motion is here today, yes, that I will concede to, but this is not a new issue by any means. So for anyone to say this has just snuck up on them out of the blue, I think misses it.

The thing here that is the key or the underpin of the whole scenario is about getting the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to actively work with partners that exist to help make this initiative successful, to help look at the long term.

Let the college itself drive its programming. Let the college itself drive the programming it needs where it needs these things. The Legislature itself doesn't do that, nor should it. We already know that the college does not come and report to standing committee or the Legislature to talk about their details. We all know that it falls under the Education Minister. The reality here is, let the college continue its work.

As I said earlier, there are two beautiful campuses outside of Yellowknife, but we should allow the campus itself, the college itself to dictate its own individual programming, but we need to help foster that opportunity and that is what I am talking about here today. The planning study itself will allow them to help predict their future.

The college has been squeezed, if not shoe-horned into a situation that could be better described more as a very uncomfortable situation in Northern United Place. I don't say that easily, because the owners of that building are constituents of mine and they often talk about how important the college is. I hear about that often and I agree that the college is an important tenant in that building. But at the same time, by thinking that that is the best place for it, is missing out on the opportunity of education that can happen here.

I think by voting against this, really you are voting against, by way of simple example, whether it is a

\$75,000 contribution, you are actually voting against every one of the students there who wants to take programming, it's not the money. The people who want to continue the programming. It's true. The instructors there will say that they continue the style of programming, they could attract more students if they had better residences. If they had better facilities, they could do more programming, they could do more. All you have to do is talk to the students there, talk to the administrators, talk to the instructors. There are so many reasons about yes for this. But really, at the end of the day, people will want to vote no, and I will respect that. But I won't give up. I will be back on this issue. The fact is, who we are really hurting here is not the capital budget that Minister Miltenberger keeps an eye on, we are hurting the students of the Northwest Territories. Let it be no mistake that they are the ones impeded by not even allowing us to have a study to say, what could the college look like, what could we do for them, what could we do for education in the Northwest Territories.

Although I know how the vote is already going to go, and I will save my colleagues the grief of standing up to show that they are not going to vote for it, I will not ask for a recorded vote. But that said, Members have already clearly said how they are voting and that is all I have to say at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Question has been called.

---Defeated

Committee, we are on 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2.986 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question at this point. It comes from comments that were made earlier with regards to a planning study and what happens after a planning study is completed.

I look at this year's budget and it indicates two planning studies, one for Colville Lake School and one for Trout Lake school. I am not quite sure if I understood correctly, but as I listened to the response earlier, I thought I heard them say that if in 2014-15 a planning study is completed for, say, the Colville Lake School, that there would not be construction money for at least another year, but probably if there was a planning study in '14-15, construction money would come in '16-17. I would like to get that clarified. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. With any planning studies, we need to identify areas of the project itself, and once we do an analysis and scope of work, then we need to identify, through the capital planning process, what is required if there is going to be a new school built.

I believe that is what Ms. Allison was referring to, but I can get Ms. Allison to elaborate and make more clarification on that subject. Mahsi.

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

MS. ALLISON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, if the planning study was completed in 2014-15, you could still then flag it for capital funding in 2015-16, as long as you complete the work before our capital planning process starts, which is generally in February. Does that answer your question? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Ms. Allison. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it answers the question. It is a definite maybe, I think is what I heard. I guess it concerns me that again we have projects in this capital budget which really are suggesting that we are going to have school additions or renovations, not in 2014-15 but maybe the year after, but it doesn't sound like that is very feasible. With the amount of work that is required to do once the planning study is done, unless it is done early on in the fiscal year, there is no way that the project is going to get through the capital plan. It also has to be a high priority in the capital plan, and we have seen from five different schools across the territory that you can be in the ECE priority plan but that doesn't mean that you are going to get into the total capital plan. I just wanted to clarify that and I am still quite concerned that we are not going to get any schools worked on for at least another two or three years at least at this point. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is part of the process that we have to go through, as with any other capital infrastructure process. The two school projects that have been identified as a planning process have been earmarked as a priority by this department and also have been identified as a priority by Cabinet too. It's a process we have to go through, Mr. Chair.

We will do what we can as a department to push through all those projects that are before us. Some red flagged projects are pushed forward, so hopefully they will be approved at a later time. We want to do this planning process as soon as

possible, so we can at least meet the next capital planning process, Mr. Chair. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: That's fine. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, I just want to remind everybody here that we are on 8-7, Education, Culture and Employment, activity summary, education and culture, infrastructure investment summary, infrastructure investments, \$2.986 million. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a few really quick comments here. I know that Cabinet is familiar with the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council leadership meetings and there was a motion passed last year in terms of getting some adult learning centres up in the communities of Paulatuk and Sachs Harbour. There was some response made in terms of renovating some space or creating a new learning centre in either one of those communities and I just wanted to ask the Minister what were his thoughts and plans on the resolution brought forth from the Beaufort-Delta Regional Council specifically to those learning centres. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. We need to gather the latest update on that. It's really fine print right now, but what we need to do is work with the college, Aurora College Board of Governors, to see if there's a need for that. I'm sure the leadership has addressed that with the Board of Governors, if that's the case. We need to address it with them and have them identify it as a priority and then it will be addressed to my attention as Minister responsible so I can put it through the capital infrastructure process. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

MR. MOSES: I look forward to the update. Just one other question with regard to infrastructure and that's dealing with the E3 School. I brought it up in general comments at the beginning of this budget and it's dealing with the dental therapist's office. This would be something that would probably fall under renovations even though it is affecting our operations budget. We do have an individual there hired full time that's not able to practice any type of oral care, which is a big issue within our youth and our children. I just want to know if there's going to be any structural renovations within the dental office within the E3 School in Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We are fully aware of the situation in the E3 School. There's been discussion between the school itself, administration, the BDEC, Health and Social Services and Public Works to deal with this ongoing issue and to have some resolution for a dental therapy suite. So the

program support teacher office has been temporarily allocated for the dental therapist at this point, temporarily. Students are going to Inuvik Hospital for dental therapy appointments. We are fully aware of it and are working towards resolving that issue immediately. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: With the response to that question, the room that they put it in, does that follow the right guidelines in terms of dental therapists' practice, going into the program support teacher's classroom now? Are those regulations now met or are we contravening some of those regulations by moving the dental therapist and not doing the safety of both the therapist themselves and the students?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Ms. Allison.

MS. ALLISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There would be required renovations to the dental suite itself mainly to do with ventilation. So the space that they've allocated right now, which is an office space, is purely temporary. The dental office suite that was designed for them still requires upgrades based on what Health requires. There's going to need to be some money put towards it and some renovation work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Allison. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Yes, in the room they are temporarily in now, I know obviously it's not going to be up to standards, but are we contravening any type of regulations or legislation by not having the dental therapist practice in a room that is not adequate or was not prepared for dentistry?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We are working very closely with Public Works and Services and Health and Social Services because dental would fall under Health and Social Services laws. So we have to meet the standards when we start renovating that area, so we have to make sure that it does meet the standards the Member is referring to. That's a good point, so we will definitely take that into consideration. The Minister of Health is here as well. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: Just one final comment with the construction and all the work that was done on E3 School. I'm sure you've all heard of it and it's been in the news on some occasions. It has to deal with the parking and the way parking was structured in terms of how the school was built and the congestion that it has in the morning and at lunch and how it's become a safety issue within the school. Has the department looked at that and looked at any possible alternatives to try to get that fixed? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: That's an area where we are working closely with Public Works and Services and also BDEC, the administration. It's been identified and the public has been commenting on some concerns in that respect. So we are moving forward on this and so we will keep Members up to speed if there are any changes coming. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, just before we leave this activity summary, I just want to do some general housekeeping before we do. In the oral exchange between Ms. Allison and Mr. Bromley, there was a quote, "I would have to dig into that information." This was regarding the pellet boiler program at the Prince of Wales. If I could get a firm commitment from the department that they will actually commit to that. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chair. We will provide that additional detailed information. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. With that, committee, I will now rise and report progress.

I would like to thank our witnesses here today and if I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses out of the Chamber, thank you.

Report of Committee of the Whole

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015, and would like to report progress. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Do I have a seconder? Mr. Ramsay.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements

7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 3, Wildlife 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
 - Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act
 - Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act
 - Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Liquor Act
 - Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013
 - Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates, 2014-2015

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

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

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

