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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, March 2, 2015****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 167-17(5):
ADDRESSING SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE CHALLENGES

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I have often talked about the Education Renewal Initiative in this House and have updated Members a number of times as to its progress. In our discussions last year, Members said that unless children actually go to school it does not matter what programs and supports are provided. Members encouraged us to create a school attendance advertising campaign and, Mr. Speaker, we have acted upon that advice.

Mr. Speaker, our school attendance rates are not where we want them to be. Students must strive for 100 percent in order to give themselves the best chance to learn. A student who has 80 percent attendance is missing two full years of school by the time they reach Grade 10. In 2014 the average attendance in our small communities was 77 percent compared to 82 percent in the regions and 90 percent in Yellowknife. Seventy-one percent of Northwest Territories Grade 10 students had less than 80 percent attendance. We must work to improve these statistics.

Ensuring students go to school is everyone's responsibility. Many people can affect a student's attendance. It is the role of the school to provide thought-providing classes and a safe and warm environment. Parents and caregivers can help their children get out of bed on time and provide a healthy breakfast and a quiet place to do homework. Leaders can speak to the importance of education and can motivate and incent students by showing them how a good education can improve their lives, and government can provide information

and resources to help students become the best they can be and provide leadership to district education councils and authorities and support parents.

Following on the advice of Members, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is undertaking a student attendance campaign that takes our message directly to youth in ways they understand. We are using innovative and modern graphics and "teen-speak." We have created an infographic which not only poses questions about attendance but offers youth places to go if they need help.

We will be providing these resources to Members for their constituency offices and will be displaying information about attendance, helpline contacts and quick facts in every community in the Northwest Territories. Our goal is to ensure youth make good decisions for themselves and their futures and to make sure they know where to seek help if they need it.

Mr. Speaker, this campaign was, in part, created by youth. They advised us on the look and feel of the campaign, the right wording to use to reach their peers and where to place our messages. I firmly believe that because of their participation in this campaign, we will reach out in the most effective manner to a wider youth audience and will be more successful because of it.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is not all we are doing to increase attendance in schools. Through the Education Renewal Initiative there are several projects underway to improve schools as learning environments. One of the reasons some students do not attend regularly is because they are being bullied. We are addressing this through our Safe and Caring Schools legislation, regulations, School Codes of Conduct and Safe Schools plans.

Another reason some students attend irregularly is because they are hungry. This issue is being addressed, in part, through the Healthy Food in Schools Initiative which is underway this year. Some students do not attend school because the courses they are interested in are not offered. We are addressing this issue through the expanded commitment to distance learning that ERI is supporting this year.

Mr. Speaker, we share a vision of a strong and prosperous NWT. Our youth need to be healthy and educated if they are going to participate in and fully enjoy the benefits of a growing economy. Education renewal is helping prepare them for a successful future. We recognize that attendance is of paramount importance as we move forward with the Education Renewal Initiative and we are working hard in this area on many fronts. These are some of the ways that our renewal of education is tackling the issue of student attendance in the NWT.

I want to thank Members for their advice and guidance on this issue and for their continued support as we work with youth to help them achieve their dreams. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 168-17(5):
PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, developing our employees and ensuring the public service is prepared to provide sustainable, quality programs and effective services to our residents in the future are a priority of this government. In 2009 we started a 10-year journey to develop excellence in the public service through 20/20: A Brilliant North, the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan. We are midway through the implementation of 20/20, and now is a good time to review some of our successes.

Our ability to provide sustainable, quality programs and services is strongly linked to recruiting and retaining talented staff who are committed to their professions, their communities and the people they serve. Employee surveys tell us the Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace that recognizes and embraces diversity. They tell us we have good programs to support recruitment and the development of Northerners. They also tell us employees see real advantages to working for the GNWT, with its unlimited range and diversity of work and opportunities for career growth, development and advancement.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen good results in developing future senior managers through the leadership, management and Aboriginal development training programs. We have started implementing competency-based performance management to ensure successful performance in our jobs. We have implemented policies and programs to ensure our employees are treated with fairness, dignity and respect. We have partnered with Aboriginal and community governments to develop and sustain the public sector at all levels across the NWT.

The government is focusing on strengthening its occupational health and safety culture. The Department of Human Resources is providing strategic advice on Occupational Health and Safety, or OHS, activities across the GNWT. Twenty-nine departments and agencies have developed or are in the process of developing their OHS programs and have OHS coordinators in place.

However, we recognize there is more we can do to achieve our goals. It is also important that the public service focus on service delivery outcomes. We can achieve this by providing managers a strong framework for human resource management decision-making.

The Department of Human Resources is preparing an HR Management Accountability Framework to align the GNWT with modern best practices in human resource management. The framework will establish the supporting structure to set clear roles and responsibilities and reasonable performance expectations based on legislation, policy and regulations for sound human resource management decisions.

Mr. Speaker, we can improve our ability to acquire and retain talent by modernizing the workforce and workplace. Modernization means offering efficient and effective recruitment programs substantiated by cost-benefit analysis and sound return on investment. The Regional Recruitment Program is assisting with increasing regional employment opportunities by linking residents with local jobs. Nine trainees are in positions learning new skills through on-the-job training and providing service to people in their communities of Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Fort Providence and Fort Smith. Two more positions are in the process of being filled. Work is underway to improve the program so that it is a proactive tool for hiring managers looking to fill positions.

Mr. Speaker, our vacancy numbers have improved, dropping by 188 positions between last April and October. The GNWT is continuing its focus on training the northern labour force and marketing itself and the jobs available throughout Canada using streamlined recruitment to bring qualified and skilled people into the North to fill hard-to-recruit positions. We will continue to use direct appointments and/or recruitment to attract affirmative action candidates to the GNWT and fill our critical vacant jobs.

We continue to invest in our youth by making jobs available through the Summer Student and Internship programs. While we are making opportunities available to post-secondary students and graduates, they also have a role to play. My advice to them as new job seekers is to be proactive in their search for employment. Research GNWT departments and agencies to find work units related to your field of study. Approach managers in

these units to let them know you are interested in working for their department. Apply now. Hiring is based on the needs of departments and agencies. Managers will contact students directly if an opportunity arises.

Mr. Speaker, implementing an HR accountability framework and improving our HR programs continues to move the GNWT towards the goals and objectives of the NWT Public Service Strategic Plan. With these modernization efforts, we ensure a diverse, competent and sustainable workforce, capable of, and committed to, delivering high quality services to the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 169-17(5):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable David Ramsay will be absent from the House this week to attend the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Convention in Toronto, Ontario, and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Arctic Roundtable in Washington, DC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DECENTRALIZATION OF GNWT POSITIONS
TO FORT SIMPSON

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I read with great interest the editorial in today's News/North about decentralization. I'm glad that the editor agrees with regional MLAs and supports, "a policy that improves services in remote and isolated communities."

Certainly we as a government have to continue planning to increase the amount of jobs for our regions. Every job transferred out of Yellowknife brings benefits for a small community and new families that will help the community grow.

In these communities, people with jobs stimulate the service sector as demand rises. For example, the move of the Business Incentive Policy office to Hay River created four jobs. I know that the Department of Public Works and Services assessed all of our communities two years ago, planning for devolution and then decentralization. The office space availability and housing availability rate did not score so well in Fort Simpson. I now can see that the Liidlii Kue First Nation, through

their business arm, Nogha Enterprises Limited, is planning to improve the situation.

The Liidlii Kue First Nation will be building a new office right in the heart of Fort Simpson. This is a joint effort with Parks Canada. They are planning on building additional offices for future growth, and our government should be right there beside them to plan the future growth of Fort Simpson, Mr. Speaker.

During question period I will be calling upon the Minister of Public Works and Services to contact Nogha Enterprises Limited in Simpson and see how they can be helpful as they plan for the next round of decentralization. I believe it is time for our government to seriously consider Fort Simpson for the next round of decentralization. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES MONTH

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In celebration of Aboriginal Languages Month and keeping with my own personal goal of speaking all nine Aboriginal languages in the House, with your indulgence I am honoured to address the North Slavey people today.

[Translation] Thank you. Today I'm going to speak North Slavey. At this month we pick one language I speak. If we lose our language, it will be a sad day. So that that wouldn't happen, we need to keep it strong. There are five languages but only 500 speak their language. Thank you for celebrating this month with me.

The ducks will be flying again. Good, good, good. Mahsi. [Translation ends]

I am honoured to address the North Slavey people today as they are strong with their language and culture. I want to wish them also a good month of ducks.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank our elder, and my teacher, for helping me today, Ms. Sarah Cleary, who is just over my shoulder, sitting behind me in the translator booth. I hope she is proud of her student. Mahsi. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NORMAN WELLS BLIZZARD
AND POWER OUTAGE

MR. YAKELEYA: How do you top that, Mr. Speaker? He's a good student, he's teachable.

Mr. Speaker, there's a song Dr. Hook sings, "Storms never last, baby." Mr. Speaker, listen to

this song because there was a really big storm in the Sahtu over the past weekend here. It was so strong that the storm blew out some transponders, or trippers, in Norman Wells. People were fighting after a couple hours of having no power. When it got to the three hour point, they were getting kind of nervous because they didn't know what was happening.

I just happened to be there and I called the Minister, and the Minister answered right away. The Minister's on the ball with this one here, Mr. Speaker, because he got back to me right away. Thank God there were some crews in Norman Wells that saved the day for us. If that wasn't the case, because I understand even Tuktoyaktuk had some trouble with the power outage, and Inuvik, and right down the Mackenzie Valley. There was a big wind. The Minister was saying that the NTPC had to make some priority choices, some difficult choices for our communities, where to fly into.

Norman Wells was having a blizzard with gusts of wind of about 60 to 80 miles per hour. Thank God, also, it was minus 46, so it wasn't too bad. But people were getting kind of nervous.

So, I want to say thank you to the good NTPC workers who were there. They found out where the issue was. They restored the power in just over three hours. The Town of Norman Wells staff will do as much as they can. People in the town of Norman Wells were running around seeing that everybody was okay. You know, Mr. Speaker, I understand that it's also in Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik, but I think it's about time that the Sahtu gets its own NTPC crew, linemen, or do something, because if it wasn't for that crew there, for whatever reason being there, we would have had the same troubles maybe like Tuktoyaktuk, you know, not having our power hooked up in that time the workers were there.

So, I'll have questions for the Minister. I want to thank the NTPC crew and their staff for the good work they did in the communities. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HAY RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AGM AND AWARDS CEREMONY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend, along with my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen, we were able to attend the Hay River Chamber of Commerce. Annually they announce the Citizen of the Year, and I'm proud to say that the winner of this year's Citizen of the Year is Louise Schumann. Louise has been a long-term Northerner, has lived in Hay River for a long time, has supported play school and minor hockey, and more recently she was one of the driving forces to make the Hay River Skate Park a reality.

They also named the Customer Service Award that went to Juaning Capulso, and the Hay River Business of the Year was Super A Foods, so I'd like to send out congratulations to John and Tracy Hill and Steve Anderson.

At this function they also named the new executive of the Hay River Chamber. The president is Joe Melanson; first vice-president, Steve Anderson; second vice-president, Sherry DaRosa; treasurer, George Blandford; secretary, Allison Steed; and directors are Mark Huntley, Wayne Taylor, Heather Coakwell, Tom Lakusta, Wally Schumann, Kevin Wallington, Tim Hinz and Kelly Schofield.

It was a great event. We had great entertainment. I'd like to thank Anne Peters, the executive assistant to the Chamber of Commerce for making everything a huge success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME PROPOSAL

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current system of income assistance in the NWT is not working. It is complex, intrusive and inefficient, and too many dollars are being used up to administer a system that does too little to lift people out of poverty.

In 2013, income support payments of \$16 million cost almost \$4 million to deliver. Twenty percent of the dollars available went to administration. Given these shortcomings, another approach is needed.

Currently, before a person qualifies for income assistance they must be destitute. All of their assets, right down to their retirement savings and vehicle must be gone. Recipients must report regularly to a case worker and continuously justify their need. The system saps an incredible amount of time and resources and keeps people in their poverty traps.

If an income assistance client finds a part-time job or some other income, it is clawed back, removing some of the incentive to work at least. Contrast this with what many economists, on both the right and left of the political spectrum, feel is a less expensive option with greater positive outcomes, a guaranteed basic income.

This system automatically tops up the incomes of people living in poverty using direct automatic payments through the existing tax system while allowing them to keep the productive assets needed to get off and stay off social assistance. There is no need for an expensive bureaucracy to oversee the system, no need for applications and no need for monitoring. This system encourages people to find work by giving them the security of

an income guarantee without the fear of being worse off by working.

A pilot project in Dauphin, Manitoba, in the mid-70s showed many more positive outcomes, following the implementation of a guaranteed basic income compared to the old welfare-based hospitalizations system. Graduation from Grade 12 spiked, people were healthier, hospitals due to sickness, injury and mental health issues were significantly lower and more young women opted to complete school and wait before having children. The guaranteed basic income allowed families to make plans for the longer term, rather than fighting to free themselves of the welfare system's poverty traps. It was eight years after the program ended before things reverted, finally, to the old measurements.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: Results from the Dauphin study showed that a guaranteed basic income lifted more people out of poverty than a welfare-based one. Over the past weeks we've heard the old-saw "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting to get different results," several times in this House. It certainly applies here.

Let's try something new that has the promise to be effective and efficient. Let's shift to a guaranteed basic income. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON KAKISA COMMERCIAL FISHERY

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that this Assembly wants to foster vibrant communities, communities with healthy, educated residents. Well, local fishers in the community of Kakisa are working to do just that. A number of local fishers work hard to harvest fish from nearby Kakisa Lake. This fresh, fantastic and healthy northern product can be then sold in Hay River, bringing business to both the community and the wider region.

At first this may seem like small fry, but remember the community's small population. Here, every catch counts.

The community has told me that they are hard at work promoting local sales. Residents are eager to promote local resources and to develop local employment opportunities. For the government, this is an opportunity for youth engagement, education and training like the successful Take a Kid Trapping program. Will the government act on this opportunity?

Small-scale commercial fishing like the kind done in Kakisa is hard work and often with small returns,

but still the community is looking to the future. For instance, they're also considering possibilities in sport fishing.

In this session we have recently celebrated the launch of the new brand, NWT Fresh Fish from Great Slave Lake, designed to celebrate and promote NWT-based fishery initiatives both here in Yellowknife and in Hay River. I can't stress enough the importance of encouraging and supporting local fisheries, not to mention education about the industry and its opportunities. Through this we can encourage both local food and community-based businesses. But even in our celebrations, I must be diligent. Communities like Kakisa may be smaller than our regional centres, but we must not forget their worth. These communities also need our support.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BEAUFORT-DELTA REGION 2018 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES BID

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 2015 was a great start for many people in the Beaufort-Delta region, particularly those in the area of sport and recreation. We have seen a lot of achievement so far in this early start to 2015. We had some basketball teams bring in some banners, and we had a young lady from Fort McPherson win a gold medal at the Canada Winter Games. In fact, we had a strong delegation representing the Beaufort-Delta region at the Canada Winter Games. Just recently, our Inuvik women's team won the territorial championships this past weekend.

This is all a good segue to show my support to the Beaufort-Delta region for their 2018 Arctic Winter Games bid. You've heard my colleagues from Hay River speak in support for their bid, and I also support them and wish them the best of luck in moving on this bid.

On January 27th to the 28th, our bid committee from the Beaufort-Delta region welcomed five members of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee to Inuvik and proceeded to do a tour. Along these tours, obviously, they opened up with the drummers and dancers, which I've always showed strong support for and have always mentioned them in the House as strong ambassadors for the Beaufort-Delta region, for the Inuvialuit culture, but for the Northwest Territories as well.

They also toured some of our venues and accommodations, which I have to say have served many events in the past. Most recently there's been the Circumpolar Games, Traditional Games, the Inuvialuit Circumpolar Conference, national TRC

events as well as the Inuvik Petroleum Show which has been going on every year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Inuvik Chamber of Commerce that hosted a breakfast as well as a dinner that had the whole community come out. In fact, strong community support was mentioned from the tour members on their tour.

In the Beaufort-Delta region we have a high cost of travel when we come to tournaments in Yellowknife or go down south. As a result, it's vice versa. There's a high cost of travel for teams to go up to the North. In fact, a lot of teams from Yellowknife and the South Slave don't always get the chance to go up and see what Inuvik has to offer. I think it's about time that we showcased the Beaufort-Delta and got some of these southern teams, southern communities up to see what the Beaufort-Delta has to offer.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. MOSES: Like I said, it's a high cost of travel. Inuvik comes down to participate in all these events all the time from the Beaufort-Delta region. As well, it's a great chance to showcase the Beaufort-Delta region. Also, it might be one of the last times to actually drive the ice road, so that's one thing to also highlight.

Before I finish off my Member's statement, I would just like to thank the Arctic Winter Games 2018 Bid Committee from the Beaufort-Delta region for their hard work and for doing an excellent job in showcasing what we have to offer in the Beaufort-Delta region.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
RE-PROFILING FORMER
HAY RIVER HOSPITAL

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about the Hay River Hospital. When the addition was put on the old hospital and the new hospital, it was state-of-the-art, cutting-edge technology with all of the supplies at the door of the rooms. It was an amazing day. I was there in the audience at the ribbon cutting for that new hospital.

That hospital has many happy memories – I had three children in there – and some sad memories. I said goodbye to some dear friends that were there, some elderly folks, and I even had a chance to work there and my husband worked there.

For a government that says they are billions of dollars in infrastructure deficit, we cannot discard a piece of infrastructure that is still viable. It can't be

useful one day and ready for the wrecking ball the next.

Maybe we needed a new hospital. Well, we did need a new hospital, and thank you for that, but that doesn't mean that the old hospital is garbage. If it can't be used as a hospital, surely it can be used as something else with all of the things that we need in the Northwest Territories.

Let's list off a few of the things that we send our residents south for: drug detox, alcohol treatment, diabetes treatment and education for families. And we have a growing number of seniors in the Northwest Territories. Surely those nice rooms all with a washroom would make excellent studio-type suites for seniors and that is not something that would require a lot of staff.

This building, in my opinion, can be re-profiled. I know the government gets nervous when we talk about that because all they see is the dollar signs and all the money that it's going to cost, but we need to get real about our infrastructure here in the North.

We watched Doctors Without Borders on television treating people and providing medical care in grass huts. I mean, we have a building there that works. It's functional. It's operational. It's viable.

I would like to today ask if this government could strike a committee with the Hay River's Interagency to brainstorm, to come up with some ideas and if the Department of Public Works and Services can do a comprehensive, technical review of this facility so we know exactly what we're working with and if there's something that we can re-profile it into that's useful to the North and to Hay River. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
INCOME SUPPORT FOR TENANTS
IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I'm representing Frame Lake. I've been speaking about income support a lot this sitting and I will again speak about income support today.

There are seemingly endless contradictory policies or rationale for denying clients that apply to income support. Today I have to highlight another one. We have residents who are homeless for any number of reasons. These same residents, if they're homeless, are generally in need of assistance from Education, Culture and Employment and income support. For some, especially those with families, the only accommodation or housing where they will be accepted is a hotel or motel. But when they apply to income support for housing assistance, they are denied. Why are they denied? Because tenants in hotel or motel accommodations are determined by Education, Culture and Employment

to be living in transitional housing and transitional housing is excluded from the Residential Tenancies Act, and for that reason ECE denies them assistance.

That application of policy contradicts the action ECE takes for tenants at the Salvation Army and the YWCA, tenants living in what is also considered transition housing, tenants who are, therefore, also excluded from the Residential Tenancies Act. Yet these income support clients do get housing assistance from ECE. I can't argue with the department's interpretation of the Residential Tenancies Act. Transition housing is explicitly not covered under that act. Even after considerable consultation undertaken recently around potential amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, the GNWT Department of Justice has decided to continue to exclude transition housing from the act.

It appears that ECE has decided that tenants of hotels and motels are in transition housing and, therefore, not eligible for housing allowance from income support. ECE has also decided that tenants at the Salvation Army and YWCA accommodations are in transition housing, but those tenants are eligible for a housing allowance under income support.

So I have to ask the Minister, what is the definition of transition housing used by the department? What facilities fall under that definition of why or why not? What is ECE's policy around transition housing and a client's eligibility for funding for accommodation if they live in transition housing?

All I'm after is some clarity and consistency in the application of policy and, as the Minister likes to tell me, fairness for all income support clients. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

I would like to welcome everyone in the public gallery here. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 720-17(5): EMERGENCY SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITIES WITHOUT POWER

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of NTPC in regards to the power outage in the small communities of Norman Wells and Tuktoyaktuk, and somewhat in Inuvik. Given the weather conditions of the severe unprecedented wind storms that were blowing in the communities, does NTPC have a priority rating

scale as to which communities they should be getting into right away because of the power outage in the communities, given that they were all happening at the same time? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have an emergency rating system. The folks on the ground in the communities, in Inuvik for example, make determinations. They talk with the folks in the various communities and then they look at the severity of the situation in each community. The one that is the most critical is the one that we try to get to the fastest and the soonest. If you have a community where there are hundreds of people with no power for a great length of time, that is a critical emergency in the wintertime. So, we work to the utmost, working around the weather, keeping safety in mind, but making sure we get response people on the ground there as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The NTPC workers in communities of Norman Wells and Tuk and Inuvik, I certainly appreciate the types of conditions they have to be challenged with in order to get into a community that has a power outage and the emergency rating.

I want to ask the Minister, in regards to the Sahtu region, does the Sahtu region have qualified power linemen that could have fixed the issue in Norman Wells that happened on Sunday? Do we have people in the region who are able to do that work, other than wait for Simpson or Inuvik crews to come in?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have some personnel on the ground. We have some that we use and we try to look to work with other folks who have some kind of similar capacity.

In terms of do we have any particular linemen, I would have to confirm and get back to the Member on that. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly appreciate the Minister getting the information back to me. I want to ask the Minister, is there any type of training in the communities where if we do not have that type of staff in our region, because we have to either wait for Inuvik or Simpson to come in with those qualified linesmen, can there be some thought to start training our people in the region so that they can do the work, other than to fly in people from outside the region?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Power lineman is a very specialized, highly qualified trade where there are electrical skills required but also the ability to work under very significant and extreme circumstances, often on pole trucks, in

some cases climbing poles, so it's not a type of profession that you can just have folks train partially. But I take the Member's point and concern about having a permanent facility and capacity based in the region, and I'll be happy to have a discussion with him possibly tomorrow morning, bright and early at breakfast. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Geez, thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, we certainly understand the type of requirements to be a power lineman. We have one fellow actually from Deline who is an NTPC power man, Mr. Kenny. So we know we can do it in the Sahtu.

I'm asking the Minister to look at these challenges. The Sahtu people are up to the challenges. We want to establish a permanent NTPC presence in the Sahtu region because of these types of situations. Thank God it was warm and it didn't last very long.

I want to ask the Minister if he's willing to look at, during the life of this budget, this Assembly, if we can see this type of movement into the next infrastructure budget.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are 266 days left to the next election. I will commit to the Member to have a fulsome discussion with the chairman and president of the Power Corporation, and I will be able to report back to the Member on the content of the outcome of that discussion. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 721-17(5):
GNWT STUDENT RECRUITMENT

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Human Resources today. He spoke today about our positions in getting students jobs. Obviously, it's a priority of mine. I've had questions before in the House. Obviously, the Minister's statement says we're going to have the students research GNWT departments and agencies to find units related to their field.

The first question I have is: Is the department going to be proactive and go to the students and make contact? From what we know, they now have the ability to make contact with them. Are they going to contact the students and tell them the positions they have vacant and the positions that are coming up?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department had an initial open house in

December when the students were back. We let the departments know that they were to post any of the positions that they had that would be available for students, and the students would do a little bit of work getting on to the website and finding jobs that match their field of study. That's how we're hoping to match them, not only here in YK but throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Mr. Speaker, maybe I'm oversimplifying it. It seems like we have a set amount of students. I would say we have maybe 1,000 students. Are we not able to contact those students and tell them that these are the positions we have available, we're interested in you coming back and doing an internship, so that they're not looking for jobs in the South and they're not looking to go anywhere else except come home to the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Last year, just on the campaign that we've always launched with departments, we had 598 applicants and we were able to hire 312 students for summer work. This year we're hoping to widen that and increase that number. We're hoping that more people can apply and that the departments are looking to place the students.

Right now it's contingent upon how much money each department has to allocate to the Summer Student Program. Based on that, we target at least 300. If possible, if departments are able to do more, we will do more. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I'm not looking for the summer students, I'm looking for students who are in their third and fourth year, so they have an opportunity to come back. We have a goal to have 2,000 more people come to the Northwest Territories, and I think getting our students back to the Northwest Territories is key.

Is the department willing to go and talk to those students and tell them we have certain jobs, we have some internship jobs for you, so that they're not looking to go? I'm not looking for summer jobs where we just say, well, you just apply. I want to know that we're getting our students who have a degree, who have business certificates, who have trade entrance-type stuff coming back to the Northwest Territories.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, that's a good point. I was answering the summer students, but in general, we are going to target the third and fourth year students that are finishing their studies. Part of the plan is to recruit those students back to the territory as part of the overall plan to bring more people to the territory. Bringing our own people back, ensuring that our own people come back to work in the Northwest Territories is part of our plan.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I've stated in this House before that that's how I came back to the Northwest Territories after my degree. I had a job coming back.

Are we doing that type of internship where you actually have an employee who is basically finishing up their degree and coming back to the Northwest Territories?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: In addition to the internship that we have, the plan is to certainly connect with the people who are university students or college students who are graduating, other students who are in post-secondary who are finishing up their post-secondary education to come back and work for the NWT. I can ensure that the deputy minister of Human Resources is in touch with other deputy ministers from all of the departments to see what jobs are available that would match with students who are currently finishing up their post-secondary studies.

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

QUESTION 722-17(5):
INCOME SUPPORT FOR TENANTS
IN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister for Education, Culture and Employment. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement and ask a bit about the policy or the rationale that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment income support division has with regard to transition housing.

My first question to the Minister is: Can he tell me what definition of transition housing is used by Education, Culture and Employment?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Income Security Program assists with those individuals who are in need of basic subsidy. Part of the transitional housing obviously falls into that as well. We're providing a shelter for those individuals who desperately need shelter in the Northwest Territories. It's not only my department but we work closely with the NWT Housing Corporation to identify those areas. Those are just some of the subsidies that we continue to support those individuals who are in need.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I didn't hear a definition in there so I guess I have to assume that the department does not have a definition of transition housing.

I'd like to know from the Minister, if they don't have a definition of transition housing, is there a written

policy that they use when they are determining whether or not somebody is in transition housing or not? Certainly, there are people who, in the city of Yellowknife, for instance, because of the almost monopoly that Northern Properties has on housing, if they've been banned from Northern Properties, if they have a family they can't get into the Salvation Army, and if the YWCA is full they are left with no option but to use a motel.

I'd like to know from the Minister, is there a written policy that ECE uses for income support clients who are living in transition housing, and if so, what is that policy?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Through our Income Security Program, the Income Assistance program directs all individuals who are considered transient directly to an emergency shelter. That's why we work very closely with the NWT Housing Corporation and NGOs to deal with these matters. Depending on the person's circumstances, an individual's family may become eligible for income assistance after their stay in an emergency shelter. There is food and shelter available through that venue.

But we, again, work with those NGOs and the Housing Corporation to assist those individual clientele as best as we can as a department through the Income Security Program. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. So, as I heard the Minister then, I have no home, I have two children and I need some place to stay and the Minister is telling me I have to go to an emergency shelter. So, I'd like to know – the YWCA is full, I'm not accepted at the Salvation Army because I have a family – what emergency shelter is there in the city of Yellowknife for me to go to? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. We're dealing throughout the whole Northwest Territories, it's not only Yellowknife. There are other shelters that we work with. Through the NWT Housing Corporation and my department, we find the best solutions that we possibly can for those individuals in an emergency state. If there are no emergency shelters, obviously we work with the Housing Corporation to identify a suitable accommodation on a short-term, temporary basis. We provide income assistance through that venue for how we can assist those individuals. It's all based on a case-by-case basis and there are many parties involved, whether it be the Housing Corporation, my department and other NGOs within the communities. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister: I guess I have to say that I'm asking specifically about Yellowknife. This is my constituency; it's my community. So, I've been

blacklisted by the Housing Corp. I've been blacklisted by Northern Properties. There's absolutely no place that I can get into except to go to a motel.

Why is it that it's okay for income support clients to get assistance from the YWCA, which is transition housing, but it's not okay for me to get assistance when I go to a motel because that's the absolute only place where I can live? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. These are the very reasons why we transferred to NWT Housing Corporation to identify those 75 housing units throughout the Northwest Territories, and Yellowknife is a big factor in that. I believe there were 55 slated for Yellowknife.

These are just some of the areas that we've identified as core need and we need to work with it, with the various parties involved.

We're doing what we can to the best of our ability as income security, along with our partners such as the NWT Housing Corporation and NGOs as well. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 723-17(5):
DECENTRALIZATION OF GNWT POSITIONS
TO FORT SIMPSON

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was speaking about decentralization earlier and I'd like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services about when was the last time they had assessed Fort Simpson for suitability for offices and housing availability to help plan for our continued decentralization plans. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the date of the last time those evaluations occurred. However, I'm advised recently that the Department of Public Works and Services has had discussions about Nogha Enterprises about possibly creating some office space in Fort Simpson. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. Certainly, I'm glad the Minister is aware that his officials know about the plans for Nogha Enterprises to build a 20,000 square foot office building.

Will the Minister continue to direct his officials to meet with Nogha Enterprises now that they've been in contact to see if they can be a part of that plan for future office needs? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes. We have been advised by Nogha Enterprises in discussions that

they will be submitting some information to us on the description of their project and that there would be a discussion continued between Public Works and Services and Nogha Enterprises in Fort Simpson. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. I just want to ask the Minister about the long-term plans for further decentralization into Fort Simpson. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: First, if there's an evaluation being done for office space in Fort Simpson, we know there's going to be some housing needs before the decision is made on which positions are decentralized to Fort Simpson. My understanding is the overall discussion of all the decentralized positions will continue beyond the plan that we currently have. My understanding is we have decentralized 150 decisions and there will be more discussions and further phases, and Fort Simpson would most likely be part of that discussion. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that the Minister will be travelling with me this spring to Fort Simpson. Will he make time to meet with Nogha Enterprises on their plans for their new building?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I would just like to also add that the Housing Corporation will be building duplexes in Fort Simpson. There are three duplexes now slated for Fort Simpson and for all of the Nahendeh there will be eight duplexes being built for future decentralized positions. These are market positions and this is what we will be looking at. When these houses go on the market, that will be an opportunity for positions that will be decentralized to use those houses for accommodations. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 724-17(5):
CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS
FOR ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With many Aboriginal languages on the decline and with five Aboriginal languages today with less than 500 residents who can speak it, as I said today in my Member's statement, now, more than ever, if we are not careful these cultures will be lost.

As I referenced on February 24, 2015, with over six competing language directives, plans and strategies, ECE is, "riddled with a crisis of governance, saddled with a lack of coordination and plagued with bureaucracy." My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has gone on record indicating that his department is undertaking a monitoring, evaluating and accountability plan for Aboriginal languages and culture-based education, or ALCBE, and he's doing this later this spring. As comforting as it sounds, the Minister has had ample time to evaluate where the over \$15 million is distributed annually via his department.

Can the Minister provide reference if there are indeed signed contribution agreements and performance agreements in place for competing Aboriginal language boards and will he table them in the House? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We as the Department of Education, Culture and Employment shifted our contribution agreement to Aboriginal language organizations through their cultural funding previously administered by my department. It's going directly to the regional Aboriginal governments so they can administer these programs.

This funding agreement also allows Aboriginal governments some flexibility, Mr. Speaker, a greater flexibility, accountability and decision-making authority for their revitalization. They are the grassroots people. They know where the solutions live.

The Member is asking if there were any agreements that were signed. There are signed contribution agreements with all Aboriginal governments for the support of the regional language plans. We have five-year plans that are in play now with all the regional groups. We will continue to push that forward. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: As you may hear, I'm trying to find some accountability and transparency for the \$15 million that is distributed annually. That is the reason for my question. As I said earlier, redundancy is the Achilles heel of language preservation and revitalization. Interestingly, the Department of ECE is blinded by the obvious and we now wait for a pending MEA review.

Can the Minister confirm if his department has done any evidence-based research on redundancy since implementing the over six levels of governance? If he has, why is he so reluctant to share that with the House? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The fact is there are many players and it is a very complex situation because we are dealing with 11 official languages, nine Aboriginal languages and numerous regional organizations, all of whom are key players when it comes to language revitalization. If he's referring to GNWT doing the same as Aboriginal governments, I can advise the Member that this is not the case.

Aboriginal governments, as I stated before, are implementing their five-year regional language plan and we are helping along the way. We are not implementing their plan, they are.

When it comes to dealing with Aboriginal governments in the process itself, this government broke down the bureaucracy by ensuring that increases in funding went directly to Aboriginal governments and other partners delivering programs and services. That's what we're doing. I believe in empowerment, so that's where it's headed. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOLYNNY: I also believe in empowerment. But with over six levels of bureaucracy and governance for these NWT languages for preservation, I am looking for accountability and transparency. One must assume that a large portion of this \$15 million budget is potentially eaten up in wages, honorariums, per diems and travel.

Can the Minister indicate, the \$15 million budget, how much money actually goes into program dollars at the community level for preserving Aboriginal language and culture? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The Member is quite correct in saying this government invests well over \$15 million a year in support of Aboriginal language and culture preservation. That is our overall target. The GNWT and the federal government invest over \$15 million annually through various programs and grants along the way and also support our goals and objectives.

I'm extremely proud to say that our government has empowered Aboriginal governments and educational authorities. I can highlight some of the key initiatives of the money that we have allocated directly to the communities: \$8.4 million towards the educational authority for K to 12 Aboriginal language culture-based education; \$6.2 million administered by the Aboriginal Secretariat; \$3.5 million directly distributed to Aboriginal governments to support their language plan; \$450,000 for teaching and learning centres; \$621,000 for Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Program; \$422,000 for Aboriginal language broadcasting; and \$125,000 for Aboriginal language terminology contribution. These are just some of the key initiatives, key investments that we've come into and will continue to support them. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, this is public money. All I'm looking for is some accountability and transparency. With some of the quick numbers we just heard from the Minister, that totalled well over \$18 million. So we are already adding more money to this pot than we are talking about here today.

Speaking about money, under the old Canada-Northwest Territories Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages in the NWT, the federal government invested \$1.9 million to fund nine official Aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. This number has been static for many years.

Can the Minister indicate what initiatives, if any, are there to renew this federal investment and bring this amount in line with our current needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We are currently in negotiations with the federal government on French language and Aboriginal language contribution agreements. We are in the final stages of signing. I am hoping by this summer. It all depends on how the federal government plays. I have met with the Minister of Canadian Heritage and also Official Languages. I met with her in December and also in January during the Ottawa Days. I stressed to her that it's important to sign off another four- or five-year agreement. So, the message is clear to the federal Minister that we need to have a new agreement with an increase in funding. So, that's what I've been pushing for and I'll continue to do so. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 725-17(5):
COMMERCIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION
AND EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'll have questions for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Last week I had questions in the House about the Net Metering Program and some questions around energy. I know this department has taken over the responsibility for energy. I'd like to ask the Minister, in regards to supporting small businesses, I understand there's a business support program within his department and I want to ask the Minister, when was that program last reviewed in terms of supporting businesses in the Northwest Territories?

Under this program, this program is designed to help businesses in the NWT implement renewable energy and energy-efficient projects. As we know, the cost of doing business in the North is fairly high.

I'd like to ask the Minister, first of all, when was that program last reviewed, and is there an increase in dollars projected for the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister of Public Works, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Business Incentive Program is an ongoing program that is administered by the Arctic Energy Alliance. Last year we had \$200,000. It was not

fully subscribed at that point; however, we're going to continue with that funding, and if there's more uptake we would consider looking around for additional funds to fund that program. It is considered to be very important. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: It's a shame to hear that the program wasn't fully utilized in previous years, and I do understand that the department does have a partnership with the Arctic Energy Alliance.

I was wondering when was the last time the Minister met with the Arctic Energy Alliance and looked at this policy to see what barriers and challenges are preventing our businesses from actually participating in this program that can potentially help businesses succeed, get a higher revenue but also cut down on our carbon emissions.

I'd like to ask him, when was the last time that his department and staff met with Arctic Energy Alliance to review this policy and address any barriers that might prevent businesses from accessing this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The department is in regular contact with the Arctic Energy Alliance, as they deliver quite a few programs for the Government of the Northwest Territories. Specifically when this particular program was last reviewed, I don't have that date. It seems to be a program that is working well. It is almost fully subscribed, so we expect that when we start our energy division and we start to have more communications with Arctic Energy Alliance and its clientele, we expect that all of the money that we give to Arctic Energy Alliance will be fully subscribed. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: It's possible that there might be limits on the amount of dollars that a small business can access. We all know that when you're putting in infrastructure such as solar energy, that high cost of shipping materials up to, let's say, the Beaufort-Delta region and then installing them, it does come at a very high cost, and with the amount of sunlight we get during the summer there's a short window to get any kind of profit on that.

Would the Minister also look at a solar energy program, a program that promotes the use of solar energy technologies in the NWT and work with Arctic Energy Alliance to address those challenges and how we can make it better for the small businesses to actually invest in this type of project? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The Alternative Energy Program, which looks at all of the alternatives to energy, is a program that is currently being delivered by Arctic Energy Alliance, and that program has \$800,000 to look at a lot of various programs. An example is there is a more energy-efficient hot water replacement program so that it

cuts down on energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and so on. In that program alone the Arctic Energy Alliance expended \$300,000 last year. There are other programs that are available under that program and also looking at the various technologies under alternative energy, also programs that Arctic Energy Alliance delivers for the GNWT.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the energy department there is an area under solar energy, and for the last couple of years it has received funding in the area of maybe about \$625,000.

Can I ask the Minister if that funding has been fully utilized throughout the Northwest Territories as well?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't have that information here with me. I can have that information specific to the utilization of the solar energy budget given to me and I can provide that to the Member.

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

QUESTION 726-17(5):
GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME PROPOSAL

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement with questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The pilot program in Dauphin, Manitoba, showed that the guaranteed basic income saved money in the long run through decreased costs in health care and provided better outcomes for clients. We have all the same issues as were prevalent in Dauphin, only in spades.

Given our ongoing record of failure of income support to save money, reduce health care needs, improve graduation rates and reduce unemployment rates, all things that the Dauphin five-year pilot turned around, why is our present system failing to address these same issues here in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My department provides income security to those individuals who are in need of subsidy, we're not failing those people. We're providing subsidy to those individuals. When the Member talks about Manitoba, the Mincome, in 1974 they subsidized 1,000 families with monthly cheques. At that time the federal and provincial governments collectively spent \$17 million in 1974. Just imagine the cost factor today.

This is an area that my department will do what we can to provide the basic needs to those individual clients based on their needs. There has been a request for an increase in our funding, so that's what we're after right now. In 2007 we made substantial changes, and we're going through another round of changes in 2015-16.

MR. BROMLEY: The Minister failed to address the savings and the cost benefits of that program. They did invest money, and that's what I'm suggesting we do instead of \$20 million without getting any results.

In his '13-14 review of income assistance, the Auditor General noted that in half of the NWT files examined, client eligibility was not confirmed. In half of the files, income was not verified. In 20 percent of the files requiring Productive Choices were not committed to, and in 30 percent of the files the participation in Productive Choices were not monitored. In one-third of the files, payments made to clients were inaccurate. The system is unwieldy, inaccurate, inefficient and intrusive.

Will the Minister thoroughly explore the opportunity for these issues to be resolved through the implementation of a guaranteed basic income program instead of the current approach and report back to this House?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Obviously, if we had \$20 million or \$30 million today this is an area we can possibly explore, but we don't have that kind of funding available to us to date. At the same time, as I stated earlier, we are making some changes effective April 1, 2015. We are proposing to increase our overall food benefits under income assistance programming. This is from a recommendation and also suggestions from the clientele, the general public that it's time that we change our programming, and we've done that in 2007 and again in 2015 to meet the needs of those individual clients. That's what we're doing as a department. We provide directly to those individual clients with a subsidy that's available to them.

MR. BROMLEY: I greatly appreciate that move on the part of the Minister, but what we are committing to here is an ongoing, ever-increasing subsidy, as the Minister said in his own words in response to my first question.

In 2013 the Auditor General's report found that 90 percent of the income assistance files they reviewed did not meet one or more key system requirements. Not only is this a huge administrative cost, we are not getting value for money. The system is broken and we are no longer closer to the considerable improvements required. We have an opportunity to start from square one with a guaranteed basic income that will save money and has better outcomes, according to the research that's been done.

Will the Minister commit to researching the feasibility of a guaranteed basic income, streamlining the system and freeing up money, freeing up money wasted on administration that could be put to better use helping the people who need it?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Our system is not broken. We still provide funding. We still provide subsidy to those Northwest Territories clientele on income security, and we will continue to do. We always make improvements as well.

Again, I have to reiterate, in 2007 we made substantial changes to our food programming and we will continue to do so. Again, in 2015 we're going to have another increase. I'm not sure. The Member is referring to a feasibility study. These are the changes that we heard and we're moving forward on the changes from the recommendation of the general public. We're making changes to our policy every now and then and this is one of them.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, we will continue to pour money down this drain ad infinitum without achieving what we want to achieve as opposed to the Dauphin study which the positive benefits lasted eight years after the money stopped. What more can you say? What we are doing now has not worked for some time and shows no promise of getting better. This government needs to admit that the welfare system has no future and, more importantly, that the clients who depend on it have no future either. That's the point that's being made here.

When will the Minister begin to move towards a system that is proven to work: the guaranteed basic income?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We are indeed pouring money into where it's needed. The most clientele necessity, the most basic needs we're providing funding towards that. That is our overall goal and objective to look after those who most need it. The ones who are in poverty, we're providing a subsidy to them. We're making changes to our programming, as I stated. This is what we're doing as the Department of Education, Culture and Employment responsible for the Income Security Program. This is an area that we've made some considerable improvement, as I stated before, but we are putting money where our mouth is to the clientele who most need it.

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

QUESTION 727-17(5):
DEVELOPMENT OF
PHARMACEUTICAL STRATEGY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'd like to ask him some questions around a strategy which has been under development for quite some time. We all know that our health costs are very high. It's the largest department that we have within this government. We also know that within that department that drug costs are probably the highest or it's a very large percentage of that total budget. Both nationally and provincially people are looking to try and reduce those costs.

Members have been hearing since January of 2013 about the development of a pharmaceutical strategy from either the current Minister or the previous Minister. About a year ago the Minister advised committee about a number of things that they were doing in terms of the development of a strategy, that they were hiring people, they were looking into this, they were looking into that. Last month Mr. Dolynny asked some questions and we were advised the same thing. We were looking into this, we were looking into that.

So my first question is, where is the development of a pharmaceutical strategy as of today? Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The pharmaceutical strategy isn't completed at this point. We have had difficulty finding permanent pharmacy or a pharmacist to actually participate in this in the department and we have actually done some contract work with pharmacists to actually start moving on this. So it's not done. We are continuing to move forward. I don't anticipate the pharmaceutical strategy will be fully 100 percent concluded in the life of this government, but many of the components will be well on their way to being completed during the life of this government.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. That's unfortunate because on February 6th the Minister said to Mr. Dolynny that the final report is expected this winter. Now I just heard the Minister say that we're not going to get it within this Assembly, so that's disturbing. It's more than two years that we've been waiting for this pharmaceutical strategy. I can appreciate the difficulties with getting expertise to deal with it, but that seems like a very long time.

The Program Review Office has been involved somehow in developing this strategy and assisting the department. I'd like to know from the Minister what the role of the Program Review Office has been in this development. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: A pharmaceutical strategy and the research and analysis are two different things. We will have a lot of that information prepared during the life of this government, but the full rollout of a comprehensive pharmaceutical strategy will take a little bit longer.

The Program Review Office has been doing some analysis into the costs and the implementation of distribution of pharmaceuticals through the health care system and they're going to continue to do that work. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. So, we're going to have some work done, and I appreciate it's going to take longer to roll it out, but when can committee expect to see a report or a draft, some kind of concrete progress on a pharmaceutical strategy? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We have been working on it. I can't remember the exact date that we plan to have something available for the committee, but I will review my notes and talk to the department to get a concrete date for the Member. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. I wait anxiously for that information on timing.

I'd like to know from the Minister if he can advise me and advise the public what kind of an impact having a pharmaceutical strategy is going to have on our Extended Health Benefits Program in terms of impact to individuals and impact on our costs. Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: There are going to be many components of a pharmaceutical strategy and they don't necessarily relate directly to the extended benefits that we provide at this time. Previously, Mr. Dolynny was talking about a catastrophic drug program for those large, expensive pharmaceutical treatments that we don't provide support to now. Those will cover those for residents of the Northwest Territories who have incredibly high costs. We need to do the financial analysis, but many of those costs are hard to predict because many of these particular drugs or treatment programs are very rare or not used on a regular basis. But just as a note, they are not part of the Extended Health Benefits Program at this time, so it will not adversely affect that program. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16,

notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 47: AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act; Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act; Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act; Committee Report 10-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Tabled Document 188-17(5), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2015-2016; Tabled Document 205-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditure), No. 5, 2014-2015; Tabled Document 206-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditure), No. 3, 2014-2015; and Tabled Document 207-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I call Committee of the Whole to order. Ms. Bisaro, what is the wish of the committee?

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to deal with Tabled Document 188-17(5) today, the NWT Main Estimates for 2015-2016. We'd like to continue with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and, time permitting, the Department of Lands. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. We will commence after a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, as per earlier today, we're going to continue with the main estimates for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. With that, we have the Minister responsible. Do you have any witnesses you would like to bring into the House, Mr. McLeod?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. 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 Chamber. Thank you.

Mr. McLeod, if you could introduce your witnesses to the House, please.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have, to my left, Mr. Tom Williams, deputy minister, Municipal and Community Affairs. To my right I have Mr. Gary Schauerte, who is our director of corporate services, Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Williams, Mr. Schauerte, welcome back to the Chamber.

Committee, we last left this activity on page 355, Municipal and Community Affairs, community operations, operations expenditure summary, \$2.093 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Committee, page 356, Municipal and Community Affairs, community operations, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$135,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 357, Municipal and Community Affairs, community operations, active positions, 12. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Committee, page 359, Municipal and Community Affairs, community governance, operations expenditure summary, \$2.303 million. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I see a large increase here in material and supplies in the second category, so maybe I can get an explanation of that increase up to \$16,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MR. SCHAUERTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In '14-15, as a result of devolution, MACA sought and received permission to reorganize the department with the creation of the community governance unit. So what you see is a reflection here, is the creation of a new unit within the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs that combines the governance area, the property assessment area and the community-based planning area. So, that's what the increase is attributed to. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Schauerte. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. No further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Committee, page 359. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering how complete our community governments are in terms of administrators. Obviously, I think the senior administration officer is a keystone position in all the communities. I'm also wondering: I think there's been a program put in place recently to try and be more responsive to communities with some of their needs. I can't remember the name of that program, but if I can get an update on that and whether we're missing SAOs in many communities and how we're doing at sort of reducing the turnover and keeping people in place there.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. For that we'll go to the deputy minister, Mr. Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Certainly, in the whole area of governance we rely on the Accountability Framework. It assists the community governments on identifying where the pressures are and identifies pressures to us as a department that we can react to. That is our key, I guess, activity in that area in terms of community governance. We identify training needs. Certainly, the Member is correct; there has been a lot of turnover at the senior ranks with community governments over the past year where we lost a number of SAOs. We work closely with the School of Community Government in identifying training needs, trying to recruit new people to fill those vacancies and trying to train a local workforce that can work in conjunction with the community governments.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that response. The Accountability Framework was what I was thinking of. We're sort of working on two fronts here. Just on the SAOs, are we complete now? Do we have our SAO positions filled in every community that would have one?

On the Accountability Framework side, when did we implement that and when can we expect an early evaluation of that program?

MR. WILLIAMS: Just recently we've seen a couple of communities that have lost SAOs, so they're in the recruitment phase. I think Fort Smith just recently recruited a new SAO, so they're fine. We had resignations in a couple of other communities throughout the Northwest Territories. We continue to work on implementing our SAO training through the LGANT program through the School of Community Government to build capacity in this area. Certainly, it's something that we work closely with our partners to assist with this with LGANT and NWTAC.

On the second part of the question, implementation of the Accountability Framework, I think we're well into the implementation. Actually, we're looking at new tools that we'll be introducing in the near future of using an electronic mechanism to report for communities to give easy access to report on accountability areas, so it's going to make it a little easier for them to participate in the program. As far as evaluations, until we get some baseline data, I think after this year we should be able to do a report of the health and status of community governments that we'll be able to share with Members. It will identify the areas of need and the areas of successes. I think that's going to be important to have that. I think once we get through the cycle, maybe within this year, I think we probably could look at an evaluation of the program. It's something that we're interested in how can we make it better and make it more useful as a tool for community governments.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks again for that information. I wonder, as my last point here, if I could ask the Minister if he could commit to providing an update of where the communities are missing an SAO.

Also, I appreciate the comments on training local people for community government jobs. It would be great to know how many SAOs are from the NWT now and how that's coming along. I'll look forward to the evaluation report. That sounds great. Thank you. That's all I had.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'll commit to getting a list of some of our vacant positions as far as SAOs go. We do have a number of training positions where we have local people training to be SAOs through, I think, the School of Community Government and LGANT, so we'll supply that information to committee. That way they have good knowledge of who's being trained and from which communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, we're on page 359, Municipal

and Community Affairs, community governance, operations expenditure summary, \$2.303 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 360, Municipal and Community Affairs, community governance, active positions. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 363, Municipal and Community Affairs, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$3.915 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple questions here. I'd like to know, first of all, there's some legislation, I believe, that the department is working on and preparing amendments and/or new acts. One of them I hear is the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and I think the other one is the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. I guess I would just like to know, in general, what legislation is being reviewed. Is there any legislation going to come forward before the end of the 17th, and/or if not, what are the plans of the department for bringing forward legislation in the 18th?

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

MR. SCHAUERTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The two major pieces of legislation that are on our priority list right now include the Civil Emergency Measures Act and the Fire Prevention Act. The department has recently completed work on the legislative proposal and has advanced that through Cabinet to the Legislative Initiatives Committee. We are continuing our work on the Fire Prevention Act and we're still in a research gathering phase at this time.

We certainly understand that there are a number of other pressure points for municipal legislation including some of the ones being raised by the Member. At this point the department is challenged with resources, including human, and time and financial to allocate to things like research. We don't anticipate looking at Cities, Towns and Villages or other municipal pieces of legislation or PATA until the 18th Assembly at this time.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to Mr. Schauerte. If there's a capacity issue at this point, and we're talking the '15-16 budget, so obviously there's nothing in this budget that's going to allow for the legislation beyond the Emergency Measures and maybe the Fire Prevention Act. In the 18th, with the budget for the '16-17 year, are you looking at increasing your capacity and getting more staff so that you can do some of this legislation which has been talked about for quite some years now? PATA, I think we've been talking about it for three or four years.

Is there a plan to increase the budget so that you can get this work done?

MR. SCHAUERTE: Certainly, the issue of resources is not a new one. I do recall that committee did raise this during the review of our business plan, and while we would have liked to have added additional resources in the legislative area, physical limitations and forced growth prevented us from doing that. We have, however, re-profiled a senior policy position in our department and our unit to be more of a legislative researcher position. Historically, this position would deal with more policy related and perhaps support to the Minister's office. Those sorts of things. We've recognized the need for more dedicated research in the area of legislation and, accordingly, have re-profiled this position to provide more support in that area.

To be honest, it's more of a "let's see how we're doing" phase right now with the resources that we've added. We seem to have made progress on both CEMA and the Fire Prevention Act, so we're confident that we are moving the priorities forward, the ones that are with us right now. We need to have some success in those areas before we can undertake new challenges, so at this point it is our anticipated plan to work within existing resources and see if we can make some headway with what we have right now.

MS. BISARO: I don't want to sound too sceptical, but we have been talking about a number of acts, the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, for some time. I certainly hope this brief profiling of a position is going to allow you to move forward on some of the three or four acts affecting municipalities that you haven't been able to get to. I've only mentioned two; I know there are two or three others that don't come to mind at the moment. It seems to me that our municipalities deserve to have up-to-date legislation that governs them. In my mind, there ought to be a higher priority for the department on bringing this legislation up to date.

I suspect I'll get the same answer, but my other question has to do with the hotel levy, which has been talked about again for quite a number of years. It was moving along reasonably nicely, I thought, but then it hit a roadblock because somebody objected somewhere. It went back for further research.

Can I get an update on where this is at? Are we going to see any kind of resolution to this possible hotel levy in this 2015-16 year this summer? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Deputy Minister Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct; we have been involved with this file for a number of years and it's not moving as fast

as everyone would like. We determined that there are four basic approaches to create a regime where revenues from a tariff on hotel rooms could be collected. Taxes could be created in taxation legislation specific to hotel accommodations levied by the territory with some or all of the revenues remitted back to a municipality either by legislation or policy. Secondly, taxation legislation can be created by a territory for the benefit of municipalities. The third option is a designation marketing fee where hotel operators in the community can voluntarily collect fees and pull them together for a specific purpose.

As recently as last summer or last fall, we did approach the Yellowknife Hotel Association and offered the destination marketing fee as an option to pursue so we didn't have to go through the legislative route. That was rejected as an option. The Yellowknife Hotel Association has been adamant they want to have this area regulated. So, we are still doing some further research in this area.

Initially we intended to consult with hotel operators and community governments but have deferred this consultation to the beginning of the 18th Legislative Assembly due to our other legislative priorities that were mentioned earlier.

One thing we are willing to do, and for consideration, is to go back to the Yellowknife Hotel Association and make that offer again to seriously look at the designation marketing fee as a valuable option. We are willing to do that to try to move this file forward. If not, it would certainly be a priority when we do municipal legislation under the 18th Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank Mr. Williams for the answer, but I'm not very pleased to hear what you have to say. Again, this has been a really long time coming and I guess I would have thought that in four years we would have been able to reach some kind of middle ground to get something accomplished.

I am pleased to hear the department is willing to go back and talk to the hotel operators again. That is something that would get this in place sooner rather than later, but I can understand why the hotel operators want to have something that's regulated as well. I know that this is not something which everybody in the territory wants. I could see where for the territory to administer the legislation is not the way to go, but certainly to provide for municipalities to put this levy in place if they wanted, I think, is something that's really doable. I am somewhat dismayed that we haven't been able to make relatively minor amendments to legislation in order to make it feasible for communities such as Yellowknife to put this thing in place. Just a

comment, Mr. Chair. I don't have anything else to add. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We'll just treat that last statement as a comment. The Minister has already replied. Continuing on with directorate for questions, I have Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to add my voice to my colleague's, Ms. Bisaro, on the considerable disappointment in not seeing any response to the concerns raised in the past. There is an efficient legislative capacity in this department. Initially we were led to believe the limit was in the Department of Justice and when we discovered that it wasn't, it was actually in the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, we raised this very solidly with the Minister. The legislation needs only get stronger and perhaps more desperate every day. I am sure the Minister would like to address this. Maybe I will just ask, what does the Minister need from us to get this done?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Right before committee I think there was support there for our desire to add next an extra person on. As you heard from Mr. Schauerte, we've re-profiled one of our positions to help deal with this so we can take care of some of the backlog as far as legislation goes and be as current as possible. We had the support of committee. Again, because of fiscal constraint, we were unable to get the position at this time, so we re-profiled internally. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that response, but the question was just asked and responded that we are not looking at these acts at this time. We have a capacity issue. That's at odds with what the Minister just said.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We do have a capacity issue. I think we said that. That's why we re-profiled a position internally, to help deal with some of the workload. Right now I think we have maybe two people who are dealing with legislation that we have to bring forward. We've added another one internally, so that should help us take care of some of the backlog and some of the outstanding legislation. We do have a capacity issue right now, but we're taking steps to deal with it and hope to be able to move forward once everybody gets up to speed. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that response. One of the issues that have been also bumbling away for years now is the local improvement charges, the provision of the authority, the capability for municipalities to deal with that and offer that. In its absence, we are, to some degree, adding to the cost of living are not taking advantage of the opportunities. We have to help residents with the cost of living. We are also avoiding, really, the

opportunity to help with the cost of renewable energy infrastructure.

As we heard earlier today from my colleague Mr. Moses as he talked about the exceptional front-end costs of installing solar in Inuvik – and this is true of different renewable energy systems – even though the payback time and the internal rate of return is very, very attractive compared to any other investment these days, they are finding it very hard to deal with those front-end costs. This is the sort of thing that municipalities, in concert with this government, could deal with it through the provision of local improvement charges and funds.

So, for example, I am working with some people interested in solar right now and one of them had to drop out of the interest because they're leaving town in a year and the system won't be paid back. This would help deal with that. So, the charge would be picked up by the next owner of the home and it's just a very common sense way to go about dealing with these costs.

What are we doing and when will we provide the legislative, as I understand it, and policy support needed to enable our communities to take advantage of these opportunities to help our residents deal with their cost of living and our larger government goals of energy and greenhouse gas emissions, et cetera? Thank you.

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

MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct; we do want to help reduce the cost of living in the North. It's expensive, and any way we can, we have to look at avenues to do so. Under the local improvement tax it is tied to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, and that's something that we did say we committed to have a review of that and bring forward in the 18th Assembly. So, there's a direct linkage to that particular piece of legislation.

Right now residents that do want to make an investment can go to the bank. There are options of going to the regular lenders, to banks to help fund these enhancements to their homes. Certainly having it legislated is probably a good way to go and we are committed to look at that once we start looking at the municipal legislation.

We have 20 pieces of legislation as a department that we're responsible for and we are making efforts to get them through. Some have been very outdated, like the Fire Prevention Act and the Civil Emergency Measures Act. So we have to set our legislative priorities, and those are, in our minds, more critical for the residents of the Northwest Territories than a local improvement legislation. It's something that in our priorities we are aware of it, we know the issues. The City of Yellowknife has

voiced their opinions on it numerous times and until we get through the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and update our municipal legislation, I think that's where it's tied to and that's where we could make those enhancements. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. BROMLEY: I hope the Minister is hearing very clearly the frustration at the time it's taking to get to the Cities, Towns and Villages Act. Obviously, the LICs are one issue of this fundamental piece of legislation that needs consideration. I appreciate the information that people can go to the bank, so I'd like to follow that up with a question.

Will the banks provide that that can go to the next owner of the house? Like, this could be done through this legislation. Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, that's a good question that the Member has. I think we'd have to consult with the banks if that's allowable. I can't answer that question offhand. It's more a technical question that would have to go to the lenders. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I'll leave it at that and just say I suspect that the answer is no, or people would be doing that more and that's why there is such a thing as LICs. But again, we're talking about the cost of living here and we're talking about people leaving the North faster than people are arriving in the North. So, I just hope there would be some consideration given to this as a priority to help deal with the real cost of living in the North. That's all I had, just a comment. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We'll deal with that last statement as a comment. Committee, we're on page 363, Municipal and Community Affairs, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$3.915 million. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just want to follow up on the local improvement charge. It is allowable, for instance, in the city of Yellowknife to have a local improvement charge on a property for sidewalks for instance. So why is it different, then, for renewable improvement? Thanks.

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

MR. SCHAUERTE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe what the Member is referring to are developments to a subdivision that benefit all residents in the neighbourhood where the local improvement charge can be tied to the property at the point of sale. In the case where it's local improvement to an individual residence where the whole neighbourhood doesn't benefit, this is where there is an issue with a municipality of fronting the cost of that and then recovering amortized over a period of time.

I think we would have to commit to getting back to the Member and providing a much more substantiated answer relative to how local improvement charges impact individual residents or individual properties as opposed to a neighbourhood as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to Mr. Schauerte. I look forward to that information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Again, committee, we're on page 363, Municipal and Community Affairs, directorate, operations expenditure summary, \$3.915 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 364, directorate, grants, contributions and transfers, total grants and contributions, \$470,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 365, directorate, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Seeing none. Committee, page 367, lands administration, operations expenditure summary. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 369, public safety, operations expenditure summary. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have questions about two things here. I did warn the Minister in my opening comments. I want to know where we're at with the 911. Are we moving forward at all, or are we simply going sideways or backwards? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A considerable amount of work has been done on this. I think we have requested some time with committee to provide them an update as to some of the work that we're doing. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you. A briefing would be good. So, I guess, is there going to be anything concrete happening in the 17th Assembly? Thanks.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: As I was saying before, we have done a lot of work. We're looking for some feedback from committee and then I think the contractor has done a lot of good work for us. My understanding is these are all complete and we will have some time with committee to get some feedback from committee and, after that, make a determination if it's feasible to try and implement this during the life of the 17th. There would be some

money attached to it, obviously. It more than likely will be a transition issue, but the work is completed and we will provide committee with an update. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I will wait anxiously to hear what's coming in that briefing.

My other question here has to do with the ground ambulance and highway rescue situation. As I understand it, the Minister mentioned in his opening remarks the funding of \$400,000 to enhance community capacity in this area. I would like to know...and I think on page 370 I believe it's mentioned. Yes, it is. I hope, Mr. Chair, I can reference a number that's on page 370 that also goes to page 369. The ground ambulance and highway rescue is set at \$400,000. It's been that, the same as last year. There was an increase from 2013-14, which I was glad to see, but it's still a minimal amount of money in terms of what the communities are required to do in terms of ground ambulance and highway rescue.

Can I ask the Minister, first of all, is there any plan to increase the amount in '16-17? Because I think \$400,000 is certainly not enough money. Secondly, there was some work that was done around this program and the criteria for municipalities to get this money, I believe, was an application-based process before. Is it still the same? Do communities have to apply, or is this funding that goes to a community to help them? Hay River, Yellowknife, Simpson, for instance, to help them deal with emergencies on the highway?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. I'll allow the continuance of questioning. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it was maybe last year or the year before, we did have a bit of an increase in this fund. I think we're up to \$400,000 now, as the Member mentioned. It's fully subscribed to. We have a number of communities that are taking us up on this. It could help with equipment. However, I think the communities' priority is to provide training, and I think we've been working with Transportation to provide some first responder training.

It is a program that is fully subscribed to and we are making some progress on this again. There are options there to help the communities with equipment if need be.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. That was my recollection that it was for training and for equipment. Has the department encountered situations where a community does not go onto the highway to provide ground ambulance and/or rescue services because they've determined that it's costing them money, it's outside their municipal boundaries, there's no reimbursement from the territorial government for the expense that they are

incurring? Is this something that the department has seen and/or heard about? Because I can foresee that the time is going to come when a municipality is going to say we can't afford this so we're not going beyond our own municipal boundaries, and that's going to have a huge impact on the safety of our highways.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We have heard that concern. First of all, I don't think there's a community that will not respond to an issue or an accident or a call from outside their municipal boundary, because their priority, obviously, is the safety of people first. They will respond knowing that it could cost them money and then they wonder about the billing part of it. We have heard that concern and I think we are doing a review of the Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol. But I just wanted to make the point that I have not heard of any municipality turning down a request for assistance because it's outside their municipal boundaries.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister: I'm glad that that is the case, but I want to urge the department to look seriously at the issue of cost to municipalities for going outside of their municipal boundaries for highway ground ambulance and rescue. Certainly, there is going to become a time when if money is extremely tight and a municipality does not want to put an extra burden on their taxpayers and/or they don't have the money in their budget, it's entirely possible that their council may direct them not to go out to do a rescue because it's costing them too much money and they can't afford it. I urge the department to find some method of funding municipalities for rescue services outside of their municipality.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Through the formula funding review this is an issue that was discussed and we'll continue to move forward on this. I think we've had a number of recommendations that have come out of that. The government, actually, you know, we're challenged fiscally, and the people that worked on the formula funding review recognize that. But it is an issue that has been brought up and we need to find ways to deal with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, we're on page 369, public safety, operations expenditure summary, \$1.741 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Committee, page 370, public safety, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$400,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Committee, page 371, public safety, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Page 373, regional operations, operations expenditure summary, \$83.372 million. Does committee agree? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I believe there was a review going on about whether our formula for regional operations and maintenance programs are sufficient. Does this reflect that, or has that review been completed? I know we were doing that for infrastructure, as well, but I just want to get on top of the operations side here.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct; there was a formula funding review that was done. We had a committee of 15 with representatives from all large and small communities across the Northwest Territories. They put a lot of work into this and they came up with recommendations, and now the next step is to find the money. Being as challenged as we are fiscally, I mean, they recognized that and they were pretty understanding of that. But the work is done.

I'm not sure if we have a briefing. We have a briefing that we're going to be providing to committee on the results of our findings. There was a lot of good work done with this committee and they took everything into account. We'll provide committee with that briefing plus the recommendations and then we'll have to see the next steps and where we go from there.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the response and I'm happy with that. I guess, just leaping to the bottom line here, I assume some changes were recommended out of the review and that we'll be discussing those. Are we, according to the review, vastly underfunding our communities, or is there anything that we can have a preliminary look at or be aware of on that? I know there is always a lot of context to go with numbers, but I'll leave it at that.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: There were some gaps through this formula funding review that were identified. I think one of the bigger gaps is the O and M funding. Again, we have to, as a government and this Assembly and possibly the 18th, find ways that we can try and address those gaps. I think that's going to be a huge undertaking. The work is complete, but again, the next part of it is finding the funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, we're on page 373, regional operations, operations expenditure summary, \$83.372 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 374, regional operations, grants, contributions and

transfers, total grants and contributions, \$77.601 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, page 376, regional operations, active positions. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Seeing none, committee, page 379, School of Community Government, operations expenditure summary, \$3.261 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Committee, page 380, School of Community Government, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions \$580,000. Does committee agree? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering why the decrease in the contribution to A Brilliant North. This is increasing the capacity in our community staffings and it's gone down \$100,000, which is not a heck of a lot of money, but I'm sure, over a number of communities, would have a very large impact. We went up quite a bit in '14-15 but now we've gone down \$100,000. Can I get a reason? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. It was a decentralization initiative. I think we've taken \$100,000 to establish a two-year term position of master trainer that's going to be located in Hay River. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: So, where does that money show up then? Is it staying within MACA or where is it? Thanks.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The money was re-profiled. It is staying within MACA. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Where is it within MACA? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: It's in compensation and benefits within the School of Community Government.

MS. BISARO: Now, I'm really confused. So, we've gone down \$100,000 and you said it's for a position that's within the School of Community Government and I thought that what we were looking at was the School of Community Government. So, I'm lost. Or has it gone from contributions to compensation? Is that what you're trying to tell me? Thank you. The light just went on. Thanks.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Member is absolutely correct; it went from a contribution, less \$100,000 to A Brilliant North, to compensation and benefits to your master trainer within the School of

Community Government. So it went from contribution to compensation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, we're on page 380, School of Community Government, grants, contributions and transfers, total contributions, \$580,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, committee. Committee, page 381, School of Community Government, active positions, information item. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Committee, page 383, sport, recreation and youth, operations expenditure summary, \$6.792 million. Does committee agree? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have some questions here on 383, but it also applies to 384 so I hope I can refer to both of these pages.

Two issues specifically. The first one has to do with the Arctic Winter Games 2018 Host Society contribution. I'm not against the contribution, but I am really trying, and having great difficulty, in understanding why the money is being given out so early. This is 2015 and even if it goes in 2016 that's two years in advance of the actual operations of the Games itself and it's not my recollection for previous Games. So, can I get an explanation, please? Thank you.

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

MR. WILLIAMS: The fact that the decision has been made to move the Arctic Winter Games outside of the City of Yellowknife, there are extra costs involved, there's less corporate ability for the host societies to attract good corporate sponsorship. There's going to be some enhancements to facilities for either south of the lake or up in the Beaufort-Delta to take on to accommodate these games.

The decision was made two years ago, actually, to put this in our budget. We put a proposal through to increase the pot I think it was \$3.5 million. It's a million this year. Over a three-year period it goes enhancements of a million dollars per year and the third year it's \$1.5 million. It's just to help the host society in either location because they don't have the luxury of being in the city of Yellowknife where there's a lot of corporate sponsorship. I think that decision is a good investment, and hopefully we have more games outside of the city of Yellowknife to build capacity at the regional level. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the deputy minister for the explanation.

My other question here, I have two other questions actually. The second one is the amount for volunteer recognition which is \$30,000. This is a large change from the last year when there was money, which was '13-14 when it was \$3,000. Nothing in '14-15 and then \$30,000 in '15-16. If I read the description it tells me that this is to promote and encourage community volunteers and through planned community recognition events.

I guess I'm struggling with the rationale that giving money to a community for a volunteer recognition event is going to increase volunteerism, so I guess I would like to know from the Minister of the department on what did they base this decision to put \$30,000 into recognition events. What rationale, what evaluation of something else proved that this was a good thing to do?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is to provide communities with \$1,000 to recognize the volunteers they have in the communities, have some kind of an event for them, and that, in turn, may encourage other people to volunteer. I think this is something that is long overdue. You get a small community that can access this money and honour the volunteers in the community and that might encourage other people to volunteer. So, I think there are some other benefits to this other than just giving the community \$1,000. I think it will help. I believe it will help build volunteer capacity, especially in the smaller communities where they may be challenged sometime with volunteers. I think it's a very good initiative and I think it's going to go towards our goal of having more volunteers, hopefully, come on stream. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I appreciate that that's the rationale and all well and good. This is the first year for this program, so is there going to be any kind of analysis after '15-16 to determine whether or not – not that whether or not the money was spent, I'm sure it'll be spent – it's doing what it's intended to do? Is volunteerism increasing? Because my gut feeling is that we are losing volunteers throughout the territory and I think we've been losing volunteers since the federal money for the Volunteer NWT disappeared. I don't think we've had the same level of volunteerism since that federal money disappeared and the GNWT decided not to replace it.

So, bottom line, will there be any kind of evaluation of whether or not this money has increased the number of volunteers and overall volunteer activity in our communities? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, our plan is to do an evaluation of this and which communities had taken us up on it and whether it's increased the number of volunteers. Especially in the smaller communities, your core volunteer group is basically the same and there are some new people that come on. Having the opportunity to be in a number of these small communities and seeing what their volunteer core group is like, you see it during events that go on in the community. The fact that we have earmarked a few dollars to help recognize some of the contributions of these people I think will go a long way to increasing volunteers in small communities. The Member is right; it has been a bit of a challenge, but I believe this type of, I'm not sure you can call it an incentive, volunteers are the last people in the world who want to be recognized, but we feel this is a small service that we can help honour volunteers. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: My last question here has to do with the proposed move of the NGO Stabilization Fund from the Executive to MACA. I have to say strongly again that this is a bad move. I think this particular fund reaches across many departments, as does the Department of Executive. Not that I have any qualms about the ability of MACA to handle this, but I just don't think that the focus in MACA is as broad as it needs to be. The NGOs that access this fund provide very basic services on behalf of the GNWT, emergency shelters, housing, it's quite varied and it's not the focus that MACA has. I know the Premier has said that it's being moved because MACA is where we have placed our volunteers and that is where we place our volunteers, but these NGOs are not strictly volunteer organizations. Several of them are businesses and they operate like a business. Although they have a volunteer board, they have staff, and they have staff who are employed and who are providing the services the GNWT has asked them to provide.

I want to say again that this is not the right place for this to be. I've heard from a number of organizations that have stated that things were going extremely well through the Department of Executive. Relationships have been built up; NGOs understood what was supposed to be done by whom and when and how. Basically they're going to have to start all over again and work things out again. We went through quite a difficult time initially to get the applications dealt with in a timely manner and I certainly hope that we can keep that so that NGOs can make an application early in April and get the money long before September, or December, which I think it was in that very first year.

I guess my question is: Is MACA willing to send it back to the Executive? This is not where it needs to be. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That is a loaded question. I think it was felt that with our experience in dealing with the voluntary sector that it would be a good fit in MACA. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: With my last seven seconds, Mr. Chair, I will say that it may have felt to be a good fit but it's not. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. I will take that as a comment. Committee, page 383, sport, recreation and youth, operations expenditure summary, \$6.792 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I questioned the Minister last week on a concept and the Minister responded positively to an idea. Given the 260-some-odd days left in our term, is there a possibility of looking at a pilot project like they had with the old TEST program. There are some athletes that are very gifted in the small communities and our centres. There are athletes who are going to school and are just all around in our communities. I wonder if there's any type of discussion or looking at this from a territorial perspective. The TEST program was successful because of the dedication of staff, people, the athletes themselves and the community. It was just a long-term program that produced world-class athletes.

I wanted to say this because in our small communities there are special challenges that some of our young people have to endure and to excel at some of the sports and recreational activities that they have. I thought it would be a good idea to look at a pilot project, take a group of grade sevens and eights and say we'll do this for you over the next four or five years, build a team. These are good, young athletes. I'd like to see how this group of athletes would do in the community, the school, academics and excel in sports. I'd like to see if something like that could be looked at by this department.

This department is very valuable to small communities. I've seen a lot of good work happening in our communities with recreation and youth. I've seen it more so in the smaller communities like Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake, Deline and Tulita. There are lots of young ones who are excited in this area here. The department has done a lot of good work in our communities in this area. There are natural-born, gifted athletes in our communities. Some of them we miss sometimes. I'm just thinking out loud here. I know that got some programs. I have already seen the programs for athletes that are aspiring to the Canada Winter Games, Pan Am Games, for the Olympics, in that capacity and they are doing quite well. There are other ones who need a little more attention and care. So, I thought this would be a good pilot to look at.

There is a group of students and young athletes in our communities and we could also monitor how they are doing in school. Are they staying away from alcohol and drugs? It is disciplined to be up there with world-class athletes. Are they doing well in the community? Are they bringing pride to the North and their community? What else do we need to do for them? The communities are so far apart and it's a lot of work, so I'm not sure how it will be discussed at this level. It might not be a level that would get support because of the cost and funding. I understand that.

The town of Norman Wells has a karate club there. There are just young kids all over. Even to do something like that with them would be good. They have a club going with volunteers and there are little kids there five and six years old. If we had something like that, that would help them out in the community. It doesn't take very much to get a gym, get some G's and get a club going. They are great at five and six, so by the time they're in Grade 12 they will show some good promise. I'm thinking that type of thinking.

We don't have a swimming pool, so we can't do like students in Yellowknife do and go swimming. We have good swimmers but we can't do that, only in the summer. We've got a swimming pool we open up; it's called the Mackenzie River.

We need some thinking on this to get kids moving and bring self-esteem and discipline to the kids. They are in a tough battle dealing with alcohol and drugs, gangs and violence. That world is coming to our communities now and we need to prepare them. They need to build the skills to meet the challenge and overcome it. I'm thinking about that, about these young kids in today's society. There are lots of good people and communities.

Just last week in Norman Wells they had a parent-child hockey tournament, which is good. I'm just thinking out loud, so I'm going leave it at that. Those are my only comments for MACA.

I think MACA in my region is doing well, very good. I'm happy to see, contrary to my colleagues, what they are doing with the NGO Stabilization Fund. I'm supportive of that; I think it's a good thing. I just wanted to say that to the Minister. If we can do some things to help our young people deal with some of today's issues, I'm hoping it can be looked at within the 262 days. Mahsi cho.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The NWT has a lot of natural athletes. I have heard that a number of times. We just don't have the benefits of some of our larger jurisdictions' level of competition.

The Member makes a good point and there may be some merit to that. One of our sporting partners is

actually looking at something along those lines, the centre of excellence Program, or we would have a number of our higher performing athletes in one central place. There is some merit to that. We've asked for a business case as to how to move this forward. I don't think it's something that's going to happen overnight.

We have to be prepared for 2023 when the Canada Winter Games is going to come to the Northwest Territories. There is some merit to that. Through the number of programs that we offer, we give young people an opportunity to be active. Some take us up on it and they start to progress through the athletic stream, then there are some commitments that they have to make on their behalf. Some of that commitment may require moving away from home for a while to train with others in their field. So there is a huge commitment. We will do what we can, as a department and as a government, to put the tools in place. We will commit to doing our part.

We need to see our young people, too, doing their part. It's not only becoming elite athletes, it's all about becoming active. There is a progression. We have seen what committed athletes who are committed to their training can do on the national scene and the international scene. We will do what we can to put tools in place. At the same time, we need that commitment from our young people to take us up on some of the options that we put forward for them. There is some merit to that. Again, come 2023 we want to make sure that the NWT is competitive. The past number of Canada Games that I've attended, I see us becoming more and more competitive. That's just based on the natural ability of a lot of our athletes. If we get them the training of the competition, I think that will start making more noise. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, we are on page 383, sport, recreation and youth, operations expenditure summary, \$6.792 million. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Page 384, sport, recreation and youth, grants, contributions and transfers, total grants and contributions, \$4.987 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 386, sport, recreation and youth, active positions. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Page 387, work performed on behalf of others. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. If I can get you to turn to page 351, Municipal and Community Affairs, total department, \$101.477 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'm sorry; I will repeat that number: \$103.477 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that consideration of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is completed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I'd like to thank our witnesses here today. Mr. Schauerte, Mr. Williams, thanks for joining us. Of course, Minister McLeod, it's always a pleasure to have you here. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witnesses out of the Chamber, please. Thank you.

Committee, we'll just take a two-minute recess.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Alright, committee, we'll continue on with the Department of Lands. With that, I'll turn it over to the Minister responsible for opening comments, Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I am pleased to present the 2015-2016 Main Estimates for the Department of Lands. Overall, the department's estimates propose an increase of \$2.438 million, or 9 percent, over the 2014-2015 Main Estimates.

Highlights of the proposed estimates include:

- \$2.8 million in new initiatives. These initiatives are funded from the reserve set aside by this Assembly for devolution impacts identified after the 2014-2015 Main Estimates were considered by this Assembly. These initiatives include:
 - \$1.006 million for the new liabilities and financial assurances division to manage and coordinate the financial assurances for resource development projects to ensure that companies meet their obligations for environmental liabilities. We want this government to improve on the inherited federal system by developing and managing environmental liabilities and appropriate financial assurances through whole project assessment, in collaboration and coordination with GNWT regulatory departments and central agencies.
 - \$133,000 for one new resource management officer III position in the North Slave regional office for diamond mine inspections associated with the Gahcho Kue

Mine. Over 40 percent of the resources of this department are invested in land administration to ensure the lawful use of land and protection of this public asset. Key to that protection is our aggressive regional-based inspection and enforcement program, guided by a rigorous risk assessment tool. Our inspection program must be responsive to the growth in diamond and other mining sectors.

- \$694,000 for strategic investments to support this Assembly's priority to diversify and help grow the economy, by establishing a Western Arctic Centre for Geomatics in Inuvik.
- \$290,000 for a coordinator and legal advisor to continue with the coordinating role for GNWT input into the federal Regulatory Improvement Initiative and the amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and to help ensure the NWT Surface Rights Board is established and operational by April 1, 2016. New regulations being contemplated under the act will be largely administered by this government through its new delegated authorities. A coordinated approach will maximize our influence in shaping the regulatory regime and help minimize our exposure to administrative burdens under new regulations. This work is planned for completion in the next three years.
- \$51,000 to respond to this government's priority to provide French language communication and services;
- \$456,000 to fund compensation and benefit impacts and transition allowances payable to some transferring federal employees under the terms of the Devolution Agreement; and
- \$557,000 for Collective Agreement increases.
- This department held the line on expenditure management with no forced growth other than Collective Agreement increases.
- We are further responding to the government's fiscal pressures through ongoing reductions to the operating base totaling \$297,000 and sunsets of \$452,000 for onetime funding in support of our first year of operation.

The proposed estimates continue to support the priorities of the 17th Assembly. Specific activities in support of these priorities include:

- Significant progress since taking over the management of public land in the Northwest Territories on April 1st. Over the last 10 months we have been building our foundation, first-time filling our positions and amalgamating federal

and GNWT programs and services. We recognize the importance of our human resources. In support of the 17th Assembly's priority to invest in people, in our first nine months we have invested over \$108,000 in training our staff.

- We have also made significant progress across the department towards implementation and monitoring of the Land Use Sustainability Framework. We are developing policy frameworks for recreational land management and effective land use planning in all regions of our territory. We have continued to make progress on the implementation of the Surface Rights Board Act. We have conducted 600 inspections as of December 31st. We have done this while providing advice and support to government-wide decision-making and departmental coordination for significant resource development and security reviews.
- The Western Arctic Centre for Geomatics will capitalize on the investments this government is making in the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link and on opportunities presented by the Inuvik Satellite Station Facility and space agencies to secure data and use remote sensing tools and technology for baseline monitoring.
- This department recognizes that this government is only one partner in an integrated land management system. Land management decision-making must recognize and respect Aboriginal and treaty rights as well as third-party land interests and legal rights. We have begun to work with our stakeholders and Members in developing policies that meet the needs of all Northerners.

This government has made clear their interest and identified priorities for this department, and we are better positioned now to fulfill properly our mandate. I am committed to engaging with Members on a regular basis as we go forward and as we roll out these new initiatives.

This concludes my opening remarks. I look forward to Members' comments and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Minister McLeod, do you have any witnesses you'd like to bring into the House?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I do, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Minister McLeod, if you'd be kind enough to introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right I have Mr. Mark Warren, deputy minister of lands. To my left, I have Brenda Hilderman. She is the director of finance, Department of Lands.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Warren, Ms. Hilderman, welcome back to the Chamber. Nice to see you folks back here again.

Committee, we're going to go to general comments. Is committee prepared to go to detail? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm looking forward to learning more about how the department is coming along. A new department here. I know last time we looked at the department and its budget, it had some interesting inspections. I'll be asking questions about inspections again, and I know that the department has been doing a lot of work on that. I'm interested in how we're filling those positions and so on. I was concerned at the time, because although we were thumping our chests about the five new inspector positions, we had actually conducted fewer inspections than the federal government had, and we know their record and what that's costing Northerners and Canadians.

I'm also happy to see the investment in the liabilities and financial assurances division. Again, we'll look forward to asking questions when we get to that division and seeing how that's developing and what sorts of evaluations are in place.

The positions for a new coordinator, legal advisor, obviously there are some things happening with the intended changes, the Mackenzie Valley intended amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and so on. I'll be interested in what sort of impacts that might have on the department in its coordinating role in a review of the environmental aspects of development and initiatives.

I'll leave it at that. Maybe just on the funding to help diversify and help grow the economy, I guess I would be interested in a little bit more about the Western Arctic Centre for Geomatics in Inuvik and what exactly they'll be doing. Again, just by way of advance notice, I don't necessarily need responses to these until we get to the divisions where these will come up, but I appreciate the opportunity just to thank the Minister for his comments and say he had lots of interesting things to point out and I will be looking forward to learning more about those.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolyunny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'll allow Minister McLeod to comment.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Actually, Mr. Chair, the Member, I think, said he would save his questions

for detail once we get to those specific areas, so we will look forward to having the discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. General comments? Is committee prepared to go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We will defer page 325 until after consideration of activity detail. I'd like to turn your attention to page 326, revenue summary, information item. Any questions? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are two numbers here which caught my attention. The first one is \$225,000 for non-renewable resource revenue. I thought that those revenues were collected under ITI so I would like an explanation of why this amount is here. Then under general revenues, the lease figure has gone down considerably from 2014-15. If I could get an explanation for that as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. For that we'll go to Deputy Minister Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Firstly, to the question of the \$225,000 for royalties, last year we didn't have the information from AANDC on what kind of royalties that could be expected associated with quarry royalties, so sand and gravel and that kind of stuff. This year we've had some royalty information come in on that so we've managed to be able to make a projection of around \$225,000. So far this year we've actually exceeded that amount quite substantially because of the Gahcho Kue Mine.

The decrease in revenues was associated with no longer having the one-time payment that came from AANDC associated with the leases that were transferring over from AANDC to the GNWT with devolution on April 1st, so they made a one-time payment to us as it happened partway through the year.

MS. BISARO: To go back to the non-renewable resource revenues, the deputy minister mentioned quarries. Is that the only things that this revenue is coming from, because the text says minerals, oil and gas royalties. I'm not quite sure if it's just quarries or if it's minerals, oil and gas. If it's all of those, it seems awfully low.

MR. WARREN: Yes, it is for quarry royalties associated with those activities. It's specific to quarry royalties, so sand and gravel.

MS. BISARO: I guess I would just suggest that perhaps the definition be a little broader or a little more specific next time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): General comment there. Minister McLeod, go ahead.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We'll make that commitment to make it a little... Again, this is 11 months into the process so we're just figuring out how we go about our business plans and presenting them to committee, but we will make that commitment to be a little more specific going forward.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Committee, we're on page 326, revenue summary, information item. Any questions? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to complete for my mind, unless quarries are gravel that is being called minerals here, maybe that's the issue. If that's the case, understood. Would we ever expect any oil and gas royalties in this division? I guess I'll ask the question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We will capture that for the record. I will turn it over to Mr. Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we wouldn't expect in this department any oil and gas revenues. This is strictly for sand and gravel royalties.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. That clears that up and I understand that minerals would include the aggregate resources, so that explains the quarrying revenues here. I'm a little surprised. I believe I heard the Minister or the deputy minister say that there were more substantial revenues even in this fiscal year. I'm curious about why that doesn't show up in the revised estimate. Was it a matter of timing with respect to when this was put together? Maybe I'll ask what that amount is up to now just so we know.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. With that, I'll go to Ms. Hilderman.

MS. HILDERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct; it was timing. When we became aware of the amount of the quarrying and the final inspection, it was after the estimates were determined.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Hilderman. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Is that all we know that there will be royalties or revenue there, or do we actually know what are revenues are so far this fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Ms. Hilderman.

MS. HILDERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, so far this year we do have \$856,000 in quarry royalties.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Hilderman. Committee, we're on page 326, lands, revenue summary. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 327, active positions summary. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 329, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, \$4.056 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Agreed. Page 330, corporate management, active positions. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 333, informatics, operations expenditure summary, \$7.119 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Is this where we would see the Western Arctic Centre for Geomatics in Inuvik? If I can get a little explanation that way I see this centre for about exactly what that will be doing, how it will be serving our residents and maybe are we getting any federal support for that? I'd like to ask that question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Deputy Minister Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Western Arctic Centre for Geomatics is going to be an expansion of the Geomatics Centre that is now based in Yellowknife. It's able to do that because of the Fibre Optic Link that's going into the valley. Prior to that, we wouldn't have the ability to transmit the kind of data that is associated with geospatial data, which is big data. It's also taking advantage of the opportunities associated with the space agencies and their desire to see value-added industry added in the North. If we can establish the platform for them to take advantage of what is being introduced through the space agency, they made commitments that they will work with us to build an industry there.

I think the Members are well aware of the kind of industry that has been seen in other jurisdictions such as in Kiruna where they created a multi-million-dollar industry with several hundred jobs associated with the movement of this big data largely because they happen to be in a convenient geographical location for the satellite station. We're trying to capture and build on that. We're working with Aurora College. We're also working very much with the federal government. The federal government has provided funding up front to do the feasibility study on the Western Arctic, and that was the basis for moving forward. They've also made commitments going forward to help provide support

both through open data sharing and also through in-kind support. We meet with them on a very regular basis related to this project.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, deputy minister. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the deputy minister for that information. As we staff these people – and I see looking ahead we will probably have a few employees there – do we have those sorts of skills in the NWT workforce, or will there be a training component to this to try and bump the opportunities for local residents? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I like the Member's point that we have to view this as an opportunity to train a lot of Northerners to take advantage of some of these positions that are going to be open here at the Geomatics Centre, also with the fibre optic line and the possible satellite receiving station up in Inuvik. There are going to be many more opportunities there. I think there's a huge opportunity here to work in partnership with Education, Aurora College, to ensure that some of our residents have a new field that they can possibly graduate into, because there will be a number of positions that should be available. If we can train Northerners to take advantage of these positions, then I think there will be huge benefit to having all of these types of development in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, that's all I have, but just following up on the Minister's remarks, he has my point in spades. I think it would be great if he came into committee with how we will be achieving that, the plan that we're going to put in place to get that. That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'll take that as a general comment. Committee, we're on page 333, informatics, operations expenditure summary, \$7.119 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 334, informatics, active positions. Are there any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 337, Lands, operations, operations expenditure summary, \$11.770 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just enjoying the chorus from the other side of the room. I want to ask a few questions here. First of all, do

we inventory aggregate resources as part of this Lands operations division and maintain inventories, that sort of thing? What's our role there? I see we provide quarry permits. I'm just wondering what that is based on, if we have any kind of inventory approach. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Deputy Minister Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As such, one of the things that was not transferred over as part of the devolution exercise was what we euphemistically call the "dirt doctor role" and having an understanding of the quarrying potential and the aggregate resource potential out there. That is something that we've identified as a gap within the department and something that we will be trying to add capacity around because there is a huge potential if we manage our sand and gravel resources both from a revenue perspective and also something that we would want to do anyway. But it is not something that we currently have within our mandate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, deputy minister. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's a curious one. It would be fun to explore that one. I won't do that here, but it would be fun to explore that one a little bit and see. I wonder what the federal government was thinking there.

Just looking back, I see we're expecting \$290,000 of royalties in the coming fiscal year which is substantially less than what we've already achieved this fiscal year. I wonder if that's because of this limitation or whether there are other things going on there. Maybe I will start with that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Director Hilderman.

MS. HILDERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$225,000 that we estimated for '15-16 revenues was based on the open active quarry permits that we're aware of and the quarrying activity over the last five years. Quarrying is actually really hard to estimate or to know what might or might not be quarried. The royalty is paid in advance and then only on final inspection do you recognize the revenue, and oftentimes the amount of royalty deposited in advance is actually refunded if the quarrying doesn't take place. From the information that we had available since Lands came into being, we felt that \$225,000 was a reasonable and conservative estimate. Hopefully, we do much better than that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Hilderman. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks for that information. That helps to understand the process a bit.

I believe the Recreational Leasing Policy falls in this division, managing and administering leases. I know that there's a public consultation process going on. I just wonder if we can get a quick update on where we're at on that, when we can expect results and how the Minister will be responding to some of the points that are being raised. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Deputy Minister Warren.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Chair, the rec leasing land management framework is currently in the consultation phase. We've held a number of consultations so far. We held our first consultations in Hay River. It was represented by five participants, and we've now published on our website what we heard from those participants. We have also had sessions in Fort Simpson with 11 attendants; two in Yellowknife, one with 65 and one with 40 people attending; and one in Detah with eight people attending; then Fort Smith, 17; and just last week we had I think it was another 18 people attend the session in Behchoko.

As well, we have an online survey and a request for comments and we've had around 46 people commenting on that so far. As I said, the only summary we produced, though, is for the first set of consultations, so we will be publicizing the results of those consultations fully from all of the consultations once we've finished the current ones that are ongoing up in Inuvik right now.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, deputy minister. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you for that update. It sounds like a pretty good response to me. I guess I'll just ask at this point, have there been any comments that the Minister has been able to incorporate or address already in the planning for the recreational leasing policies? If not, I'll leave it at for now on that subject and move on to another one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through one of the consultations here in Yellowknife there was a concern raised by some of the residents that they wanted the focus area expanded to include some of the islands, so we took that into consideration and I believe we have now expanded the focus area to include some of the islands that many residents were concerned about. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Minister. I know lots of people will be very interested in that and I appreciate that response.

I see that securities are mentioned here and I believe there is a whole division on securities and assurances. Is that because of the two different acts, the Commissioner's Land Act and the NWT Lands Act? I'm just wondering if securities are still a part of this division's operations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Deputy Minister Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Securities are included in the land administration division because of the linkage with the inspection function. Part of the responsibility of the inspector is also to examine the site, should there be additional things that require more security, as well as be able to report on progressive reclamation and as it would then affect the levels of securities that were held. So as a company does progressive reclamation, they would ask of us that we inspect it so that potentially some of the security that's being held could be released. The linkage here is to the inspection function around securities.

MR. BROMLEY: So inspectors are in this division? I understand, okay. So, are we fully staffed now in the inspector positions that we have? Maybe I can get an update on how we're increasing the inspections as compared to the federal performance and the cost that that engendered in the past. Thank you.

MR. WARREN: We are not fully staffed in the inspection function. We are currently running a number of competitions and hope to have a full complement of RMO 3s and RMO 2s complete in the next short while. We also, as the Members are aware, and as the Minister announced just last week, have the new RMO 1 positions, and when the inspectors got together along with the superintendents to look at that program they made it clear that it was important to have the 2s and 3s in place to be able to mentor the 1s. So they spent their time over the last while devising a comprehensive training program that would allow entry-level community-based participants to come into that program.

Those positions are actually out for advertisement, and if the Members know anyone that would be interested in applying, we would encourage them to do so. Those positions, then, we hope to have filled in the next four to six weeks or so.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, deputy minister. Next on my list I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of questions here with regards to land in and around the city of Yellowknife. For quite some years now we've had an interim land withdrawal around the city. I think it started in 2006 or so. It's been extended a number of times, and my understanding is it's now set to expire November of 2015. So, is

there an intention on the part of Lands to extend it again? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Deputy minister.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Chairman, the current land withdrawal in place around the city of Yellowknife is primarily associated with setting aside the lands associated with negotiation of the land claims agreements with the various Aboriginal governments in this area. So it has been the practice in the past, to the extent that those agreements are unsettled, that land withdrawals are maintained.

MS. BISARO: I guess that tells me that you haven't heard from the local Aboriginal government, but the intention, and I guess the policy is that this land withdrawal will stay in place until there's a land claim agreement. Is that correct?

MR. WARREN: Yes, that's the intention.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister: I have to say, on behalf of my local government, that's a very far in the future date, in my estimation, when we're going to get a land claim agreement with the local Aboriginal group. So, you know, for my community government it severely hampers what they can do in terms of acquisition of land in and around the city.

My second question has to do with the Yellowknife harbour, so to speak, and it's no secret that the city is investigating the development of a harbour plan and they're looking at trying to put some system in place to get some revenue from houseboats. Some of them are apparently willing to pay some taxes or some sort of a fee.

So can I ask where the department sits in terms of turning over the lakebed, or the bay bed, for lack of a better way of putting it? Where are things at with the City of Yellowknife in coming to some kind of agreement to give them control over the bay? Thank you.

MR. WARREN: To the best of my knowledge it's not within the authorities of the Territorial Lands Act to regulate the lakebeds. So we wouldn't have any authority over the lakebeds.

MS. BISARO: So where would that responsibility lie? Which department? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really couldn't give the Member an answer at this time. We'll do some research and we'll come back to the Member and committee. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I appreciate that commitment and look forward to some more info.

Lastly, it's my understanding from the conversations that Yellowknife MLAs have with City Council – we do that fairly regularly – the city has asked for a number of parcels in and around the city and that some of them, in negotiating with the GNWT, are going to be not turned over to fee simple but are going to be turned over as leases. I wonder if I can get some kind of an explanation. That makes me frown. As an ex city councillor I don't understand why we would want to force the city to take over a piece of land as a lease instead of in fee simple title. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: If its land that's within a municipal boundary I would think that would be a MACA issue because MACA still deals with land within the municipal boundary. If the Member is able to provide us with some detail, I will commit to the Member that we will investigate. I'm a little surprised to hear that myself. I would think it would be something that's covered under MACA if it's still within a municipality. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister. I will provide that info. I am struggling to understand why MACA would have responsibility for municipal lands. I thought all Commissioner's lands had been turned over to the Lands department. Does this mean that our communities are applying for lands in two places? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I apologize if I've confused the Member. I was made to understand that we do the block land transfer within the city, like the hinterland would go through Lands. Dealing with city lots is still through MACA. So we would do the block land transfers and we do all Commissioner's lands within municipal boundaries too. I apologize if I confused the Member. I just assumed that MACA took care of everything like it normally does. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have no further questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. Next on my list I have Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to welcome the department here today, because this department is still in its infancy stage and Members are still trying to grasp all the roles and responsibilities here. Because we're talking about operations, it's important for me to understand what Lands' role is when we have a real encompassing fire season like we had in 2014.

Could we get a brief overview as to what role the department plays in working with ENR and DOT and the different stakeholders? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Deputy Minister Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Last year during the fire season, the Department of Lands

was contacted on a number of occasions to provide information on what we knew about cabins, either authorized or unauthorized. We were asked to provide locations of any known cabins or camps that were out there for protection of individuals. We were also asked, through our leases, to provide all the contact information we had for anyone we knew that was out there so they could be told to evacuate if necessary. Thank you.

MR. DOLYUNNY: I thank Mr. Warren for that. Do you see the role moving to anything else other than what we just heard today? Do you see this as a progression of the department for fire seasons in terms of playing a more significant role with your partners?

MR. WARREN: Through the informatics division, the department also has a broad responsibility, working with ENR and ITI, on identifying any significant landscape disturbance issues. We would, for instance, have in our plans for the summer, working with ENR, to be able to do some aerial surveys and landscape mapping of the areas around Yellowknife just to see what the implications of the fire season were for last year.

MR. DOLYUNNY: I appreciate that. It's good to have that background information.

Changing gears, Mr. Chair, with your indulgence, with the regulations of the Wildlife Act, what role does this department now play in the drafting of those regulations? Thank you.

MR. WARREN: The Department of Lands works with other departments through Managing this Land Committee of deputies to bring forward any issues that would have implications for our department or other departments related to managing this land. To the extent that the regulations for the Wildlife Act would have an implication on habitat, landscape disturbance, land use planning-type activities, we would be asked to be involved in those.

MR. DOLYUNNY: As Members, we have to get used to a new department and what roles it plays. I apologize if I may seem a bit outlandish with some of the questions. I do appreciate the response.

Just a question on the operations side, if I may. We see an amortization entry for \$25,000 in the 2014-15 year and then we don't see any amortization entry. Was there something that was completely amortized in one year, or was that at the tail end of something that we acquired? I would just like a clarification because it's odd that you see one entry of amortization and then no entry after that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Director Hilderman.

MS. HILDERMAN: The amortization under operations was for two facilities that we anticipated would be transferred to the Department of Lands

from AANDC on transfer date, April 1st. It was actually determined after the printing of our main estimates for 2014-15, that prior to transfer date those two particular assets were already transferred to the GNWT. The Fort Smith warehouse transferred in 1987 under the forest and fire management transfer and the office building in Inuvik was with the Northern Scientific Research Centre transfer.

On the revenue page – if I can go back to that – the capital transfer of \$461,000 with a one-time recognition, under new accounting standards of assets to be gifted from the federal government, this was the amortization associated with those two assets. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ms. Hilderman. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I may have more questions regarding the amortization. For the sake of time and not wanting to jump around activities that have already been passed, I need to get a grasp on what exactly, in terms of capital assets, the department received during this very transitional year and how that amortization is going to look moving forward. I will end it at that. I might have questions further when it comes to amortization. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to follow up on a couple of things. First of all on the inspection side of the equation, when variances are found – and I am thinking of inspections of developments, resource exploitation-type developments – an inspector can recommend court action ultimately if things aren't being corrected and so on. Under the federal government, in recent times, repeated variances were either ignored and not recommended for court action, or when they were, the federal court system declined to act and prosecute to correct the action as was obviously needed based on the information from the inspectors. I'm assuming that our inspectors have found some variances from what is permitted, so I'm wondering: have we taken any of these to the justice system for prosecution and penalty to try and stop such variances to date?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The inspectors follow kind of a four-pronged approach to how they bring about compliance. They start off with an education system. They think it's important that people are aware of what is and isn't allowed. They also, through their inspection process, quite often deal with a prevention matter so that they can identify something that is going to be or could be a problem in the future, but they let people know

about it. Those are the ones we don't hear about because most often they correct the problem right there and then you don't get into a compliance situation, which is the next level around where you ask somebody and give an order to comply. Those ones, hopefully, the majority of the time, result in compliance being seen, but if they are not seen then we move on to enforcement.

We have identified enforcement as something that requires additional diligence on the part of the department. We currently have 12 active cases of where we're taking something before the courts. We now have, as part of a standing item in our senior management committee, we meet once a month with Justice to review all compliances, and that's done by the entire senior management because we see a role for a whole bunch of different components of the department whether it's around land use planning to help with the education side of things or from the inspection side or from the land management side generally. We involve that, but it is something that we do take seriously and are moving more ahead on, on a number of files. But there are quite a number of files that are outstanding there that we are trying to bring into compliance through the other processes first.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the deputy minister for that good information. I'm glad to hear we're doing that. It seems like there's a lot more activity than might have been happening under the previous regime. Could I just ask, have there been any taken to Justice that Justice has said they wouldn't act on that Lands felt should be acted on?

MR. WARREN: No. There haven't been files that we've advanced to Justice yet that they've said are not warranting taking forward.

MR. BROMLEY: Music to my ears. Thank you for that. I'd like to move on to illegal occupancy of land in terms of leasing and so on. The department currently sort of picks and chooses the things that it enforces with, for example, the squatters, I don't know on what basis, but some areas perhaps where clearly the majority of the squatters are not being... The illegal occupants are not being addressed through the enforcement actions of the department. I'm just wondering why and what criteria are used to make a decision not to even sort of investigate illegal occupancy of land.

MR. WARREN: Currently, the inventory of unauthorized occupants that we're aware of that we would have inherited on April 1st is right around 190 unauthorized occupants. As I said, we are proceeding with 12 cases. Those 12 cases were assessed internally by the department as to the ones that we thought represented the greatest risk to the environment, so they were the ones that took our priority.

As the Members are probably aware, we had one very significant one where we removed a number of

vehicles from a site just this last fall along Highway No. 3 and working with the Justice department and MACA and our inspectors all together to make that happen.

These are done, though, on an assessed risk basis, so part of the process that the inspectors follow is to assess what the risk is when they're doing their inspections. Also, identifying unauthorized occupants is something that is part of the priority for the department. That's why we have conducted, as of December 31st per the Minister's opening statement, some 600 inspections so far this year, which puts us well ahead of the most active years that AANDC would have. Their average years were more like 300 to 400 inspections. We're already well past that amount as of the end of December and we continue to do inspections which helps us to identify where those highest risks are.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that response. It seems that I've been misinterpreting some of the responses I've been hearing, and hearing responses to questions that I didn't think I'd been asking, so I'm going to seek some clarification here. When I was talking about inspectors earlier, I was talking about inspectors of resource developments, which I believe is different than, say, the Recreational Leasing Policy inspectors but maybe not. When I was talking about variances, I am talking about the experience of inspecting, for example, diamond mines. When there are clearly some that have a whole lot of variances and others that respond immediately to variances and have few variances, those were not being taken to court to be dealt with. I hear now the Minister and the deputy minister saying, as I said before, there are 12 cases taken to court, and now I'm being led to understand that those 12 cases are illegal occupancy cases rather than mineral development inspections or whatever. I don't know. Do I need to start at the beginning again here or does the Minister understand where I'm at? In terms of inspections of mineral developments, have we taken variances to court? I guess I will start over.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I apologize to the Member if I've confused him. We were responding to his questions like they were illegal occupancy questions, recreational leasing. Now I understand his question is on the minerals side, if there was any. There was one that I think we were in the courts with and that was just a continuation of a case that I think came over from the previous lands regime. That's the only one. The 12 that the deputy minister quoted were the ones that we're dealing with on illegal occupancy.

Again, my apologies to the Member if we didn't get his questions clarified or didn't answer them clearly.

MR. BROMLEY: In the interests of time, I wonder if I could get the Minister to commit to providing committee with information from the hundreds of inspections of mineral developments operations that have been conducted since April 1st, how many variances have been found and the number of those, if any, that have been taken to court.

I'd appreciate any other relevant information. Are there any permit holders that have repeat variations from what's permitted, and what action is being taken to follow up on that? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We are in the process of putting some briefing material together. I think we're seeking time with committee to give them a briefing on all the work that Lands has done up to date in kind of our first year of operation and then get some feedback from committee. There is information that the Member has asked for specifically. That would probably be a better venue to share that information with Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Committee, we're on page 337, operations, operations expenditure summary, \$11.770 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, the point I want to speak on is the unauthorized use of lands or land development. Is the Minister working with the land claim corporations and the regions that settled their land claim to work with them on this issue here?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's a very important component of the work that we're doing, identifying people who are out on the land. We've worked with local Aboriginal governments to try and help us identify some of their beneficiaries who might be out there. I think we even have some resources that we dedicate to help them with some of the input that they put into the work that we're doing. So, yes, we are consulting with all the local Aboriginal governments. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, the unauthorized use of land or land development, especially in the settlement areas is clearly defined land occupancy for people out there. I appreciate the Minister working closely with the rightful owners of land settlements.

Is he working closely with the Department of ENR? I know ENR in the past has been cataloguing where cabin owners are, whether they're Aboriginal cabin owners or non-Aboriginal cabin owners. What areas of the land in the Sahtu are being used? Is the Minister working closely with them in regards to identifying some of the unauthorized use of land or land development by people? This is pretty specific, but there are also areas where the use of land isn't

being properly authorized by either governments, and people seem to have free will as to what they can do on these lands here. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, we do work closely with the Aboriginal governments. We have a website that's up talking about unauthorized occupancy on Territorial lands. It's actually a very good website and I would encourage folks out there to go on it. It's on the Lands website. It talks about the 190 documented unauthorized occupants that have transferred to the GNWT. The bulk of them, again, are in and around the North Slave Yellowknife area. We have 167. We have one in the Sahtu. We have nine in Deh Cho and 13 in Fort Smith. The website actually is a very good source of information. It will answer a lot of questions. I think we even have contact numbers in there for people to report with what they think are unoccupied occupants. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, it is very important as the Minister pointed out. It's a very serious issue here, what the Minister's department is dealing with. We're taking over a new department. The federal government is releasing its grip on this issue here and transferring over to the GNWT which is working closely with our land claim governments, land claim organizations, First Nation governments.

One of the important issues, listening to my colleagues, is the resource management units have a big cast ahead of them. I believe that properly fit and trained and going through the process, they will do their job as they are expected to do for the Lands here such as conducting hazardous materials and spill inspections and abandoned waste site inspections. There's a lot of that in the North here. Some are category one, two, three or four. We're just capturing the big ones as potentially causing harm to our people, our land or our animals, but there are also small ones.

Is this also working closely in conjunction with the ENR department as to you've identified a hazardous material site or there are spills from years ago to just recently, abandoned waste sites? I talked to the Minister of ENR last year about Drum Lake. There's an old site there that was built by Shell Canada. I have pictures of barrels and...(inaudible)...but it's not that important when measured against Giant Mine. This is nothing. But for the people who live in there and use it as a tourism lodge – and this is a sacred site to the Mountain Indians – it's an eyesore. If we do the inspections, is this also the department that would enforce something like this? That could take one Twin Otter, load it up and get out and there's nothing there. It sounds simple, but maybe it's more complicated than that with bureaucratic red tape.

With this department here, that's why I said it's very important, trying to capture this as much as we can

within the scope of the work that these resource management officers are going to perform. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chair, our department would work closely with ENR on identifying and remediation of sites. Again, some of these sites were inherited. We have to learn from that. As we go forward, we're working on putting a regime in place where we can stay away from issues like this and through the financial assurances division and security that's required. Back in the day they just went pretty well anywhere they wanted to go, but times have changed and we're responsible for the administration of our land in the Northwest Territories. We have the tools in place to help us deal with that and we're going to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chair, I appreciate the comments from the Minister. Those are all my questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We're on page 337, operations, operations expenditure summary, \$11.770 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 338, operations, active positions. Are there any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 341, planning and cooperation, operations expenditure summary, \$6.323 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 342. Sorry. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A couple areas that I have questions on here. First, on the land use planning side, I believe we have a role in that in the unsettled land claim areas which are extensive in the southern and western NWT. I note that we have the potential to play a GNWT lead role in land use planning initiatives in the activity description.

What are we doing to address the land use planning needs in light of the lack of land use plans for those areas? Certainly, in some areas there is no hint of them being on the horizon and yet development initiatives are out there and interests are out there and, to some extent, being foiled with the lack of planning. We're contemplating an all-weather road through the Slave Geological Province with no land use plan in place and so on, so there's a real need here.

What is the department doing to get after those? I think that was one of our intents of getting this new authority.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Deputy Minister Warren.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Coincidentally, the department has, starting tomorrow, a multi-day symposium being held on land use planning to start the discussion. We had a number of discussions with a number of the affected parties on a kind of one-on-one basis, but we're bringing a whole group of them into Yellowknife over the next couple of days to have a multi-party discussion from all different sectors to speak to how best to tackle the issues related to the lack of land use plans in the unsettled areas.

We've also invited as keynote speakers some of the ones in the settled areas because they can help to inform those discussions. But it's certainly identified as a priority for the department to address land use plans. In some cases they're looking at area-specific land use plans if there's a particular need and it can be resolved in a shorter term rather than going with the broader, longer range, longer term comprehensive land use plan for an entire region. Those discussions are just going to take place over the next two or three days.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the deputy minister. That's great to hear. I think it would be interesting to have committee become aware of the Minister's longer term thinking on this just to see which way we're headed. This sounds like a very reasonable first step to get all parties together and so on, but it would be interesting to know the time frames and all that sort of thing. I'm not going to take up the time here for that, but, yes, a rich area for briefings and exploration there.

My second area is I see we're talking about putting in place a legal advisor with respect to amendments to the MVRMA, and that's another rich area. As we know from the court's decision earlier this week or late last week with respect to land and water boards. I know in the past, I believe it was INAC or whatever it was, AANDC had the responsibility for the five-year environmental reviews or whatever the term was, the environmental assessments for the NWT. Does this department now play that role? Are we the lead role in those five-year reviews, the second part of that? I believe that's due this year. Where is the planning on that? Have we initiated that work and where are we at with that?

MR. WARREN: To the last question, the environmental audit, which is due this year, is being led by the Department of ENR but with the involvement of the Department of Lands because of the overlap being responsibilities associated with things such as land use planning.

As to the long-term plans around land use planning, we would be happy to provide the Members with an update of what the outcome of the symposium is that we're holding in the next few days. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you for that response. Given the court case and things being put on hold, what is the department doing? What is the department's role maybe in concert with other departments to shift plans to support, I guess, the current land and water boards, if I'm interpreting what I'm hearing about the court's decision correctly, for some undetermined amount of time? What are the consequences to this department? Thank you.

MR. WARREN: The court decision is currently being analyzed internally, but we certainly were looking at it over the weekend. It is maintaining the status quo, though, in the sense that the boards that were going to become a superboard are now not going to become a superboard, so we would continue to feed into the regulatory process the same tomorrow as we are doing today. Certainly, the process always envisions something that was in the process of being reviewed by an existing board would have to continue on anyway. If there was an active water licence, it would have continued through with that existing board to the completion of that licence. The decision doesn't affect the impact review of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, so it wouldn't affect those ones that are currently in the environmental assessment process anyway.

MR. BROMLEY: I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Committee, we're on page 341, planning and coordination, operations expenditure summary, \$6.323 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you. Page 342, planning and coordination, grants, contributions and transfers, \$600,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 343, planning and coordination, active positions. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 344, lease commitments. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Page 345, work performed on behalf of others. Questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): We'll return to page 325, department as a whole, Department of Lands, \$29.268 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bouchard): Thank you, Ministers. Thank you, witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Bisaro.

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

---Carried

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

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Do I have a seconder? Mr. Bromley.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 38: AN ACT TO AMEND THE JURY ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 38, An Act to Amend the Jury Act, be read for the third time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 38 has had third reading. Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 41: AN ACT TO AMEND THE PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 41 has had third reading. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 3, 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. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 48, An Act to Amend the Mental Health Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 47, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 12, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Act
 - Bill 36, Health and Social Services Professions Act
 - Bill 46, Deline Final Self-Government Agreement Act
 - Committee Report 10-17(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories

- Tabled Document 188-17(5), NWT Main Estimates 2015-2016
- Tabled Document 205-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2014-2015
- Tabled Document 206-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015
- Tabled Document 207-17(5), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2015-2016

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 3rd, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:59 p.m.