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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, February 12, 2015****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

---Singing of O Canada

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Thank you to Ms. Brace and her grades 3 and 4 choir from Mildred Hall School for their wonderful rendition of O Canada.

Colleagues, today we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the national flag of Canada. It was on February 15, 1965, that our iconic flag, with its distinctive red and white maple leaf design, first flew proudly on Parliament Hill in our nation's capital. In 1996, February 15th was declared National Flag of Canada Day to mark the introduction of Canada's national flag.

At its inauguration in 1965, the Speaker of the Senate declared, "The flag is the symbol of the nation's unity, for it, beyond any doubt, represents all the citizens of Canada without distinction of race, language, belief or opinion."

Since 1965, the flag, as a symbol of Canada, has become known the world over and is associated with the Canadian ideals of democracy, freedom and respect.

Maple trees are not common in this part of the country. However, we proudly fly our Canadian flags across the Northwest Territories as a symbol of unity with fellow Canadians across this country as well as those representing our country around the world.

Later this afternoon in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. George Tuccaro, will host a reception marking the 50th anniversary of the Canadian flag. All Members of this House and all members of the public are invited to attend this celebration of our flag and the great country that it represents.

Please join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the national flag of Canada.

Thank you, colleagues. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 141-17(5):
CANNOR TOURISM FUNDING**

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, the tourism industry offers opportunities for economic development throughout all regions of the Northwest Territories, and federal funding can support this growing and vibrant industry.

On February 9th, along with myself and Mr. Don Morin, chair of Northwest Territories Tourism, the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, announced a contribution of approximately \$2.8 million to support tourism development in the Northwest Territories. The contribution includes just over \$1.4 million for tourism projects supported by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and \$1.4 million in funding for NWT Tourism. These funds will be spent over the remaining current fiscal year and in 2015-2016.

The funding dedicated to Industry, Tourism and Investment's tourism projects will include research, the development of a visitor exit survey, community tourism development and training activities.

There will be an emphasis on five communities with emerging tourism opportunities: Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Deline and Tuktoyaktuk.

I would like to thank these communities for their vision in pursuing tourism for economic development, the well-being of their residents, and cultural vibrancy. Funding will support baseline research to measure the impacts of these investments as well a series of initiatives to build community tourism capacity.

The investment in NWT Tourism will take place over the same time period. This funding will support the implementation of a two-year marketing plan to further promote the territory to target markets in Asia, Europe and North America. Marketing activities include advertising and promotions, attendance at trade shows, market research and the development of a five-year marketing strategy.

This strategy will respond to new opportunities such as the emerging market in China and other Asian

nations. It will guide the annual marketing plans going forward. The overall goal of these activities is to increase the number of tourists visiting and spending money in the Northwest Territories.

I am pleased to share that Industry, Tourism and Investment will also be contributing funding to these two initiatives through existing tourism support programs. Our share includes \$5.7 million for the ITI tourism projects and \$1.4 million for NWT Tourism over two years, bringing the total investment announced by our two governments this week to approximately \$10 million.

Mr. Speaker, the number of tourists discovering our spectacular territory continues to grow every year. Tourism brings around \$130 million to the Northwest Territories each year and employs 2,500 people. To further grow this important sector, we need support, and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment welcomes and appreciates the investment of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency.

Once again we would like to thank the federal government for their continued support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 142-17(5):
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
ACTION PLAN UPDATE:

IPADS FOR NEW PARENTS AND A GRANT
PROGRAM FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKERS

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, all children in the NWT deserve the best possible care, nurturing and support, so that they can develop physically, emotionally, socially, culturally and spiritually. When these supports are in place right from the start, children are more likely to grow up to become healthy, productive members of their communities and society.

The departments of Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment continue to work in partnership to ensure that there is increased access and participation in early childhood programs, enhanced quality of early childhood services and improved integration and collaboration at all levels of the early childhood system. Achieving our vision and goals requires an effective, comprehensive and coordinated approach to improve early childhood developmental outcomes. Today I would like to update you on some of the achievements in our Right From The Start - Early Childhood Development Action Plan.

In December 2014, Education, Culture and Employment launched the Early Childhood Staff Grant program. This program supplements the traditionally low wages of the early childhood

sector, to help attract new people and encourage them to further their post-secondary training. Making the field more attractive to trained people is critical, as the quality of early childhood programs is directly related to the number of years of training that staff have. To date, we have received more than 140 applications and the first payments will be made on February 13, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, we also successfully implemented another key action identified in the Early Childhood Education Action Plan. In January 2015, 10 successful applicants were awarded the first ever Right From The Start Early Childhood Development Scholarship. At \$5,000 each, these scholarships will help our northern students to achieve their goals and complete their early childhood development post-secondary training, investments further benefitting our NWT children.

To support new parents and caregivers as they embark on the important journey of raising children, ECE will give them iPads filled with useful early childhood apps and resources. We know this generation of parents is much more technologically savvy, and we want to provide them with resources that will assist them in raising their children. Distributing the iPads will also give us an important opportunity to introduce new parents to early childhood staff and resources available in their communities. What better way for relationships to develop than learning about fun and relevant resources that benefit modern parents and caregivers as they are raising their children. These iPads are the techno "baby bags" of the future. I look forward to seeing how tradition combines with innovation to continue serving our children and families in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the commitments and innovations emerging out of the Right From The Start Framework and Action Plan very actively underway. These developing programs and services are streamlining and improving access for our families with young children and creating an understanding that investing in our youngest children is an investment in the future of the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 143-17(5):
CORRECTIONS ON-THE-LAND PROGRAMS

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, in every community visit, when discussing corrections and justice issues, we hear that on-the-land programming helps people heal and reconnect to their culture and values. In the Department of Justice, we know this to be true. This type of programming has long been a cornerstone of programming in the NWT.

In the Assembly last year, I talked about work the department has undertaken to ensure inmates are receiving appropriate cultural and on-the-land programming while in NWT corrections facilities. Finding capable partners with the right kind of cultural knowledge and experience to deliver these programs is essential to their success.

Our first efforts to identify groups, elders and individuals who could help us deliver the Wilderness Program for low-risk offenders were met with limited response and we were unable to select any qualified contractors. The Department of Justice, however, remains committed to developing this programming and has been actively engaging communities to help identify potential operators.

We believe that significant community involvement is essential for an effective Wilderness Program. Over the last year, corrections service staff have talked with communities to ensure potential operators of on-the-land programs are aware of our interest and will be able to deliver these specialized corrections-based cultural programs. We are committed to building a program with significant community involvement.

Recently, an expression of interest was again publicly advertised. We also sent it directly to those who might be interested in partnering with us in this work. I am pleased to advise the responses are encouraging. Over the next several weeks, community partners who may be able to fulfill the program needs will be invited to come and have an open discussion with departmental staff. These discussions will ensure both the operators and staff have a strong mutual understanding of the Wilderness Program and associated requirements.

After these discussions, we hope potential applicants will have increased capacity to successfully respond to a request for proposals for the Wilderness Program early in the next fiscal year. Aligning the needs of the inmate population and the interests of the operators and staff is critical for the success of this unique program.

Mr. Speaker, in order for inmates to turn their lives around, we cannot underestimate the need for strong community partnerships, support of the corrections service and the willingness of inmates to participate in these on-the-land healing programs. We are working to be supportive and constructive as we build sustainable and effective programs in partnership with our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 144-17(5):
MINISTERS ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Robert C.

McLeod will be absent from the House today and Monday to participate in the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Sport meeting and to cheer on Team NWT at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George, British Columbia.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Glen Abernethy will be absent from the House today due to illness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE SECTOR EMPLOYEES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I told my colleagues in the Regular Members' Caucus this morning that I was going to title my Member's statement today "The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker."

Mr. Speaker, we talk a lot about jobs in this House; we talk mostly about government jobs. And government jobs are wonderful for those who have them and those who aspire to have them, but our economy cannot function without the janitors, the room attendants, the servers, the cashiers, the gas station attendant.

When I left the building where I live this morning, I passed by the lady vacuuming the lobby. I took an extra effort to give her a warm greeting and a good morning. I know very well the importance of workers in the service sector and the importance to private small business that their dedicated and quality work brings to the operation of business that serves the needs of our communities.

I grew up in a small ma and pa business. I am the butcher's daughter. My parents worked long days at the store. Our lives revolved around service to our loyal customers. My mother came home tired at night, often falling asleep at the supper table.

I want to say also, thankfully it was a grocery store, because they had enough food then to feed their five kids when they used the product that was past its prime and they couldn't sell it anymore. We always joked about that because my brothers are over six feet tall, so it obviously didn't hurt them.

My dad, 18 years ago tomorrow, coincidentally, I got the phone call that my dad had died of a sudden heart attack. I want to say today that he was my mentor, my idol, my hero, and every time there's something to report, I miss still, to this day, being able to call him up and talk to him about it. So, he was a small business owner and he only had a Grade 3 education, but he was definitely the

smartest man that I knew. He worked hard with integrity to support his family. He loved small business and he loved politics, and I'm so glad that on his last visit to the North, he had a chance to sit in this gallery 18 years ago and be recognized in this House.

But, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to send my respect out today to the hardworking people in the private sector serving the public. It's honourable work and it's integral work to the operation of our economy. There are lots of ma and pa businesses and lots of people working in the service sector in all of our communities and I think we should show them the gratitude and the appreciation that they all well deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EVALUATION OF DEVOLUTION LEGISLATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 1, 2014, the NWT achieved our long sought after goal of devolution, and with devolution the GNWT accepted seven pieces of federal legislation as our own. We established NWT acts that mirrored the federal acts.

At the time many residents expressed concern about adopting these laws exactly as written by the federal government, unchanged and unevaluated. Many questioned when the legislation would be evaluated, when it would be amended to suit the NWT, our unique government and territory. We certainly heard a commitment from the Premier to review the seven pieces of devolution legislation. I think he was asked three or four times to make that commitment, but commit did, in keeping with the saying we heard many times last year that we would first devolve, then evolve. Consultation was promised and amendments seemingly forthcoming after that.

But the commitment was a hollow one, Mr. Speaker. To date there has been no indication that these seven acts will see an evolution anytime soon and the consultation has been minimal. There's a link on the GNWT website which allows for residents to send in questions or comments about devolution, but nothing else that I'm aware of.

A far greater commitment to consultation and action is needed. We need a commitment to face-to-face consultation, a commitment to in-depth analysis of each one of the devolution bills to determine what amendments are needed, a commitment to bring amendments forward as soon as possible and a commitment to public hearings or forums so residents, NGOs and businesses can discuss these acts and the changes needed.

We Members know that there's a long list of legislation, other than the devo bills, that needs

updating, amending, or new laws that need to be built from scratch, and we know that the government has a priority list of what legislation should be tackled when. So, is there a schedule for consideration and revision of the legislation we inherited from Canada? We've not seen any evidence of that. We're approaching the one year anniversary of devolution. I believe there should have been some action, some movement on this by now, yet there is not. Are we as a government concerned for the NWT and our environment, or are we happy to carry on, safe in a devolved territory, hanging on to the coattails of the federal legislation and willing to ignore the need for legislative change?

If we do care, effecting legislative change in the mirrored devolution legislation very soon will prove that to our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SECURITY AT FORT PROVIDENCE SENIORS FACILITY

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we can all agree on the importance of elders and seniors in our communities and the importance of respecting our elders. We can show our respect in many different ways. We learn from the traditional knowledge and wisdom of our elders. We recognize their lessons about the land and its history. In our homes and in our families, we celebrate the role of grandparents, aunts, uncles and other role models in raising our children.

But today some of our seniors are at risk. Today I want to talk about the Deh Gah Gotie Senior Citizens Home in Fort Providence.

Community leaders have come to me with concerns about security and safety at this facility. I've been told that the RCMP don't always respond to calls, and even the daytime staff and the nighttime live-in caregiver. These security issues are still affecting the health and safety of residents.

The band has been working with the government to address these problems. Over the holidays the band organized volunteers to visit with the residents and make sure they were not being bothered.

I'm looking forward to these issues being addressed in meetings between the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and the RCMP. I'm also looking forward to the planned renovations of the Deh Gah Gotie Senior Citizens Home, to make sure our seniors have the quality care, support and housing that they deserve. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EXPANDING RESOURCE ROYALTIES
AND TAX REVENUES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my comments yesterday regarding our need for revenue to fund our programs. Some jurisdictions worldwide have done precisely what this government says is impossible. Deriving meaningful public benefits from their non-renewable resource extraction, they have built programs and heritage funds that are the envy of the world, through higher taxes and resource revenues, while pursuing progressive policies aimed at mitigating unintended, harmful effects of exploitation activities.

Norway is perhaps the best example we've all heard about. Thanks to resource revenue and taxation policies, they have a trillion dollar Heritage Fund to pass on to their children and to remove the "bust" from the "boom and bust" resource extraction economy we both share.

Contrast this with our neighbours to the south in Alberta, a population whose citizens have, in a sense, been subjected to a government-enabled corporate fleecing. Alberta's Heritage Fund is just \$16.6 billion and is only slightly larger than it was when it started in 1976.

Economic globalization has affected the current price of oil, which has them singing the blues, proposing to cut programs and discussing tax increases.

Norway, a progressive nation with smart taxes, sound early childhood and educational programs and a population that understands the benefits of paying taxes, is also an evidence-based country that recognizes its role as a global citizen. With recent science indicating we must move away from fossil fuels and leave them in the ground, they have chosen to divest their National Pension Fund of investments in 114 companies, including all coal mining operations and Alberta's tar sands. They now regard these resources as liabilities, not assets, and judge "there to be high levels of uncertainty about the sustainability" of their business models.

Companies reliant on fossil fuels and those engaged in harming the environment are seen as morally opposite to Norway's investment goals and representing an investment risk. Many companies will find themselves stranded in a world that does not want what they offer. Clearly, as our own Mark Carney has indicated, the smart money is moving away from the economy based on destructive fossil fuels.

The Minister of Finance has kindly committed to providing committee a discussion paper on revenue options, outlining in great detail, I'm sure, all the reasons it can't be done. I would ask the Minister to

show some rare leadership in Canada and include a "can do" discussion of Norway's enlightened success.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister to show some rare leadership in Canada and include a "can do" discussion of Norway's enlightened success and how we can achieve the same benefits for the residents of the NWT. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
JUSTICE SERVICES IN THE
SOUTH SLAVE REGION

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been several years since Hay River has had a full-time resident judge and remand in its South Mackenzie Correctional Centre, SMCC. It was not too long ago that we had a full-time judge that lived in Hay River, that worked in Hay River and travelled around the South Slave doing work for Justice. Along with that judge came remand, inmates that were waiting on trial. Several years ago the Department of Justice, in their wisdom, decided to remove remand out of Hay River and centralize Yellowknife. We're very concerned with this. There are a lot of extra costs for travel. We're shipping inmates up to Yellowknife, waiting for their trials, holding them here in Yellowknife as opposed to closer to home and dealing with Justice in the territory, in the South Slave territory.

We have added pressure on our RCMP who have to travel with these inmates. We are concerned that the next step is to centralize everything back into Yellowknife with our justice system. We need to get back the justice system in the South Slave and in the Hay River area. I will have questions for the Minister of Justice on how we get back Hay River's judge and the remand.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
RECOGNITION OF 95TH BIRTHDAY OF
ELIZABETH GREENLAND

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take the opportunity today to recognize a very special and iconic lady in the Beaufort-Delta region, Ms. Elizabeth Greenland. Elizabeth and her family have lived in the Inuvik region for years and they've contributed to making Inuvik what it is, have helped develop the traditional and the cultural ways of life, and continue to do that today. Ms. Elizabeth Greenland has demonstrated great wisdom,

traditional knowledge, leadership, strength and guidance not only for her family but people in Inuvik and throughout the Beaufort-Delta. Her commitment to cultural and language conservation has been demonstrated within her own family where her own family speaks Gwich'in.

Ms. Elizabeth Greenland, I've known her for a very long time, and I've actually participated in one of her dance groups. She's had dance groups for years and years over the years and these dance groups have performed at various functions in Inuvik and throughout the Northwest Territories. She has created a lot of great jiggers, two steppers as well as a lot of great square dancers. Yes, like myself.

On February 10th, Ms. Elizabeth Greenland and her family celebrated her 95th birthday.

Thank you, colleagues. On Friday, February 13th, the community of Inuvik will come together, and members of the Beaufort-Delta will join in celebrating her life and her legacy that she has left behind in Inuvik and throughout the Beaufort-Delta region, at Ingamo Hall with a feast and a dance starting at six o'clock. I invite all people in the Inuvik region who will be in Inuvik at that time to come, say thank you, shake her hand and tell her mahsi for all the work that she's done for people of the North. I would like Members here to join me in congratulating Elizabeth and wishing her a very, very happy birthday.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to thank Mildred Hall School choir for singing O Canada in the Chamber today, and I look forward to listening later in the Great Hall to the Yellowknife Choral Society's rendition as well.

Mr. Speaker, as we heard from you, this Sunday, February 15th, will mark a unique day in our history. As mentioned, not only is this day our annual National Flag Day of Canada but it also represents an incredible milestone. Our flag is turning the big 5-0. It is without a doubt, our Canadian flag is an admired symbol that unites all Canadians from... [English translation not provided.]

It is recognized both at home and abroad representing a country of peace, prosperity and generosity of spirit.

I am happy to see in the House today that our NWT Legislative Assembly recognizes our national symbol of unity and keeps our annual tradition during our winter session.

With Valentine's Day just the day before, I know there will be lots of love left spilling over for all Canadians to share in celebration.

Therefore, I want to wish all Range Lake residents, all Northerners, all Canadians a special National Flag Day this Sunday in celebration of our symbol of pride and what makes us truly unique around the globe. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL LEGACY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's Statement has to deal with O Canada. Our darkest histories of dealing with Aboriginal people have been a struggle because of the experiences of dealing with the residential schools in Canada. Since the 1800s, Aboriginal people have been subject to injustice in all facets of life.

In the early 1900s, the establishment of residential schools were created in Canada. The goal of these residential schools was to eradicate a nation of people, everything about them. The storm of the residential schools certainly did a good job. They caused a lot of havoc in the lives of survivors, their families and the communities within the nation.

With the help of many good people and organizations, Canada was brought to a place of humility and apologized to the First Nations for their past wrongs. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission did a blanket-type of commission by honouring the survivors by giving them a voice and by listening to survivors' stories across Canada.

I want to ask, has our government taken an inventory of the number of survivors in our communities, of my grandparents, my parents and people like myself who attended the residential schools? Has our government done an assessment of the residential school survivors in our communities, their health needs, their educational needs, their spiritual needs?

It is a fact that the Northwest Territories has the highest per capita of residential school survivors in Canada. There were almost 15,000 students, 25 residential schools that were opened and recognized by Canada and some not recognized by Canada in the Northwest Territories.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
POPULATION GROWTH STRATEGY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to talk about our population in the Northwest Territories. As we all know, as the population continues to decline it puts downward pressure on all of our industries and downward pressure means higher cost of living.

When I look around the Northwest Territories, I see almost every one of our communities losing people. It's better described in such a painful way as our communities are bleeding their population, which is the lifeblood of those communities. People enrich the lives of everyone in all these communities, both large and small. Not just economically, the jobs are very important, make no mistake, but the social vitality of new families and growth of the communities goes a long way, it keeps those communities alive. Like I say, the growing population in a community is the lifeblood of those communities.

I was looking at some of the statistics recently and I ran across the past 10 years. I saw the Beau-Del population shrink, I saw the Sahtu barely hold on to its population for the last 10 years by the skin of its teeth, I've seen the Sahtu's population shrink and the Tlicho and the YK region barely grew marginally. Sadly, this is not positive news.

We need population growth in all of our territory in every corner of every community because that helps the whole territory. Yes, I am a Yellowknife MLA and I do welcome population growth here, but I also recognize how critical it is to the growth of every community that needs these people, these jobs, this vitality, this lifeblood.

I heard the budget address the other day by our Finance Minister. Only historians will be able to judge whether that was a great blueprint of excellence or was it a piece of art that will be shelved in the creative writing section next to the Brothers Grimm? We don't know.

With his optimism of saying 2,000 people will be coming in two years last year, and now four this year, are we just adjusting the time schedule to finally meet the stats? Mr. Speaker, that reminds me of the rendition of when I played games with my kids and then they loose and they go, can we do it best out of three now, best out of five next, and we keep going. Is that how the government is measuring its statistics on its growth, by just continuing to move the time frame to say, well, we'll meet that 2,000 growth population one day, some day?

The announcement the other day sounded really exciting, but we still need a blueprint to show where we're going to gain traction. As I've said at the start, people are the lifeblood of our whole territory, and

that's critical that every community grows. We need to see a plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Nadli.

**Reports of Standing and
Special Committees**

COMMITTEE REPORT 10-17(5):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE
2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and commends it to this House.

Introduction

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Act came into force on December 31, 1996. The law was created to promote government accountability by balancing access to government information with the protection of individual privacy rights related to that information.

Under the act, the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC or Commissioner), Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts, is appointed for a five-year term as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. The act requires the Commissioner to file an annual report on her activities and authorizes her to include recommendations for amending the legislation to improve the act's efficiency and effectiveness.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations (SCOGO or the committee) conducted a review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 4, 2014, Tabled Document 173-17(5). This report summarizes that review.

Members would like to thank Ms. Keenan Bengts for her report and for her appearance before the committee at the public review held on January 16, 2015. The committee also wants to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Keenan Bengts for her continued commitment and dedication to all matters relating to access to information and the protection of privacy by public agencies in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Commissioner's 2013-2014 Activities

The Information and Privacy Commissioner often chooses to highlight topical aspects of her work in her annual Commissioner's Message. This year the Information and Privacy Commissioner pointed out that the 2013-2014 Annual Report marks the 17th year since the ATIPP Act came into force in the Northwest Territories. The committee takes note of the observations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner in her Commissioner's Message, in which she discusses how much has changed in the intervening years. She notes that the public is becoming more aware of matters relating to access to information and protection of privacy and, as a consequence, are increasingly demanding that governments protect individual privacy and account for their actions through access to information.

In 2013-2014 the Commissioner opened 30 new files, up from 16 in 2011-2012 and 27 in 2010-2011. Of the 30 new files, 12 were requests for review relating to access to information matters, nine dealt with breach of privacy issues and four were privacy complaints relating to the private sector. The Information and Privacy Commissioner noted that she "was pleased to see two breach notifications during the fiscal year in which a public body discovered a potential breach of privacy and reported it to [her] office proactively." Each of the remaining three new files was reported as the only item in its category: Request for review - fee assessment, Request for comment, and Administrative, respectively.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner dealt with seven public bodies over the year, as compared with 14 over the previous year. Departments with the most frequent files were Human Resources, seven; Transportation, six; and Justice, four.

In her report the IPC devotes significant attention to summarizing the cases for which she issued "Review Recommendations" over the course of the fiscal year (pages 18-34, inclusively). The committee encourages any members of the public who have an interest in this aspect of governance, to take some time to review the IPC's annual report. The report provides the reader with interesting insight into the work of the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the challenges faced by the Government of the Northwest Territories in discharging its responsibilities under the act.

Of the nine cases resulting in rulings from the IPC, eight included recommendations. Of these, the recommendations of the IPC were fully accepted in six cases and partially accepted in the remaining two cases. In the other case, the complaint was found to have no grounds; therefore, no recommendations were made.

Recommendations by the IPC for Legislative Change

As already noted, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is authorized to make recommendations for legislative change. This year the Commissioner highlighted three legislative issues.

Implementation of New Health Information Privacy Legislation

With the passage of the Health Information Act in 2014, the Information and Privacy Commissioner notes that much work will need to be done by the GNWT to implement the legislation. This includes educating health care workers and ensuring that the appropriate policies and procedures are in place in advance of implementation, so that health care workers know and understand their responsibilities for collecting, using and disposing of information under the act. A great deal of work also needs to be done to ensure that members of the public understand their rights and know how their personal health information will be managed under the act.

Access and Privacy Impact Assessments for New Initiatives (Access and Privacy by Design)

The Information and Privacy Commissioner discussed with the committee her increasing frustration that she is not consulted or asked for input in the initial planning stages when legislation, policies and programs are being designed. It has been her observation that government overlooks consideration of the impact that new initiatives may have on the right to access information and the privacy of the individual. The Information and Privacy Commissioner cites many recent examples of GNWT legislative, policy and program initiatives which might have benefitted from her input if she had been invited to provide it during the design phase. The Information and Privacy Commissioner also correctly notes that public bodies may choose to disregard her suggestions and suggests that they cannot benefit from advice that is not provided.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn the reading of the report over to my colleague Mr. Yakeleya. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks, Ms. Bisaro.

ATIPP Legislation for Municipalities

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has repeatedly recommended that the GNWT complete the work necessary to establish legislation governing the collection, use and disposal of information by municipalities. This recommendation is reiterated again in the Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2013-2014 Annual Report, along

with a notation indicating that the Information and Privacy Commissioner looks forward to providing input on a discussion paper being prepared on this matter by Municipal and Community Affairs.

The GNWT tabled the discussion paper in question, along with its response to the committee's report on the review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the IPC. SCOGO provided a copy to the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and her comments were subsequently forwarded by the committee to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

Committee Recommendations to the GNWT

Having considered the information put forward by the IPC in her 2013-2014 Annual Report and the discussion held during the public meeting of January 16, 2015, the Standing Committee on Government Operations provides the following recommendations to the GNWT:

ATIPP Legislation for Municipalities

The committee took note of the explanation provided in the GNWT's Response to the Committee's Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the IPC, Tabled Document 118-17(5), for the delays associated with this project.

The committee wishes to stress to the government the importance of finalizing this legislation so that the rights of NWT residents respecting access to and protection of information collected by municipalities are articulated and enshrined in law.

The committee reminds the GNWT that the IPC's recommendations for legislation in this area stretch back before the 17th Legislative Assembly and that previous standing committees have also supported the Commissioner's recommendation to make municipalities subject to access and privacy legislation.

In their Report on the Review of the 2011-12 Report of the IPC, the committee recommended that an ATIPP bill for municipalities be brought forward in the first two years of the 17th Assembly. The committee noted its concerns about the slow pace of the initiative at that time.

The committee continues to be very concerned about this. The committee notes that in the GNWT's most recent response, the deadline for a final report by October 2014, noted in TD 14-17(4), has given way to a commitment to complete the What We Heard report by March 2015, TD 118-17(5), with no further commitment regarding when the final report may now be expected.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations again recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories make every effort to complete the work necessary to

bring municipalities under access to information and protection of privacy legislation.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations additionally recommends that the GNWT renew its commitment to complete the final report during the life of the 17th Assembly; and

That the government table the final report no later than the August 2015 sitting identifying, for the consideration of the 18th Assembly, the next steps and resources necessary to complete this work in a timely manner and, as the committee has recommended in previous years, a proposal be included for phasing this work such that tax-based municipalities may be brought under ATIPP legislation without any further delay than is absolutely necessary and which leaves open the possibility that smaller communities may be phased in at a later date.

I now turn the report over to Mr. Dolynny.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya.

Review of the ATIPP Act

It has been 17 years since the coming into force date of the ATIPP Act. The committee notes that many NWT statutes contain a provision triggering an automatic review at set intervals; for example, every five or 10 years. When one considers that the Internet was in its infancy when the ATIPP Act came into force, it is easy to appreciate how information technology has evolved since then. The committee is of the opinion that, by any measure, a review of the ATIPP Act is long overdue. The committee encourages the GNWT, when reviewing the ATIPP Act, to include a triggering provision for a mandatory statutory review, to ensure that the ATIPP Act is kept current in future years.

In her 2012-2013 Annual Report, the IPC made a series of recommendations for modernizing and updating the legislation to, amongst other things, address the use of current day technologies, to provide strict and enforceable timelines for response to access requests and to encourage public bodies to properly document information-related decisions. In addition to these earlier recommendations, the IPC has also pointed to the value of including "access and privacy by design" considerations in updated ATIPP legislation. This latter point is addressed further in committee Recommendation 3 below.

The committee references the Progress Report on the Comprehensive Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, provided as an attachment to TD 114-17(4), and recognizes that the GNWT is now looking beyond 2015 for the

completion of this important work. The committee urges the GNWT to make this work a priority as it moves forward.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations again recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide an updated progress report to this Assembly on work done towards a comprehensive review of the ATIPP Act; and

That the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake a review of all previous recommendations made regarding updating the ATIPP Act and include, in the progress report, a status report on how the committee's recommendations are being addressed.

Access and Privacy Impact Assessments for New Initiatives (Access and Privacy by Design)

The committee discussed with the IPC the benefits of building access and privacy considerations into the development of programs, policies and legislation at the ground floor. This helps to ensure that the tools required to access information more easily, and to better protect the privacy of individuals are incorporated into the design of any initiative, rather than having to be retrofitted after the fact.

The IPC pointed out that achieving the goal of easier information access and appropriate privacy protections may be as simple as enabling a search function, but there is more to be done than that. The IPC spoke of the concept of open government, where the objective is to put as much information as possible online, to reduce the need for people to want to make access inquiries. The committee was encouraged to hear that the IPC had her first meeting with the GNWT's office of the chief information officer, to discuss areas of mutual interest.

The committee is supportive of the IPC's views on access and privacy by design and therefore encourages the GNWT to work with the IPC to integrate this approach into day-to-day business practices. The committee places special emphasis on the development of legislative proposals by departments and strongly encourages the GNWT to consider ways in which access and privacy by design considerations will be incorporated into legislative proposals. The committee would welcome the opportunity, when reviewing legislative proposals, to assess the access by design considerations included by departments.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories work with the IPC to incorporate access by design considerations

into the design phase of program, policy and legislation development, giving particular thought to how these considerations may be built into the legislative proposal process.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to turn my attention over to my other committee colleague Mr. Alfred Moses.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Dolynny.

Inclusion of IPC in Implementation of Health Information Act

The committee is in agreement with the Commissioner's assertion that the GNWT can only benefit from involving the office of the IPC in the work that it is doing to implement the Health Information Act and encourages the GNWT to avail itself of the expertise that the office can provide.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories work closely with the Information and Privacy Commissioner on the implementation of the Health Information Act.

Delays and Breaches under ATIPP

As noted by the IPC in her 2013-2014 Annual Report, the ATIPP Act requires public bodies to respond to access requests within 30 days. Certain exceptions are provided for in very specific instances. As the IPC points out, it is concerning that seven out of 12 access matters dealt with in review recommendations pertained to the failure of a public body to reply to an access request in a timely manner. The committee shares this concern.

The IPC pointed out to the committee that, in many instances, the reasons cited by departments in requesting extensions under the act and in explaining the causes for delays are not adequate because they do not fall within the reasons for delays provided for by the act.

The committee shares the IPC's concern and discussed ways in which this issue may be improved. The IPC offered the following suggestions to departments to improve their response times: institute a GNWT policy to prioritize the response from departments to access requests; use redaction software, which automates the process of censoring materials to be released in response to a request; and train more people to respond to access requests, to minimize the impact of staff absences on response times.

With respect to privacy breaches, the ATIPP Act requires a public agency to respond within 90 days to any recommendations made by the IPC as the

result of investigating a complaint. The IPC did note that almost all privacy breaches are the result of human error and that these are rarely, if ever, caused maliciously or with intent. She also observed that, during the course of her time in office, she is not aware of a public body taking disciplinary action against an employee responsible for a breach of privacy. The IPC noted that the Department of Justice offers ATIPP training for any GNWT employees who want it and that it is important for staff to understand their obligations in signing employee confidentiality agreements.

The committee wishes to stress to the GNWT the importance of meeting its statutory obligations under the act and to ensuring that enough staff are adequately trained to meet those obligations without undue delay.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories work closely with departments to help them improve their response times under the act and that the GNWT make clear what sanctions will be imposed for departments that fail to meet their statutory commitments.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to pass the report over to our chair of Government Operations, Mr. Nadli.

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

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

Conclusion

Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts has served as the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Northwest Territories since 1997. During her time in office, Ms. Keenan Bengts has demonstrated a passion for information and privacy rights and a long-standing commitment to the work of her office that the Standing Committee on Government Operations respects and admires.

The committee is pleased to hear that Ms. Keenan Bengts will be continuing her important work on a full-time basis as the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

As the 17th Assembly draws to a close, the committee remains committed to giving the Commissioner's recommendations due consideration, forwarding them as appropriate to this House, and following up with the government on their implementation.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a

comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 10-17(5) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the presentation of our report. Therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Committee Report 10-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Report 10-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

Thank you, colleagues. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Mr. Ramsay.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Kevin Goodrem. He's the vice-president of beneficitation with De Beers Group. Welcome to the House. With Mr. Goodrem this afternoon is Tracy St-Denis. She's our director of secondary diamond industry with ITI. Welcome to the House.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two Pages from the Mackenzie Delta, Gordon Blake and Randy Omingmak. Also, their chaperone, Ms. Elizabeth Wright.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although not a constituent of mine, I'd like to recognize one of the Pages who happens to be the daughter of a friend of mine, which is Davida Patterson, and her mother is the constituency assistant, I think, to Mrs. Groenewegen, Orlanda Patterson.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the two hardworking Pages from Hay River South who have been able to join us in the Chamber here this week, Jolene Lamalice and Davida Patterson. Thank you for your great services, and welcome.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a resident of Weledeh, Tracy St-Denis.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'd like to welcome everybody here in the public gallery here today. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings.

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 607-17(5): SUPPORTS FOR

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I want to ask the Minister, has this department ever done an inventory as to the exact number of residential school survivors in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This is an area that we've collected information on the residential school survivors of the Northwest Territories. We've compiled that information and we worked very closely with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission when they first started off with their programming and voicing all those across the nation and national events, and even in the Northwest Territories, Inuvik. We do have that information. I can share that detailed information with the Member.

MR. YAKELEYA: I look forward to that information. The Minister has been collecting this information so if I go to the Sahtu and would know how many survivors are actually in Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Tuktoyaktuk...(inaudible)...any other communities, I would know the exact number of survivors that either passed away or that have gone into schools in the early 1900s. Is that what I'm hearing? You have the numbers and I'd be able to get those numbers?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The information that we've compiled, obviously with consent from the clientele as well as the survivors and even the families of the survivors, obviously we have work if

we can release those names. But surely, I'll be working very closely with the Member if we could allow that to happen and then provide that information to the Member.

MR. YAKELEYA: I respect the survivors' anonymity or the privacy of the survivors, so some of the information in the Northwest Territories, we know how many survivors or how many, say, students are in a school right now without having them consent to releasing that number. I want to ask why it's so different with the survivors. If there are some survivors in our community, we can do our own. For example, in the Grollier Hall residential school, from the Roman Catholics report there were 2,500 students that went to the Grollier Hall Residential School, the highest amount of survivors in one residential school.

I'm asking the Minister, is there something like that that he can share, saying in the territory right now there are 6,000 to 8,000 survivors right now?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: In the Northwest Territories the number that we do have as part of the claimants is around 5,500, which gives us an idea of the issues that we have to deal with in the territory. We do have a breakdown by community, so I can provide that information to the Member and also other Members, as well, if they wish.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that from the Minister. I appreciate the flexibility to share, because that is a very important number for our communities.

I want to ask the Minister, based on that number, are the appropriate programs there to support the survivors today with the programs that we have within the GNWT?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, 2010 we've developed a residential school curriculum that we wanted to focus on those residential school survivors to hear their stories, and we have reached out to them. We'll carry on their stories for generations to come. That's part of the Grade 10 curriculum within the high school. It's mandatory. They need to have the Grade 10 residential curriculum before they graduate. That's just one piece that we've developed as part of our programming to deal with residential schools, and there will be plenty of others that I will be addressing with the leadership at the...(inaudible)...of education next month in Banff. I'm leading the task on Aboriginal education, so I will be presenting that to them as well.

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

QUESTION 608-17(5):
JUSTICE SERVICES IN THE
SOUTH SLAVE REGION

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll follow up with my questions for the Minister of Justice.

My first question is: When can the community of Hay River expect to get a resident judge back in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had a deputy judge that was residing in Hay River up until last summer. We will certainly take the Member's concerns back to the department and see what we can come up with. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: With the deputy judge stepping away from Hay River, was that on choice or was it the department's move, and what is the hiring policy? Are we hiring somebody to fill that position? Can the Minister give me some more information on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, the circuit in Hay River hasn't been growing. Meanwhile, here in Yellowknife court time is going up. The demand is here in Yellowknife, but we do take the Member's concerns seriously. It was the individual's decision to relocate out of the Northwest Territories from Hay River. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: My next question is to deal with remand and dealing with inmates, our accused people of the public, and they're holding in facilities and the Minister just indicated that it's busy in Yellowknife.

Why do we not have remand in Hay River? Why are we not taking some of that court pressure off in Yellowknife in the Hay River area for South Slave residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, in '12-13 there were 67 inmates from the South Slave and Deh Cho regions that were in remand. Last year we had 71.

The current facility in Hay River is a minimum security facility. It's not meant to house remand offenders and we have moved forward now from the decision that was made in 2005. It was a cost-cutting effort, but again, because the program is available here at North Slave Correctional Centre for inmates that are on remand, it was deemed more appropriate to house them here at North Slave Correctional Centre given the fact that the facility in Hay River is a minimum security facility and it would be a security risk to have inmates on remand in that facility. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question about the remand, and it used to be in Hay River and Hay River has always been a minimum security, so I'm not sure, has there been a change in policy? Has there been a change in the facility? Has their requirement for infrastructure for that facility to have remand in Hay River, to get that back in the community, get back to that in the South Slave to relieve some of that pressure in Yellowknife? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: In my time as Minister of Justice, I'm not aware of any changes in policy. I do know that the facility in Hay River could only house six inmates at any one time and it is a minimum security facility. They don't have the level of programming that is offered to inmates that are on remand here at the North Slave Correctional Centre. I can get the Member some further detailed information on whether or not there was a policy shift. This is going back 10 years, so I'll ask the department about that.

The good news is that with the facility in Hay River, we have added three new positions to that facility over the last number of years in working with inmates at that facility. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 609-17(5):
EVALUATION OF DEVOLUTION LEGISLATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Premier. I want to follow up on my Member's statement and ask some questions about plans for amendments and changes to the devolution legislation we passed a year ago.

With devolution, we accepted the federal legislation holus-bolus. There were no changes to any of that legislation when we took it over. We put our name on it but we accepted it as it had been with the feds.

I'd like to thank the Premier for his commitment for us to look at all those pieces of legislation and for us to review them, but I'd like to know from the Premier, what is the government's plan to review these seven pieces of legislation? Can a copy of this plan be given to Members and to the public? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since May 20, 2014, the public has had an opportunity to go online and review existing devolution legislation. We have encouraged all interested parties and Northwest Territories citizens to take the opportunity to learn about it a bit and understand the new authorities exercised post-devolution by the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have had two advertising

campaigns, in May and November 2014. The review period was extended to enhance the opportunity for citizens to examine and comment on the legislation. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Premier for telling us what has been done. I asked what kind of a plan the government has going forward to review devolution legislation. It sounds from that, that maybe we're done. I would certainly hope not.

These are very complex pieces of legislation. The education and the advertising campaign that were done, I think that's great. We needed to advise people of that.

I'd like to know from the Premier, what consultation with groups has been done, or hopefully will be done, because I don't think it has been done. So, what consultation is planned in order to gauge the interests of the public and organizations with regard to the changes that are required? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: There have been 2,091 legislative review website views. There have been 272 visits to the Q and A and comment page. Only two questions have been submitted for response. So in our view, the level of response, we don't foresee any immediate changes to the legislation as a result of the review. Our expectation is that the responsible departments will review the 26 different married regulations and acts associated with devolution in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you. So I gather we have no plan. We're going to turn the legislation over to each individual department. They will do what they will do. I'd like to suggest, again, this is very complex legislation, and I would also like to suggest that not everybody has access to a computer and asking the question by the computer does not lend itself to making suggestions for amendments to a complex piece of legislation.

So can the Premier indicate to me, if we turn this legislation over to individual departments, what kind of a time frame are we talking about? Can he give me any idea as to when we can expect some sort of a schedule, or an estimated time frame for amendments to these seven pieces of legislation? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I should point out that the advertising campaign was focused solely on northern papers. I should also point out that devolution has only been in place for 10 months and previous devolutions when we've devolved and evolved, normally it would take about a three-year period. I know that we do have a process already for dealing with legislation and I expect it would go through that process. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier, then I guess I would like to ask him to advise me and the public. I know there was a lot of concern about the legislation and that changes were needed. So can the Premier tell me and tell the public how they can get their views to the government, to individual departments so that legislation can be amended as necessary? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we have already launched two advertising campaigns where we strongly laid out that the objectives of the review are to encourage the general public to better understand the legislative process associated with devolution and give them an opportunity to review the legislation and to ask questions of clarification.

We also have communicated an evolved process and the review was to gather initial public responses, questions and suggestions and also to provide the general public with an understanding of the legislative process for amendment of existing bills and development of new legislation.

We will be bringing forward a final summary report. So, all that information is available online. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 610-17(5):
ON-THE-LAND PROGRAMS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as a follow-up to a statement we heard in the House from one of our Ministers on corrections and on-the-land programs, otherwise known as wilderness programs. I do agree with the Minister that these programs do help our people heal, reconnect with their land and culture and values. But I'm saddened to hear that after all these years we're still unable to select a qualified contractor. So with that, I do have questions for the Minister of Justice

It is well documented that the proponents who have offered wilderness programs in the past had serious issues with liability, liability in terms of safety of the inmates, safety of the providers and safety of the public.

Has the department considered all of the liability options from the past dealings with proponents and have there been corrective actions as we wait for an expression of interest? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier and again yesterday, we've had a number of proponents from around the territory that have expressed interest. That doesn't necessarily mean it's going to parlay into them

being a service provider. At the end of the day, there are a number of things they have to have. The Member talked about liability, we have had camps in the past. We have learned from those experiences what we want to see happen and we are going to work with the folks that have expressed interest. The Sahtu was one region where we got four expressions of interest. We hope to sit down with these folks as soon as we can, sometime this month, in an effort to get the program up and running somewhere in the Northwest Territories this calendar year, and that is our objective because of the benefits that it brings to the inmates and the healing that can happen through a wilderness program and an on-the-land type of experience. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm not sure if I got a response to that question. We are right now in a position of a holding pattern. We're waiting for proponents to come forward. We're looking at expressions of interest and it has been clearly documented that this government has an opportunity to review, during its so-called quiet period, those issues of liability, maybe better guidelines or framework of action or, in essence, a better framework in place so that when we do have proponents in place they can be operating at efficiency.

Can the Minister indicate, has work been done to look at guidelines, look at framework, look at policies and look at regulations to make this system better? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I thank the Member for the question. The answer to the question is yes, absolutely we have. We've taken this time that we've had to ensure that when we go forward with an expression of interest and we get to an RFP stage that we do know exactly what we're getting ourselves into. I don't have that level of detail here with me, but I'd be more than happy to share the work we have done with Members of the House. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I appreciate the Minister's offering on that. We know that from past use of this tool, which is an on-the-land tool, that the costs per inmate were quite substantive and it was quite variant in terms of as high as \$1,500 per inmate to as low as about \$500 per inmate per day. We know that the average costs for an inmate incarcerated in our corrections facilities is around \$378 per inmate per day..

Does the Minister foresee that we're going to be looking at a fairly large substantial cost should inmates start choosing this as an option and is his department prepared for that? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again, we're working through all of these details. That is certainly one that we are paying attention to and I'm thankful for the Member bringing that up today. Again, as we get closer to working with a proponent on delivering

this service in the Northwest Territories, we will be back having a briefing with the Standing Committee on Social Programs and Members that are interested in this to show them what we've come up with, who we're working with and how this is all going to roll out. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's reply on that. As we've been told, we're waiting for an expression of interest from a number of proponents. We are not sure whether or not there will be a sure list of candidates or candidates at all.

Does the Minister have a plan of action should there be no succession planning in finding a proponent? Is the department prepared to take this initiative as a program themselves? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Anybody that knows me knows I'm optimistic all the time. We are optimistic at DOJ that we are going to find a proponent to help us deliver this program in the Northwest Territories. We've got several who have expressed interest, five from the Sahtu and others. Until we get an opportunity to sit down and talk with them about our expectations, what they're looking for, I'm sure we will find one of those groups that we will be able to work with and get this program back up and running in the NWT. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 611-17(5):
SECURITY AT FORT PROVIDENCE
SENIORS FACILITY

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised concerns with regards to security at the seniors home in Fort Providence. My questions are to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Currently I wanted to ask the Minister if, within his portfolio, he's become aware of an assessment of the seniors home in Fort Providence and the deficiencies including security considerations. The building was constructed in the mid-70s. I just wanted to see if there's been an assessment of the building including perhaps an eye of assessing the security for shortcomings as well. Mahsi.

MS. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The honourable Minister of Public Works, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fort Providence Senior Citizens Home is definitely in the inventory of government; however, it is in the inventory of the NWT Housing Corporation. I believe that the Housing Corporation does work with the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority to provide some services. The senior citizens home in Fort Providence is not a long-term care facility. It's an independent living

facility. I'm going to have to get some information from the Housing Corporation on what type of security is provided to the residents there. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Recent efforts have indicated because of the age of the facility which was built back in 1970, obviously this government will not make an effort to replace it, but make an effort to renovate it. Recently there was review of request for proposal submissions to renovate the facility as early as January 23, 2015.

Has a contract been awarded and when can the community expect an effort to make improvements to the facility? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The senior citizens home in Fort Providence does have a live-in caretaker who is on shift during the evening from 10:00 until 3:00 at night which provides some security. During the day, Fort Providence has some home care workers who do go into the facility. The home care services are provided primarily by nurses who come into the home and support from other professionals such as physicians and occupational therapists from time to time that go into the facility.

As far as the reconstruction or renovations needed at the home, I'm not aware of the status of that particular project at this time. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: I'd like to thank the Minister for making an effort in trying to reply. Initially I wanted to ask the Minister of the Housing Corporation, but obviously he's not here.

My other question is with the budget plus the efforts of this government, there seems to be maintaining the status quo of the health and social services programs. We have an increasing aging population of people who want to continue living in their communities and in their homes. The Department of Health and Social Services has made efforts to maintain the status quo. The real effort should have been perhaps to increase and enhance the Home Care Program, so ideally you have health care professionals working with a team of local people to provide services to elders in their homes.

With that in mind, would the Minister agree to support the community's desire to elevate the seniors home in Fort Providence from an independent care facility to specialized care, a Level III? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I'm just trying to get up to speed on the situation over there. The senior citizens home has gone through some review and there has been the determination that more services could be provided. The Housing Corporation has issued a request for a proposal for a design required for the changes that are necessary. At this time, the Housing Corporation is looking at the RFP submissions. We were hoping that sometime close to the end of last month they

would be able to review those proposals to see how they were going to proceed with any design changes that may be necessary to accommodate the people at the senior citizens home in Fort Providence. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to understand the Minister of Public Works and Services in terms of the aging inventory of capital assets that the government maintains throughout the communities. In this particular instance, we have an aging seniors home. There have been efforts to perhaps renovate it.

What is the policy of this government, especially the Department of Public Works and Services, of these aging buildings? Do they become, at some point, just not usable and the government has to demolish it? At what point would the government engage with the local community to determine the fate of these buildings? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Most of the buildings designed in the communities right across the Territories that are owned by the government usually go through a retrofit during their mid-life. The retrofit is designed to double the life of the facility at that point. The funds that go into the unit are looked at for amortization. We re-amortize the building to the end of the building. After that reaches the end of its life, the government will do an evaluation and at some point determine the building goes beyond economic repair. Once a unit is beyond economic repair, then we go through the regular disposal of that asset. We use a policy that Public Works has where we offer the building to other agencies or other departments that may want to use it, or community agencies for disposal one way or another. That is the process. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 612-17(5):
POLICING SERVICES IN TSIIGHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few questions for the Minister of Justice. As you know, policing has been an ongoing issue in Tsiighehtchic and I'd like to ask the Minister, since the commitment to overnight in Tsiighehtchic, how many times have the RCMP overnights in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge they are still trying to work with the community of Tsiighehtchic to identify accommodations so that the members can overnight in the community of Tsiighehtchic up to

eight nights a month, but they have to first identify suitable accommodation in the community and they're working with the community to do that.

MR. BLAKE: From what I understand, the main problem here is that the detachment is looking for an in-kind service. It was stated a couple of days back that we just have a \$3.8 million increase in the Justice department.

Will the Minister ensure the detachment in Fort McPherson has adequate funds to secure accommodation so they can overnight in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RAMSAY: If that is the case, I'll go back to the department and we'll have a discussion with the RCMP on that topic. That shouldn't be a hurdle to having members overnight in the community of Tsiigehtchic. If it is, we'll try to correct that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 613-17(5):
HAY RIVER HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions about the Public Service Alliance of Canada union in Hay River which represents the workers of the Hay River Health Authority. Mr. Bouchard and I have a constituency meeting tonight and questions continue to surface in the community.

There are two things afoot right now. One is the move to a new hospital facility, the other is the establishment of a territorial health authority board that's territory-wide. Those are two things that have caused people to wonder if our government has given further contemplation to the price and their willingness, or any plans to incorporate the Hay River Health Authority employees into the same union as all other Government of the Northwest Territories employees. I'm not sure whether the Minister of Finance or the Premier could answer that for me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our government's restructuring of the board authorities, where we're moving to one health board to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health system of the Northwest Territories, part of the planning is also to look at the Hay River Health Authority and to examine the feasibility of bringing it into the public service at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: So, it sounds like Mr. Bouchard and I could tell our constituents that a takeover of that union and those employees into the

territorial government union, the Union of Northern Workers, is not imminent at this time. Certainly if this were to happen, it creates all kinds of efficiencies; it creates opportunities for mobility between health authorities; it creates a standardization which makes the health system territory-wide a lot more streamlined and a lot easier.

So, would it be correct to characterize that this is not imminent at this time and could I also ask if there's been any recent costings of what the price tag would be to our government to do this? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Minister of Health has identified this as a priority and we've realized that if this had been done some time ago, it would have been a lot cheaper. I think when it was first looked at it was going to cost about \$7 million; I think it's more than that now. We do have information available and we can get it and provide the latest estimates to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Yes, I'm aware of what that price was. When we met with the union in Hay River, I don't know, 15 years ago, they were talking about this, and Mr. Miltenberger probably remembers that meeting as well. It has grown; the price tag to this has grown substantially and I would suggest that putting it off for many more years is just going to continue to see that price tag grow.

So, thank you for that information. I will pass that along to the folks who will probably be at our constituency meeting tonight and tell them that the government is continuing to review it and we will have more information in the near future. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 614-17(5):
REVITALIZATION OF DIAMOND CUTTING
AND POLISHING INDUSTRY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 8, 2013, the headline in the Yellowknifer said, "Deepak International to reopen dormant diamond factory plants – Minister David Ramsay heralds rebirth to the industry."

So, first off I want to acknowledge the Minister's expertise and gestation. However, noting that the incubation period of the diamond cutting company has taken over two years to show results, can the Minister tell the House what benefits did the government receive by striking a deal over two years ago and how long are we locked into this deal? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been no government funding that's gone into this. We have recouped close to \$2 million in the sale of the two buildings on Archibald Street and it has taken some time, but our hope is that those factories will be running in the very near future. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister is quoted as saying, "This is a significant announcement to get the Polar Bear Diamond out there."

What type of deal has this government struck by giving away the Polar Bear Diamond logo trademark to this company? How much did the government gain and how long are we locked into that specific deal? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We didn't give anything away; it's still our trademark. There are stipulations on the use of that trademark and I'd be more than happy to give the Member that type of detail if he so wishes. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I'd like to thank the Minister for offering. Please provide it in the House right now. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I don't have the level of detail the Member has requested. I've made an assurance to him that I will get him that level of detail. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it fair to say that the government hasn't gained anything in this particular deal since it's been struck? How can this government, if it's not receiving any benefit for locking into a deal with the Polar Bear Diamond trademark with one company, is it fair to say that maybe we should be looking around to consider marketing this option to a company that wants to cut diamonds here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I wouldn't characterize it as the government not gaining anything. As I mentioned, we sold two buildings on Archibald Street for almost \$2 million. We are collecting lease payments on those properties at the airport, so we are gaining in that regard. Again, our hope is that those factories are up and running soon and that we do have the Polar Bear brand back out in the marketplace at some point in time. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 615-17(5):
CANNOR TOURISM FUNDING

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask some questions of the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. I just want to commend him on the statement that he made earlier today in

the House in the statement regarding CanNor and the investment that the two governments have made into tourism in the amount of \$10 million.

So the first question I'd like to ask the Minister is: How are these dollars being divvied up across the Northwest Territories and how are they being used? How are the regions benefiting from the money that's being announced today?

Earlier in the year, Inuvik held a very successful welcome back, the Sunrise Festival. We had about 25 people from the south come up to Inuvik and participate in the coming back of the sun. It's a festival and a celebration that I think all people of the North and Canada can partake in. Are any of these dollars able to go into the region, specifically the Inuvik Sunrise Festival?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding that was announced, we do have a regional focus on that. I mentioned five communities that will be receiving funding. In the Beaufort-Delta, Tuktoyaktuk will be receiving \$250,000. We are hopeful to, at some point in time, have a campground outside of Tuktoyaktuk when the road is complete. We have supported the Sunrise Festival in Inuvik. I know the department's been supportive of the festival in the past, last year to the tune of \$10,000. NWT Tourism also contributed \$20,000 to the Sunrise Festival in Inuvik just recently. We have been supporting the festival in Inuvik.

MR. MOSES: With the decrease of activity in the oil and gas sector within the Beaufort-Delta region, I think we've got to put our focus in another investment and industry such as tourism. I'm glad to see the Minister is taking that on and making headway in that sense.

I'd like to ask the Minister, I know that the dollars he says, but the cost of living, the cost of travel in the Beaufort-Delta region, we see it. We see it in our books here when Members have to go back up to the Beaufort-Delta. It's expensive just for a trip from Yellowknife. Ten thousand to the Sunrise Festival might be great. It's a one-day, one-event kind of event and they make it a big deal to make a weekend out of it. I think that we can get more people up into Inuvik in the Beaufort-Delta region if there is a little bit more of an investment, a little bit more work with the Town of Inuvik and with the other partners. The Town of Inuvik did a great job in developing partners with some of the airlines, but I think this government needs to step up if we're going to diversify our economy into the regions.

That's a lot of money, this \$10 million, and I want to know if they'll be a bigger investment up in the Beaufort-Delta region, up in the Sahtu and the Deh

Cho, because those are the areas that aren't seeing the economies really grow.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We've made a substantial investment in communities like Deline. Lutselk'e will be receiving \$500,000 toward tourism initiatives there. We are making an effort to try to get the funding that we have across the territory. In the region, I know our regional tourism office, in collaboration with municipal and community partners, is involved in lots of initiatives to help grow tourism visitation and spending in the Beaufort-Delta region. In particular, some of the initiatives, if I could highlight some of them for the Members, are: revamping and enhancing Destination Inuvik promotional materials to better target potential visitors to the Beaufort-Delta region. The regional tourism officer for the Beaufort-Delta region is engaging with communities in the region like Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, Tuktoyaktuk, Aklavik and Ulukhaktok to develop sustainable tourism. We've got programs that have been delivered or plan to be delivered in the region including Welcome NWT customer service workshops, starting a tourism business, a workshop in the Western Arctic, visioning tourism in Aklavik, a community open house, visioning tourism in Tuktoyaktuk, community tourism engagement in Tsiigehtchic, and we're also planning community engagements in Ulukhaktok and Fort McPherson in the very near future, and more workshops and capacity building initiatives are planned for '15-16 all across the Beaufort-Delta region.

MR. MOSES: I was able to attend one of those community engagement sessions where a lot of really good points and recommendations were made. This was a while back. I just want to know, moving forward with these community engagement strategies, I don't know what the cost of that is. You know, get a bunch of business owners, community members in one room to talk about events. I'm not sure what the cost of that is, but what is the action taken out of these community engagements, and I guess, the five communities that we're going to be funding this year, did they have a community engagement workshop in place and a plan in place before we funded them?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The communities that have been selected, the ideas came from the community themselves. The initiative came from the community. I can't say 100 percent whether all of them had that type of community engagement before they were selected. I can get that information for the Member. But communities that have been identified for funding under the Community Tourism Partnership with CanNor will get funding through a contribution agreement with Industry, Tourism and Investment. We're hopeful that we'll see some success here and, I think, drawing on the success that a community like Deline has had will be an inspiration for other

communities across the Northwest Territories from the community level and the grassroots level in the community, develop ideas, develop thoughts about what product will look like in the community.

The Northwest Territories is also leading the way in this country when it comes to Aboriginal tourism and growing that type of product, the experiential travel that a lot of people are looking for nowadays. Deline has done that and we're hopeful that other communities follow Deline's lead.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the years we've seen this economy grow and develop the tourism industry and it's great to see. I'd just like to ask the Minister on maybe not his trips, but the trips to Asia, Europe and North America, how are the rest of the regions promoted rather than just the northern lights? How are communities promoted? Because our communities are pretty unique. They all have something to offer, something different for every different type of person we have out there. So, how are our communities and our regions promoted when we take our trips over to Asia, Europe and North America?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We have promotional videos, we showcase some of the spectacular scenery of the Northwest Territories, the wild spaces, the clean air, and certainly when we're promoting the Northwest Territories it isn't just one segment of the tourism industry, it's everything we have to offer.

It's important to note that in Asia, specifically China, tourists from China really do like clean air, open space and the scenery. I think we've only scratched the surface of the potential in the Chinese market to get many more Chinese visitors here to the Northwest Territories and they won't, hopefully, just be coming to Yellowknife. We'll get them outside of Yellowknife into the regions as well.

That's why it's so important that we continue to invest in our communities and we give them the capacity building effort that they can take part in, in our tourism sector. We really do believe that tourism has the potential to really have a strong economic benefit for all 33 communities across the NWT.

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

QUESTION 616-17(5):
WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS
IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Transportation. January 6th to 7th and the 8th, the Minister and I took an afternoon drive to the Sahtu communities of Tulita and Fort Good Hope. There were a lot of

complaints from the residents. We went through washboard alley and pothole dip valley also. The roads are not quite as smooth as we thought they were, despite the good work of our contractors. A lot of people were asking, where is the water, where's the water paving program of this department on the Sahtu winter road? I want to ask the Minister what happened this year compared to the previous years when we had real good, smooth roads.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In previous years we did get some additional funds to do the winter road from industry. So when there was some activity in and around Norman Wells, we received an additional \$400,000 annually from industry to support us with a road that led from about where the road gets rough where the Sahtu/Deh Cho line is up to Norman Wells. This year we didn't get that money until we were able to negotiate a separate deal for less than that from industry. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: After driving the winter roads, boy, was my back ever sore. It's 12 hours, two days driving the roads. I want to ask the Minister, is his department looking at any other means of watering the road so that it will stay longer? I know there are different mechanisms to water the winter roads from Wrigley on up to Fort Good Hope and even to the smaller communities. Is the department looking at any other ways to smooth out the road?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: As I indicated, we had received some money from industry to work on the winter roads in the Sahtu. We also hired two supervisors that are monitoring the roads to make sure that if the roads got too rough that they will be reporting it and we will try to pay some additional attention to that.

After driving the road, we also had discussions internally at the department to see if we shouldn't come back to the government for more money to be put into the base to put on the winter road. We do think it's needed; it's fairly rough. We're getting quite a few complaints from industry, people going in there hauling supplies and fuel and so on. So at this point we are considering that for the future and we're going to do some extra grading as well. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: On the winter road from Norman Wells to Fort Good Hope, just before we get to washboard alley there, there's a bridge that's sitting there all by itself. So, there are over \$1 million in assets sitting there. I want to ask the Minister what is the bridge there for, because it has been sitting there for the last 11 years since I've been MLA for the Sahtu. Is that part of the highway decorations, or are we going to use that bridge? What is the government going to do with that bridge?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: It is an odd-looking bridge and sort of in the middle of nowhere. The bridge was put in and then they had some issues on the approach of the bridge. It's quite high and so on. The department is looking at it now. It's been there for quite a while, but what we are talking about is trying to go to... I think we were initially advised by elders to move it I believe it's 1.8 kilometres up that creek, and then that would be where we'd have to realign the winter road. So we're looking at the cost of that. The cost of that is fairly substantial, but at the same time if we don't do it, then we would have to do something on the current site, which I guess would also be difficult and substantial and probably would mean more bridging in that area. So, that's Oscar Creek and we are trying to come up with a solution. We had some discussions at the department upon our return from going to look at that bridge and we will hopefully be trying to come forth with a solution soon. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people really appreciate the Minister coming on the Sahtu winter roads and seeing it for himself. The previous Minister came on the winter road, too, drove the 700 and some-odd kilometres. I think we need to have some of our people here, some of the Ministers and people here just to take a drive on these winter roads just to experience it, to know what we're talking about. It's really strange to sit here and talk about it without first experiencing and knowing what people, day in and day out, go through on the Sahtu winter roads.

I want to thank the department and the contractors for doing good work. I want to ask the Minister, are we going to have this type of experience again next winter in light of maybe not seeing any type of significant work in the oil and gas industry?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. We have a guy that is going to be living in Tulita right throughout the entire winter road season who works for us. He's a fairly senior individual in the Department of Transportation. He'll be working with two monitors also out of the Fort Simpson office and we'll be doing some debriefing at the end of the winter road to see what is needed. I think it's at that point that the department has indicated that there may be certainly a look at our base. We have a certain amount of money in the base and that requires the contractor to grade at certain intervals and sometimes there's a lot of snow in between, unfortunately. So we may look at how the grading schedule works with the contractor and that way try to maximize the work of the graders as we try to improve the winter road. Mahsi cho.

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

QUESTION 617-17(5):

PURCHASE OF IPADS FOR NEW PARENTS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Earlier today the Minister read into the House an Early Childhood Development Action Plan update, but what caught my attention was, within his update, iPads for new parents. Now, during this time period, since he made this announcement, I went back and looked at the main estimates, looked at the budget for this fiscal year and I was unable to find any line entry with respect to this as being an initiative under the ECD Action Plan.

So, could the Minister indicate to the House how many of these iPads the department is purchasing, what's the total cost of this initiative and the distribution strategy? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This ECD, Early Childhood Development Framework, overall does fall within that. We will be distributing iPads to new parents so they can have a tool that they can use with their newborns or children as well. That information was part of the action plan that we talked about last year, as well, and the money has been identified.

There are around 500 mini iPads that we've initiated as part of the overall plan. The overall cost of the iPads is around \$160,000. These are some of the ongoing costs that we've identified.

We've also had, within our department, individuals that have been working on this with particular stakeholders as well. We are, in March, doing a pilot project where we're going to roll out at least 100 mini iPads and then full distribution in August of this year. Mahsi.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. I do appreciate the Minister's work on the ECD plan and I'll be looking very favourably at those numbers in due course. Ironically imbedded in today's statement the quote is "These iPads are the techno baby bags of the future." Now, I have to smile a little bit because the words "baby bags," it's well documented within ECE that there's been a lot of year-end splurging in the past of baby bags, getting rid of budget dollars near the fiscal, March 31st, year-end.

Can the Minister indicate to the House, is this just another splurge technique to get rid of funds? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I can assure the Member that it's not. Since 2013-14 and also '15, we've been allocating funds towards this particular programming, mini iPads for new parents, and this is very important for the parents so it can provide

increased access to early childhood development programming. Not only that, some of the parents also share with us and told us that they need help in understanding and tracking their children's developmental milestones, providing humanization, nutrition information, recalling safety alerts. These are some of the areas that have been shared with us, and also the language apps within the program. So, this has been in the works for the last couple of years now and finally we're at the stage where we want to distribute it. We're ready for it in March and then August. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: We've heard from the Minister there's been lots of work, allegedly behind the scenes, in preparation for these distributions of iPads. As indicated in the release, they're going to be full of childhood apps and resources, but can the Minister indicate to the House, is he prepared to provide committee and Members the research and the evidence-base behind what we're doing? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, my department is willing to do that, provide the detailed information on these particular mini iPads that will be distributed to new parents. We've done a lot of research not only on these mini iPads but on the overall Early Education Development Framework. The action plan we've developed over a three-year period to deal with the 22 recommendations. This is part of the recommendations that have been brought to our attention, that we need to provide tools and resources and that's what we're doing. So we'll provide that information, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Thanks to the Minister for his response. We know the old saying, what you spend you should be able to monitor.

With that, can the Minister indicate what performance measures are with this investment? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, this is the very reason why we're doing the hundred mini iPads in March, March 31st, just to have a review of the testing of the technology, the cost factor and the rolling out of the program, where we may run into some obstacles or developing some programming of apps and so forth and we do have a monitoring mechanism in place as well. The Member was referring to how we evaluate and monitor, so those are areas that we have established, as well, for this particular area and also other projects in play. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Time for oral questions has expired. I'm going to call a 30-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6, on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I would like to introduce a couple of people in the gallery. Steve Loutitt is director of road licensing and safety for the Department of Transportation, and Anita Merritt is his friend visiting us from Alberta.

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu.

Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, replies to budget address, day six of seven. Item 13, petitions. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Mr. Bromley.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 34-17(5): WORKPLACE SAFETY AT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 16, 2015, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services clarify procedures for Stanton Territorial Hospital employees to follow when violent incidents occur, including procedures expressly for the use of physical restraint in these cases;

And further, that the Department of Health and Social Services direct Stanton Territorial Hospital management to hire security personnel with recognized training in non-violent crises intervention and physical restraint techniques;

And further, that security personnel at territorial health care facilities be hired as full-fledged employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories, guaranteeing continuity of service and benefits resulting from accumulated experience, institutional memory and professional training;

And furthermore, that the Department of Health and Social Services review its policies and procedures pertaining to security at territorial health care facilities, including long-term care and extended care facilities, and report back to the House within 120 days.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Motions

MOTION 33-17(5): EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO FEBRUARY 16, 2015, CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, February 12, 2015, it shall be adjourned until Monday, February 16, 2015;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to February 16, 2015, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya.

Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016; Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act; and Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'd like to continue with TD 188-17(5), continuing with the Department of Justice and, time permitting, start on the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. With that, we'll turn it to the Minister for the Department of Justice to see if he has any witnesses he'd like to bring in. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Mr. Ramsay, if you would be kind enough, for our record, to introduce your witnesses to the House, please.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right is Ms. Sylvia Haener, deputy minister, Department of Justice, and to my left is Ms. Kim Schofield, our director of corporate services with the Department of Justice.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Ms. Haener, Ms. Schofield, welcome back. We're always happy to have you here.

Committee, we are on general comments. With that, I have Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that the wellness courts have been proceeding forward, I'm wondering if the Minister can provide some statistics or stats as to how it's been rolling out and the success of it. I'll start with that one.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We made a commitment, I believe it was to Ms. Bisaro yesterday, to provide the statistics. We have some. We're going to compile those statistics and get them to Members. Just since October 2014 the Wellness Court program has had 13 referrals. At this point there are five clients currently in the program, two clients undergoing the assessment process and three potential clients, three clients have been removed from the program. But again, there's a lot of other statistics here. So we're going to get that and get it to committee members. I made a commitment yesterday, by the end of this month we'll have that information. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I suppose this next question could be asked on the page, but I'll just sort of speak generally to it, which is the rentals office. Not so much particularly a budget line item, so that's why I'm going to ask it here. What type of community outreach does the rental office do outside of Yellowknife? Does it get out there, does it advocate, does it meet in community meetings to remind people what their rights are? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That's something we can potentially work with the GSOs to help us with, but currently that service is available online and information is available online to residents and folks anywhere in the Northwest Territories.

MR. HAWKINS: So, is the Minister saying that there is no sort of public relationship that it would have through getting out to ensure people know their rights? Is that what he's saying? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: No, not currently. Like I said, there's the Internet and phone line. That's the service that's provided right now. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: What communities has the rentals office travelled to in the last fiscal year? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: They have attended for hearings. To get that level of detail, though, we'll go back and find that information out for the Member. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Just to be clear, four hearings as in four opportunities for various cases, or four individual cases. Just so I'm clear.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Just to be clear, it wasn't the number four and we will get the information for the Member.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. So I guess Hansard will ensure they spell it F-O-R.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. One of the issues I'm hearing is there are various communities that don't know enough about the rentals office, and I've tried to point them in the direction of this office through the Internet and tried to encourage them that they need to learn more about their rights. They're not in my constituency of Yellowknife Centre, but trying to point them in that direction. In some cases they actually have problems with the Housing Corporation or, more specifically, the local LHO and through that they do not know their rights. So I would wonder if it would seem reasonable for the Department of Justice to have the rentals office to work through the local LHO so all tenants are aware of their rights.

It's easy to say to go to the Internet, but if you live in Tulita, Wekweeti or you live in other remote communities, first of all your access to Internet is limited and challenging on a good day and it's one of those things where you have to know about your right in order to be able to look it up sometimes. So the education of this particular problem needs to get out there.

So I guess what I'm driving this towards is that I see a problem and an opportunity to encourage the rentals office to work with the LHOs to ensure their tenants are familiar with their rights and certainly their ability to challenge them. Does the Minister see the issue similarly as I'm trying to describe and does he see an opportunity to work with the LHOs?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. I do see an opportunity here as well. As I mentioned earlier, we have GSOs out there. We should be working with our GSOs. Also court workers, and I know the Member has brought up the LHOs. So we will communicate and try to collaborate with the Housing Corporation to see how we can continue to work together on trying to get that information out. So I thank the Member for the question. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I think that pretty much covers the area I have of concern under general comments. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Member Hawkins. We'll turn our attention to Mr. Blake, go ahead.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have two concerns to bring up. As I mentioned earlier in some questions to the Minister, policing is still an ongoing issue in Tsiigehtchic. In the past we did have RCMP in the community, and ever since, I believe it was the late '60s, early '70s, that was taken out of the community. Since then the community has wanted to have the presence of the RCMP back in the community. We feel that if we could have RCMP in a community half our size, there's no reason why we can't have RCMP in our community.

Also, I'll get into it once I get into Aboriginal policing, but that's my main concern right now. Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of things that we need to continue to work on, and that is trying to find accommodations. As I mentioned to the Member, the RCMP are working with the community. The Member advised me during debate in the House earlier today that the RCMP was requesting the community supply that accommodation in kind. That was the first that I had heard about that. So we are going to go back to the RCMP and discuss that with them.

You know, the cost of accommodations in a community like Tsiigehtchic shouldn't be an impediment to having Members overnight in the community, so we'll look at that.

Also, the discussion about detachments and new detachments in communities that currently don't have detachments, the formula has changed. The Government of the Northwest Territories is now responsible for 70 percent of the capital costs of those new detachments. We have some money earmarked for a refurb of the detachment in Inuvik and also the one in Behchoko, but no new detachments. A new detachment, just to ballpark it, is somewhere between \$7 million and \$10 million, \$7 million and \$11 million, in that range. So we

have to ensure that we have the capital dollars before we can make commitments to building detachments.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. Just under the wilderness camps that were mentioned earlier with corrections, I was hoping to see more funds in there, but I'll get into that later as we go through the department. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. I didn't hear a question and we'll get to that detail. General comments, committee. Is committee prepared to go into detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Direct your attention to page 289 in your main estimates. We're going to defer this page until consideration of the activity detail. That said, I'd like to turn your attention to page 290, revenue summary, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Seeing none, thank you. Page 291, active position summary, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 293, community justice and policing, operations expenditure summary, \$5.096 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 294, community justice and policing, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$2.169 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 295, community justice and policing, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 297, corrections, operations expenditure summary, \$39.477 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 298, corrections, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$179,000. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to ask, under the wilderness camps, how many camps does that funding represent? Is that one in each region or what is the breakdown per camp that is out there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our hope is to have more than one established and the funding we have here, I guess, would be a nominal amount. Our hope is that we can get more than one up and running and be successful. So in future years you could see a bigger line item.

As we've mentioned, we have had trouble in the past, but we're hopeful with the proponents we have now to find one we can work with and maybe even two. I think if we have more than one, that's a good problem to have. We may have to adjust, depending on the success of the discussions we have with the people that expressed interest in that, wilderness camps. Thanks.

MR. BLAKE: So, at the moment are there any camps that are operating already and are we seeking more in this last proposal that went out? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: There aren't any camps currently operating and that's why it's so important that we see at least one up and running. We have, under a different line item here, \$787,000. This isn't the only amount, the \$149,000. We do have \$787,000 as well. But again, if we require more funds, if we're successful and we can have a wilderness camp established in two or even three regions, that's something we'll have to revisit. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: That's good. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just something that I forgot to ask about when I made my general comments and that's the status of the women's correctional centre in Fort Smith, the new building. How is that going? Has it started construction yet? What kind of a time frame are we on? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Okay, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it is out for tender currently and that's the current status of the facility. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: So, to the Minister: What's the expected date of construction and when might the facility be open? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Our hope is to have the facility in operation by December of 2016. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you. Committee, we're on page 298, corrections, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$179,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Committee, page 299, corrections, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Page 301, court services, operations expenditure summary, \$14.693 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Page 302, court services, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Page 305, legal aid services, operations expenditure summary, \$6.303 million. Does committee agree? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to know from the Minister in regards to the legal aid services in our smaller communities, regions. I know I spoke to the Minister earlier in the year on an issue that came up in my riding and the Minister responded with some of the issues the department has to deal with.

I'm more concerned with the quality of the services provided to my constituents when they have to go to court and the quality and the quantity of time with their legal aid counsel. Is the policy to have a number of lawyers in each community when they have a court hearing? I think the Minister and I talked about some of that and it wasn't to the satisfaction of my constituents. I just want to raise it again and see if they could bring some legal aid services into the Sahtu region. That way they would receive a better quality of legal counsel before anybody attends a court hearing.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his question. Again, we've had some success in our outreach, the legal aid outreach to communities. Last year some of the communities we were in were Kakisa, Fort Providence, Behchoko, Fort Good Hope, Tulita, Deline, Colville Lake, Norman Wells, Hay River, Detah and Ndilo. We will continue that effort, but the Member's question about having another lawyer, it would depend on the roster and what is scheduled and, really, the need. If that can be demonstrated, then that's something we could consider. I thank the Member for bringing that to our attention.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Committee, we're on page 305, legal aid services, operations expenditure summary, \$6.303 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. On page 306, legal aid services, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 309, policing services, operations expenditure summary, \$44.573 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 311, services to government, operations expenditure summary, \$13.503 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 312, services to government, grants, contributions and transfers, total grants, \$9,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 313, services to government, active positions, information item only. Any questions? Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know in our little discussion back and forth with the Minister and his staff yesterday, I did make another plea, I guess, to the domestic violence death review committee, and I appreciate the answer that the Minister did give. I know, and standing committee knows, all the hard work that goes into creating an act or creating something of the nature, and appreciating the time that we have left in this government and the big pieces of legislation that we're trying to do moving forward, I still wanted to put an emphasis on the importance of having such an act in place or even a committee in place. As I mentioned, there are many jurisdictions across Canada that do this and I just wanted, for the record as well as just to create some awareness and education, talk about one of the acts that another jurisdiction has.

The purpose of having a domestic violence death review committee or an act is to establish a multi-disciplinary committee to review the circumstances surrounding deaths that occur as a result of domestic violence and to make the recommendations to help prevent domestic violence deaths. As I said, it doesn't hold more water than what has been in the news recently. In the news it says that incidents happened and there were repeated, repeated incidents that should have been stopped and caught before. When things like this do come up, it brings out a passion in me and I think that even with the time we could look at doing a feasibility study into creating something and this not be forgotten in the next government.

Under this, the role of the committee, I'm just going to use my time to just explain what the role of the committee is. They would conduct a confidential review of each domestic violence death referred to it by the Minister, making recommendations to the Minister after each review to help prevent future deaths in similar circumstances. I'm sure we can name quite a few of these circumstances in the Northwest Territories that have occurred. Also, creating and maintaining a comprehensive database about the victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence deaths and the circumstances that led up to those deaths. We could put the policies and all the provisions in place and catch these so they wouldn't happen to any other individuals in the Northwest Territories.

The committee would also be helping identify the presence or absence of systemic problems or risk factors that may have contributed to the death's review. I can already think of about eight communities that don't have RCMP and don't have nurses. I can think of communities that don't have victim support coordinators. I can think of all the lack of psychologists that we have in some of the small communities and some of the isolated communities. This committee would make recommendations. This committee would also be helping identify transient patterns from the deaths reviewed to make recommendations for effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Just a little bit further in terms of who would be on the committee. It's not really a question. I'm trying to sell this. I'm trying to talk about the importance of having this and why we need it in place. Members would be appointed by the Minister and the Minister can appoint up to his discretion, but in some jurisdictions it's six to nine person review committees. One, of course, would be the office of the chief medical examiner, organizations or groups advocating for the prevention of domestic violence, victims services, police services, and organization or sectors specified by the regulations. There is a lot of good groundwork or framework that other jurisdictions are doing. I mean, there wouldn't be a lot of work to look at creating legislation or looking at the feasibility of having this.

When we hear stories like we did in the news recently, it's heartbreaking for us, because we make decisions in here, but when it happens in a small community in a region where a lot of people in the Northwest Territories, we're a small population and it affects us all. I mean, having this in place so we can prevent it, I think, cannot fall off the books, it cannot fall off the batting order. I know we have I don't know how many months left in this government, but that shouldn't be an excuse to say why we're not going to do this and leave it for the next government. I mean, we can still start a feasibility study, we can start that communication with other jurisdictions.

I wanted to take this opportunity. I listened to what the Minister said yesterday. At the initial time I accepted it, but when you read the story and you read comments that are on Facebook, it's disheartening and I think this government needs to take action and move forward. I mean, the Department of Justice has been doing a really great job in many areas, and I think this one is a very important piece of the puzzle in terms of affecting our high violence rates in the Northwest Territories.

More of a comment. I want to take the opportunity and get it down on the record as an education and awareness piece to all Members of the Legislative Assembly and not just the Minister responsible.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Moses, I let you continue on. You're probably one activity ahead of yourself. This goes under services to public. That said, I didn't want to cut you off, but we will allow the Minister of Justice to reply. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I enjoyed listening to the Member's passionate plea. It is and continues to be something of great interest to the coroner. As we move forward, I think it's something, again, that we can look at. It won't be very much longer until the 18th Legislative Assembly is in place. It's only nine months, 10 months. We will also need to, and I want to highlight this, I think Health and Social Services will have to figure prominently into the rollout of such a review committee. They are responsible for the domestic violence prevention and that side of things, so we need to be working with them on an approach to this.

I could see the coroner certainly leading the charge, and it's good to know that we've got some Members here who would be supportive of those legislative changes that would be required to bring death review committees to light here in the Northwest Territories.

I want to thank the Member for his interest and passion in that regard. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I apologize, Mr. Chair. I thought we were on services to the public. Just in terms of continuing with the momentum, we've got about eight or nine months left in this government and I know we do transitional documents. This is something that could be started in a feasibility study. If we can get a commitment that we get this in the transitional works for the 18th Assembly, who knows who's going to be here in the next government and whoever comes in will understand what this actually is and the effectiveness that this will have. If we can get a commitment or something of that nature from the Minister that we will work hard to get this into the transitional document, I would really appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I would encourage the Member to do that. I know transitions take different forms over the years I have been here. Sometimes with committees, committees do their own transition, you know, SCEDI or Social Programs and it feeds into one document. I'm not sure how that's going to play itself out this year. Again, I would encourage the Member to seek that support on his committee that he chairs, the Standing Committee on Social Programs, and other members to get it into a transition document. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Are we on services to public?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We are on page 313, services to government, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We are now on page 315, services to public, operations expenditure summary, \$5.152 million. Does committee agree? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Two questions that I believe we discussed when we were reviewing the business plans but I'm not sure, so I'd like to raise them. I forgot to raise them in my general comments. With the rental office, we now have a rental officer and a deputy or an assistant rental officer. We have seen over the last couple of years that the number of inquiries and the needs within that rental office have increased considerably. I would like to know whether or not having the two officers in the office is enough or is there consideration by the department to add a third person to handle the workload. Thank you.

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

MS. HAENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The rentals office, we've done some work with them to look at workload. At this point in time, given the numbers of files they've been handling, having the rental officers and the deputy are sufficient. Having heard some of the comments earlier about needs to get information out that may prompt a need to look at other resources to supplement what is there in the rentals office, at this point, in terms of hearing matters, we do believe we have sufficient resources.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the deputy minister for that. My next question has to do with coroners' reports. The coroners' reports go to the department and they also often go to

committee. Quite regularly the coroner has recommendations within his or her report.

I would like to know from the Minister when a report has a recommendation to a particular department, the coroner falls under Justice but it may be a recommendation to, say, the Department of Health and Social Services, so I would like to know from the Minister what action Justice takes to ensure the coroner's recommendations are followed up on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Before we go to Minister Ramsay, I would like to draw your attention to the gallery. We have joining us today, former Member for Hay River North, MLA and longest serving Speaker in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Paul Delorey.

---Applause

Mr. Delorey, thank you for joining us tonight. I will turn the response to Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. One heck of a curler, too, Mr. Delorey.

---Laughter

Good to hear you're here, Paul. When the coroners' reports come in, if recommendations are directed to various departments, the coroner would follow up with the departments on their response to those recommendations. That's how that works. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: One of the jobs that Members take as committee is to also monitor what's going on, and when we receive a report and see recommendations in there, it's very helpful for us to get some kind of an update on where the recommendations are at. If the coroner is following up, that's one thing, but is there any opportunity for a department, whether it be Justice or whether it be individual departments who have received the recommendation, but is it conceivable that standing committee could get some kind of an update on recommendations in coroners' reports? It doesn't have to be for every report, but maybe twice a year take all the coroner's reports and report back to committee on how those recommendations have been handled. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That would be a great deal of work to put together. What I would suggest is the coroner does put together an annual report and Members avail themselves of that report and have questions from that. That's something we can address. What the Member is asking for would take a great deal of work to put together and track and everything. We would never know exactly what the Members might want. One Member might want something and another Member might want something else. That would be a difficult task, Mr. Chairman.

MS. BISARO: I guess maybe the Minister is thinking of something different than what I'm thinking of. The coroner's report, from my recollection, does not give us how recommendations were handled, what an individual department did with those recommendations. So it's conceivable that the Standing Committee on Social Programs, for instance, may ask for the data, all the recommendations that came from the coroner in the last year, please provide us with how the recommendations were handled, what each department did. I guess what I'm suggesting is instead of waiting for standing committee to ask for it, the department or the government somehow, maybe it goes through a different department, or that a department is proactive and it's also a way of ensuring that recommendations have been dealt with. Maybe the department didn't think the recommendation was necessary and refused the recommendation, but it's that sort of information that's important that we get to the public and it's important that it get to Members so we can consider, from an accountability perspective, that the recommendations of these people that we've hired to do these jobs are at least being looked at and hopefully being adhered to and that we're seeing positive change. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The coroner would make recommendations. They are not required and there is no legal obligations for them to feed responses back to the coroner. There's just not that legal obligation there. It would be hit and miss, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, yes, I know there is no legal obligation, but I think there is a moral obligation on the part of government to respond to recommendations from people that we hire to try to make life better for our residents. I would encourage the Minister to think about providing some kind of a summary of coroner's recommendations and how they have been handled by various departments in the government. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Chairman, we will give that some thought and take a look at how we can accomplish that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Committee, we're on page 315, services to public, operations expenditure summary, \$5.152 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 316, services to public, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 317, Justice, lease commitments, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 318, work performed on behalf of others – it's actually pages 318 and 319 together – information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Committee, if I could get you to return to page 289, department totals. Justice, department totals, \$128.797 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that consideration of the Department of Justice is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank our witnesses today here, Ms. Haener and Ms. Schofield. Thank you for joining us and, of course, the Minister. If I could get the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses out of the House. Thank you.

Thank you, committee. We're going to continue with our main estimates here. We're going to continue with Industry, Tourism and Investment. With that, we'll turn it over to the Minister responsible for opening comments. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the 2015-2016 Main Estimates for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

Overall, the department's main estimates propose total operational costs of approximately \$65.6 million for this coming fiscal year, an increase of over \$3 million, or 5.6 percent, from '14-15. This includes sunsets of over \$4.4 million, over \$6 million in new initiatives and nearly \$800,000 in forced growth, most of which is collective bargaining increases. It also includes the transfer of ITI's energy planning division and associated initiatives to Public Works and Services at nearly \$1.7 million as well as a transfer of \$2.3 million to Environment and Natural Resources to implement the realignment of fur harvester support programming.

The mandate of ITI is to promote economic self-sufficiency through responsible management and sustainable development of Northwest Territories' mineral and petroleum resources and the promotion and support of trade, tourism, agriculture, film, fisheries, business and manufacturing. Through our mandate, we support this government's commitment to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to build a stronger future for themselves, their families and their communities.

In 2015-2016 ITI will help to strengthen and diversify the NWT economy by proposing

investments in a number of programs and projects. This includes a focus on implementing strategies to support economic growth and prosperity as well as initiatives to support the added responsibilities that ITI now has as a result of devolution.

The Northwest Territories' future economic growth is closely linked to mineral development, and through the advancement of the Mineral Development Strategy Implementation Plan, ITI is proposing to invest \$1.4 million in 2015-2016 towards initiatives outlined in the implementation plan, including:

- \$650,000 for the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office to deliver its Geoscience Research Program, which helps to provide publicly available geoscience information, supports resource development and land use decisions, and attracts mineral exploration activities and investment.
- \$400,000 for the Mining Incentive Program. This program was launched in June 2014 to provide funding to eligible prospectors and mining exploration companies operating in the NWT, offsetting some of the financial risks associated with grassroots mineral development.
- \$100,000 for Aboriginal capacity building. The funding will be used to support Aboriginal organizations and communities to participate in the consultation and decision-making process related to mineral development.
- \$149,000 to support business coordination, helping to connect NWT business owners with those involved in the mining industry and to identify development opportunities in the regions.
- \$140,000 to market and promote the NWT as an attractive place for investment in responsible mineral exploration and development.

ITI also proposes \$85,000 in the coming year for purchases necessary to relocate geological materials to the proposed Geological Materials Storage Facility. This facility will house the GNWT's significant geological collection, which will provide key information to prospectors and exploration companies, helping to lower their costs, reduce the environmental footprint of exploration and support future exploration. Another key objective for ITI in the coming fiscal year is to invest in the actions outlined in the Economic Opportunities Strategy Implementation Plan. The EOS plan focuses on diversifying the economy through supporting the NWT's small business community; pursuing major investment projects; growing a stable and attractive entrepreneurial environment; and attracting, retaining and preparing residents to become active participants in the territory's economic environment.

ITI proposes to invest \$2.4 million for the '15-16 fiscal year in the following EOS initiatives:

- \$1.5 million to revitalize the commercial fishing industry through the construction of a new fish plant, raising the profile for fish harvested in the territory and marketing locally caught fish to consumers, and improving our capability to export through the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.
- \$461,000 in tourism-related initiatives including tourism product diversification and marketing, infrastructure to support community-based tourism, a convention bureau to profile the NWT as a top conference destination, and support to address gaps in the hospitality and tourism training needs.
- \$100,000 in support for the film industry through a new rebate program that will help to increase film production by providing incentives to production filming on location in the NWT.
- \$200,000 for regional economic plans, to help residents across the territory to become directly involved in planning regional development activities.
- \$100,000 to develop an agricultural strategy to support the agriculture industry, which has been flourishing across the territory the past few years and holds great promise for future development and lowering the cost of living.
- \$100,000 for business internships support to assist small businesses, particularly those located outside the regional centres, and to attract and retain qualified people.

ITI supports this government's priority to ensure the francophone community in the NWT can access programs and services in French. Therefore, the department is looking to invest \$272,000 in 2015-2016 to provide these services.

ITI also supports this government's goal to increase employment opportunities in the regions, where they are needed most. ITI is already a highly decentralized organization with five regional offices and a BIP office located in Hay River, and the petroleum resources division, which has offices in Hay River and Inuvik.

For 2015-2016 ITI plans to relocate the territorial parks office from Yellowknife to Hay River.

To support parks operations in the South Slave and Beaufort-Delta regions, forced growth funding of \$112,000 is being proposed to cover increased operational costs associated with utilities and park operator contracts. Existing internal resources have been reallocated to pay for an additional parks officer in the South Slave region, to be located in Fort Providence.

While support for new programs and initiatives is important to foster economic development and opportunities for residents and businesses, the department will continue to invest in existing programs and services that help to provide economic benefits throughout the NWT. It is the programs and services available at the community level that directly impact the lives of our residents.

The information I have shared today are some of the many examples of how ITI works on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide residents and businesses in all communities with opportunities and options to turn potential into prosperity. That concludes my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Do you have witnesses you'd like to bring into the House?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the House.

For the record, Mr. Ramsay, if you could introduce your witnesses to the House.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Peter Vician, deputy minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and to my right, Nina Salvador. She's our director of finance at ITI.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Ms. Salvador and Mr. Vician, welcome to the House again. It's always nice to have you back.

Committee, we are on general comments, ITI. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have two comments that I want to make here, and the Minister has heard them already, but they bear repeating. One is my concern with the decentralization of the parks office to Hay River. Not so much that we are moving the positions but that we are uprooting families and forcing people who have lived here for a very long time to reconsider their life's path, to reconsider whether they are going to take their spouse out of a job and move them with them, children in school. That whole ball of wax that I talked about the other day. I would just like to state again that I wish that in this particular case that the department could consider looking at when a decision is made to decentralize that the decision is made to look at positions which happen to be vacant or new positions as opposed to positions which are filled. If we really value our employees, I think we would give them a little bit more, we would think of them in a better light.

The other thing that I wanted to mention, and I mentioned this to the Minister yesterday, but I am very disappointed that the Minister is going to only have industry representatives on the Mining Industry Advisory Board. I again urge the Minister to think outside the box a little bit. The mining industry is extremely important, and I agree with the Minister that we have to make sure our mining industry, both exploration and development of mines, increases. It is a huge part of our economic development. But I think there is also a place on any advisory board for a differing point of view. Mines affect people, they affect communities and they create social problems, and I think it behooves us to have somebody, at least one person on this board, who can present a bit of a different point of view. We all want development but we don't want development from only one point of view.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Decentralization was a priority of this Assembly. At ITI, I mean, we're carrying out those marching orders. We've relocated our BIP office to Hay River, and through the process of devolution, I mean, we relocated our petroleum resources office to Inuvik. We've got two other positions slated to go to Hay River. We will be dealing with our staff fairly. That is our goal in all of this is to treat the staff fairly, the incumbents that are in those positions, and we will do just that.

On the Industry Advisory Board, it is just that, an industry advisory board. There is ample opportunity for other groups to write me letters, to meet with me, to meet with Members. I don't want anybody to get the idea that the advice the Industry Advisory Board gives the Minister or gives the government is automatically going to be rubberstamped and in place the next day. That's not what's going to happen. There are layers here. There are the committees; there's the Assembly; there's Cabinet. It all has to flow. It has to go through the system. This is advice from industry. It's not advice from anybody else but folks involved in the mining industry. That's where that's at, and those appointments will be made at my discretion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Continuing on with general comments, ITI, I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My comments would be more reflective of the situation that we have in my riding around the oil and gas. I do want to thank the Minister and the staff for doing the best they can in the situations of our economic opportunity and working with the region. You responded and you've done some things that were greatly appreciated in our region. Right now we have Colville Lake with some activity going on there. Hopefully, in the future we'll have some other

work being done around Conoco's lease in maybe other areas. I do want to say to the Minister and the staff that you're doing a good job. I guess that's what I want to say.

I do want to say also to the staff there that I'd like to say to the Minister the work that your department is doing on the Canol Heritage Trail, the park itself, the proposed park, we appreciate it. Your team is there working with us. One of the things that we just wanted to give you our peak of interest is a winter recreational park across from Norman Wells. It's called the Canol area. It will be the first one in the territory. But I really like that idea, and I'd like you guys to pursue it as much as you can and say that it's not something that you people in Sahtu, specifically the town of Norman Wells, to look at a winter recreation park. It would be the first of its kind in the Northwest Territories. It takes a lot of discussion, but I'm thinking that something like that should be considered.

I do want to say that the agriculture has taken off in the Sahtu. We're growing some fairly big potatoes over there. It almost could be the capital spud of the Territories here. Some people there continue doing that. There are some people in the Good Hope area who have taken advantage of the agriculture program. There are some things happening there, and I do want to say that we look forward to what this department is doing. I think, my sense from the staff in Norman Wells, the Minister, we've been having some pretty good working relationships with our communities. It's not so much any type of complaint to the department. I just want to say thank you, I guess. It's kind of rare for me, you know. But I wanted to say that to the Minister because the Minister has worked well in Colville Lake and all my communities, Good Hope, Tulita, the Wells and Deline.

We're up against some challenges and the one that would really help us, of course, is with the economic activity that could make a boost for us. If there's anything that this department can help with the transportation of government is to create that sustainability or consistency with economic development, we greatly appreciate it. We are quite aware of the challenge of bringing tourists into the Sahtu region. It's a given. Not like Yellowknife. Sometimes we get a little bit grouchy because we think most of the money is coming to the larger centres. Lots of people come here from outside of Canada. We don't see it too much in the Sahtu region and we're saying, well, what's going on here. That's why we're trying to create, like Mr. Moses said, tourism further north. They're doing some good things up in Inuvik and they want to do that, which is good, but sometimes we don't get the amount that we'd like, except for the hunting season where we get big game outfitters and they're mostly from the South but they come into our region to work. So, I just wanted to let the

Minister know that people are willing to work and I think that's a good thing and I want to say to the Minister that he has a good staff in the region working for us. That's all I want to say. Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his kind comments. I appreciate that and I know our staff appreciates his comments as well.

We have to continue to work on all sectors and it's very unfortunate what's happened in the past six months with the collapse in oil prices globally. It's really had an impact on the Member's riding, so that's why, again, it's important that we look at all sectors, not just oil and gas but mining, tourism, our support to business. We have to continue to work with other departments. The traditional economy is very important, trapping and training efforts through Minister Lafferty and ECE. We have to continue to find new investment in the territory and that's something that's very important.

On the park development, that is something that we will continue to work on with the land corps, the regional and community governments in the Sahtu and also the federal government has a big role to play in all of that, as well, with the cleanup of the Canol. So we're anxiously awaiting that to happen as well.

There are a lot of positive things that are happening, you know, and the Member and I have had many discussions about the prospects in the Sahtu. When it comes to oil and gas, it is a long game and I think it's a game where you have to have patience, but the one thing that can't be taken away from the central Mackenzie Valley and the Sahtu is the fact that they have resources in the ground and at some point in time those resources are going to be developed to the benefit of the people that live in the area and in this territory. So, it is a long-term goal of ours. We're hoping to have that happen sooner rather than later, but in the meantime, while we're waiting for the price of oil to come back and companies to come back to do more work there, we need to focus on other areas where we can have a positive impact and can create jobs and have that economic opportunity, and those are the things that are going to make a difference to people not just in the Sahtu but around the territory. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: So, Minister, and Mr. Chair, that's for all of the Northwest Territories, because we certainly heard it in the budget dialogue that we need revenue, and if you have revenue to do things that we want to do, that will certainly help us.

I just wanted to make a last pitch for the Aboriginal business people in the region, the ones that have the ma and pa type of tourism lodges. You know,

we want the best for them. They've put sweat and equity into that business and at times it's quite expensive to bring people out to those lodges, but when they get out to those lodges they sure love the country. Even down here outside of Great Slave Lake, when they go to those lodges it's beautiful country. Not a lot of people are going there because it's quite expensive, no different up in the Sahtu region where there are a couple of lodges on the land that people who want to make a living or making their lifestyle, but it's really expensive and they get the tourism few and far and between. So I want to make a pitch to ask the department however, through this government, to encourage the department and the people who go to those lodges, however they can do it, and that's a big request to this department. I just want to make a pitch, come out and visit, take advantage of those lodges in and around the region there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We continue to work with Northwest Territories Tourism, which includes representatives from the Sahtu. We're always looking at opportunities to market visitors to get into the Sahtu, and there are some excellent operators in the Sahtu. I think I may have said Deline a few times already today, but Deline really is a shining star when it comes to tourism, Destination Deline and the product that they're developing there. So we're excited at that prospect and the Sahtu does have, and I know the Member and I have been around his riding a number of times, by jet boat down the Great Bear River, we've been into the mountains and the beauty of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, it's beautiful, but if you've ever had the opportunity to visit the East Arm of the Great Bear Lake, that is something to behold as well. It's beautiful and there are so many beautiful areas in the Sahtu, things that we can market to visitors from around the world.

So that's all part of our effort in trying to get more marketing dollars. The announcement we had earlier this week is going to allow us to do more of that work in Asia, in Europe, in North America. So we're excited about all that opportunity when it comes to tourism in the Sahtu as well as other parts of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Continuing on with general comments, ITI, I have Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I also want to say, once again, congratulations on the announcement with the CanNor funding. I think it's going to go a long way in the small communities.

During our business plan review, and something that our Minister of Finance has mentioned, was our fiscal restraint policy moving forward, and looking at your opening comments what I see is you have sunsets of \$4.4 million but over \$6 million in

new initiatives, and seeing the fiscal restraint that we're in, the department is funding new programs and investing in our people. I understand that we've also got to invest in our economy and this is a department that does most of that groundwork, that front work, trying to do those announcements. So in coming up with the operations budgets this year, was the fiscal restraint policy taken into account moving forward? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Moses. For that we'll go to Deputy Minister Vician.

MR. VICIAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The department was, like all departments, requested to identify opportunities for fiscal reduction and the department stepped up and made a number of reductions in its overall operational base, approximately \$830,000 of reductions overall in terms of targeted areas to direct. Of course, during the course of the fiscal year we were also going through the last phase of the devolution process and our operational budget reflects those increases as well. For example, the establishment of the office of the oil and gas regulator as part of the increase to the budget. Furthermore, our investments focused on elements that are very important to this Legislature with regard to economic opportunity investment and the tourism investment portfolio as well as the Mineral Development Strategy investments that are reflected in this current base. So those are reflected through the mains, and as we go through detail we can identify those through you, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Vician. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm only asking because there was a big increase and I see the importance of the investment in the economy and getting our people working and trying to get investors into the Northwest Territories as well as bring up tourists and diversify our economies in the Sahtu and Inuvik, in the Beaufort-Delta and those areas. So I'm in agreement.

I just wanted to know if the process was undertaken when the department was going through their operations budget. The only reason why is because we do have standing committees that go through these budgets very thoroughly and very detailed, not only this department but all other departments, and there are suggestions that are brought up not only in this budget but even our last budget. We were given a straight out no in terms of investments and a lot of it is investments in people's health, their education and other areas, and the departments have been reflective. What concerns me is that some of the action plans we're doing will not have the exact resources that they need.

So I just wanted to ask, and I know some colleagues of mine want to make sure that each

department does go through their fiscal restraint policy when moving forward.

With that said, moving on, as I said, the tourism industry I think is thriving and it's starting to get some strong momentum moving forward in getting people up in the Northwest Territories. I commend the department on that work. I had questions earlier in the House today and it's nice to see that money is going out into the communities.

The film industry that was mentioned, that's another thriving industry that's doing a lot of really good work. That \$100,000, is that new dollars on top of the dollars that they got last year? I think they got \$100,000 last year as well. Is this new funding for them? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his remarks as well. We had \$100,000 through SEED, the SEED program last year. The \$100,000 you see this year is specific to the new program that we have, the Film Rebate Program that we have this year. We're hopeful that we are going to see, given the fact that the Canadian dollar is down and the cost of fuel is down as well, is going to be a contributing factor in us trying to get some more people here doing location filming here in the Northwest Territories. So things are looking up in that regard and we're hopeful that this new program is going to help. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: That's great. I know we've had a lot of discussions here over the years on that rebate program and I'm glad to see that it's moving forward.

In terms of the SEED funding, I had questions last week I believe. When was the last time it was reviewed? We want to really support our small businesses right now in the communities, in the regions that are having a hard time making it by when the economy is bad. So I'm not going to need an answer on that. I got my answers in the House last week. I just wanted to mention it again.

A big one in here is the agriculture. I know there have been some big announcements made lately, but in terms of agriculture in the communities, we see a lot more community gardens in the summer, we see the greenhouses like in Inuvik. We also see, I think they're hydroponic plants, or there's one in Weledeh, one in East Three School that grow food all year long. I think if we could make more of an investment in those, we'd get kids learning how to grow and become kind of like farmers I guess.

Just a couple more comments. The traditional economy, the Minister mentioned it earlier and I wanted to reference that when we talk about tourism. Tourism is good when we're trying to get people to come to the Territories, but the Minister

saw at the NWT Days Gala, we had a lady there with some fantastic jewellery, everybody was going to her booth, as well as the fur industry as well. I think we need to support those guys as much as we're supporting the film industry.

Just under the traditional economy, something that has been very successful but we're seeing a decline lately is the Great Northern Arts Festival. I have made Member's statements and I have asked questions about it over the years and we're seeing a decline in participation. But we're still seeing a lot of good art produced throughout the Northwest Territories. I think the Great Northern Arts Festival's board of directors might be having a hard time just seeking funding, getting funding, obviously because of the increased costs of the hotels, increased cost of food, all those lead up to it. So that \$25,000 that we've been giving them for I can't even remember how far back we've been staying on it, it has never increased and I think the government should take a look at how we can increase their funding, even for this year. That would be really great.

I think Mr. Yakeleya's idea of a winter park is kind of unique, it's innovative, and in fact, during our Sunrise Festival we actually had a little ice road village, a little village down on Boot Lake. It was really great and I think that's something that would sell.

Just some comments. If the Minister would like to comment on a few of them, that would be great.

I'm not too sure if the Minister holds an economic conference in the Northwest Territories and what kind of businesses come to that. Is it all sectors? Is it just focused on certain sectors? But whether or not he does hold a conference... I think that would be a great way for people to network and learn about some of these funding sources. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The Member covered off a lot of ground, but I'll try to go back over it. We do have to continue our support to jewellery makers and we're happy to have jewellery workshops. I know we talked a long time about having those and we got those off the ground last year. We're happy to do that. We'd have to continue to support that sector.

Also, on the fur side, we are now responsible for marketing fur. The other side of that has gone over to ENR, and we will continue to work with ENR on that.

We continue to be, and have been, a major sponsor of the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik. I know the Member spoke of our \$25,000 contribution and the possibility that that's not enough money. That's something we can take back to the region. We'll take his comments away with us today and see what we can come up with there.

On whether or not we've had an economic conference here in the Northwest Territories, it typically happens by sector. The Chamber of Commerce would have an event that I'd be invited to speak at and, on the agriculture side, the Territorial Farmers' Association. Also, we have an Economic Development Practitioners Conference that we help host, so I've attended those. So there are a number of things that happen every year. NWT Tourism has their annual general meeting that I'm at, and Geoscience as well. So there's a number of events throughout the year that I get to and I speak at.

The idea of having one big conference, I think, is something that, you know, as we move on maybe it might bear some fruit.

I thank the Member for his comments and his continued support in us growing the economy here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Continuing on with general comments, I have Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a few comments. The Minister spoke a bit here about the fur industry, and it's thriving fairly well, but there are some concerns that the fur prices might be a bit low this year. A number of my constituents raised the concern that prices for fox, beaver and I believe it was mink are fairly low. For the amount of work that they go through to harvest these animals, you know, \$35 advances are very low and there's really no incentive for people to harvest them.

The populations are really increasing and we need to do something here to help manage that. I know it is under ENR, but the Minister's department does look after the Mackenzie Valley fur industry. So there's that there.

I also wanted to bring up the film industry. I know there are more funds for the film industry this year. I'd just like to ask the Minister, is there a separate fund for... You know, I have a constituent who's really interested in making films. He actually made one this past year about the centennial canoe race that happened down the Mackenzie River, and the team from Fort McPherson won at that time and they documented that. It's really very interesting and good to educate our youth as well. They are planning to do another one on square dancing and jigging and all the people who were influential in that, and other areas, as well, traditional harvesting. You know, they'd like to film a lot more of that and also pass that on to our youth in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct; fur prices have come off somewhat, but the Northwest Territories still is

considered one of the best wild furs in the world. When the Premier and I were in China recently, we had five new buyers that wanted to purchase NWT fur and become buyers at the auction in Helsinki that's coming up. So we have to continue marketing the fur and the opportunity that our fur provides us. The fact that the money that gets to the trapper is money that goes into the local economy at the community level, and I don't think we can underestimate what the support that the government provides to the trapping industry here really does for the small communities around the Northwest Territories. It's really something that we have to continue to support and it is something we will continue to support.

There have been some changes here on new initiatives. When ENR is before the House, Members will have a chance to ask the Minister about new initiatives when it comes to fur. But we will continue working with ENR on our marketing efforts through ITI.

On the filmmaker that the Member spoke of, we do have, as I mentioned earlier to MLA Moses, \$100,000 earmarked through our SEED program. This new rebate program that I spoke of is the kind of program that a producer could avail themselves of some funding through that. It could really help them be the difference in getting a film made or not. So I would encourage the Member to let that person know that they should contact the regional office in Inuvik if they're up in the Beaufort-Delta in one of the Member's communities. If they're here in Yellowknife, we have the Film Commission here. Our staff at ITI in Yellowknife would be happy to help them, happy to point them in the right direction and get them some of the assistance that they need to get into making film here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BLAKE: Just one more thing. I know in the past it has been the practice to go to the auction house but also to some fur auctions and also take harvesters from the communities, usually one from each region.

I'd like to ask the Minister, do they plan to do that? I was actually one of them that went to North Bay back in I think it was '97 or something. It's really interesting. You know, you see the whole process right from when you harvest it to handling and they even show you, pick out one fur and just put down the tag number and it tells you where it came from. It's a very interesting process and it really encourages harvesters as well. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The Member is correct; we have to continue to have trappers help us promote their fur, the fur that they're harvesting. We have a great relationship with Fur Harvesters Auction and we have taken trappers in the past. Just on our recent trade mission to China and Japan, we had Andrew Stanley with us. Andrew is a

trapper out of Hay River and he was a really good ambassador for the trapping industry for the Northwest Territories. People loved talking to him about what it was like living on a trapline, trapping wild animals. He certainly is a great ambassador for the industry. We were happy to have him there. As we move forward, continuing to take part in auctions, it's important that we have trappers there to help us.

Also, the chief of Colville Lake, Alvin Orlias; and a trapper, Joe Kochon, have been invited to attend the next auction scheduled for June 2015 in North Bay. Of course, they'll be accompanied by an official from ITI. So that's just an example of how we're trying to integrate the trappers into our marketing efforts. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Is committee prepared to go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Committee, we're going to defer page 253 until we have consideration of activity detail. With that, I'll ask committee to turn to page 254, revenue summary, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 255, active position summary, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 256, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 259, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, \$9.350 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 260, corporate management, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 263, economic diversification and business support, operations expenditure summary, \$22.776 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 264, economic diversification and business support, grants, contributions and

transfers, total grants and contributions, \$11.844 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 266, economic diversification and business support, active positions, information. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 269, minerals and petroleum resources, operations expenditure summary, \$17.175 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 270, minerals and petroleum resources, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$1.325 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 271, mineral and petroleum resources, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 273, office of the regulator of oil and gas operations, operations expenditure summary, \$2.185 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I have one short question, Mr. Chair. I want to ask, given the situation in the North here, and specifically the Sahtu region, are the partnership meetings that are happening in our region in the Sahtu that involve various departments still active and they're still making suggestions and recommendations with the government, oil companies and the communities and making some progress in the work that could be done and what work can be looked at and making plans for just in case the industry does come back on a large scale or a small scale?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we continue to work with CanNor. This is outside the OROGO office, but we do continue to work with communities. We work with CanNor. We also have inherited a number of staff from AANDC who are helping us get into the communities and work with communities in preparation for oil and gas development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Committee, we're on page 273, office of the regulator of oil and gas operations, operations expenditure summary, \$2.185 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 274, office of the regulator of oil and gas operations, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 277, tourism and parks, operations expenditure summary, \$14.191 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 278, tourism and parks, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$5.258 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 279, tourism and parks, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 280, lease commitments, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 281, Northwest Territories Environmental Studies Research Fund, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Pages 282 and 283, work performed on behalf of others, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, if I can get you to return to page 253 of department totals please. Committee, page 253, Industry, Tourism and Investment, department total, \$65.677 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that consideration of the Department of ITI is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank our guests here this evening. Ms. Salvador and Mr. Vician, thank you for joining us and, of course, the Minister. With that, I'll get the Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

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

---Carried

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

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 188-17(5), NWT Main Estimates 2015-2016, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

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

---Carried

Item 23, third reading of bills.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Before we end our day, I will now rise and make my ruling on the point of order raised in this House on Wednesday, February 4th, by the Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Mrs. Groenewegen's point of order was that Mr. Hawkins, in asking questions to Minister Miltenberger, made derogatory comments respecting a business that is not in a position to defend itself on the floor of this House.

We have encountered instances in the past where Members have been called to order for referencing individuals that are not Members of this House and, therefore, not able to defend themselves publicly. It is against our rules to make insulting or damaging remarks about people who cannot respond directly. This has been clearly established in rulings I have made as well as previous rulings from Speaker Gargan and Speaker Delorey. However, it is common practice in this House to refer to the actions undertaken by businesses operating within our territory.

In responding to the point of order, Mr. Hawkins stated that he had not named a particular company and that the issues he raised regarding corporate profits is public information. It is always difficult to evaluate the context or intent of words spoken by a Member, but after careful review of Mr. Hawkins' comments as set out in the unedited Hansard from February 4, 2015, as well as his remarks during debate on the point of order, I conclude that there is no point of order. In absence of clearly stated allegations against an individual not present in this House, I defer to the freedom of speech we all enjoy as Members.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to caution Members with regard to statements they make in this House. While a particular statement or question may not strictly contravene our rules or

constitute unparliamentary language, it may have other unintended consequences. All Members of this House are protected by parliamentary privilege when they rise to speak. The onus is on each of us to exercise this right with responsibility, wisdom and sensitivity to the impact our words may have on the people and communities we all represent.

Thank you, Members. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

PRINCIPAL CLERK, COMMITTEES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Mr. Ball): Orders of the day for Monday, February 16, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
 - Motion 34-17(5), Workplace Safety at Stanton Territorial Hospital
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 188-17(5), NWT Main Estimates 2015-2016
 - Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act
 - Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act
22. Report of Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills
24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, February 16th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.