



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**18<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

Pages 233 - 252

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**

(Monfwi)

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*Minister of Human Resources;*

*Minister responsible for Seniors;*

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(Hay River North)

**Mr. Kieron Testart**

(Kam Lake)

**Mr. Shane Thompson**

(Nahendeh)

**Mr. Cory Vanthuynne**

(Yellowknife North)

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Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 767-9010 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, March 2, 2016****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Green, Hon. Jackson Lafferty,, Hon. Robert McLeod, Hon. Alfred Moses, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. O'Reilly, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:29 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Masi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Public Works and Services.

**Ministers' Statements****MINISTER'S STATEMENT 19-18(2):  
COMMUNITY FUEL PRICES**

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, through the Petroleum Products Program, the Department of Public Works and Services provides fuel to 16 NWT communities not served by the private sector. The department supplies fuel to these communities by truck during the winter road season and by barge in the summer. Prices for consumers typically change once or twice each year, in spring and in fall, after a new supply of fuel is delivered to the community. The wholesale price that the Department of Public Works and Services pays to buy heating fuel and gasoline in bulk has dropped over the past year. Recognizing that our residents benefit most from heating fuel price reductions during the colder winter months, I am pleased to advise that the department has reduced heating fuel prices for consumers in all of the 16 communities served by the Petroleum Products Program. We have made this decision even before completing the fuel resupply for this season, anticipating lower fuel purchase costs. Initial price reductions averaging seven cents per litre came into effect on February 8<sup>th</sup> for all 16 communities. For the five communities where the resupply of fuel was just completed, further price changes were made on February 15<sup>th</sup>, reducing the price of heating fuel by an average of 22 cents per litre and gasoline by an average of 20 cents per litre. As fuel deliveries to communities are completed over the coming weeks and months, further price reductions are expected.

Reducing the cost of living is one of the priorities of this Assembly. While we cannot control the wholesale cost of petroleum products, the department is committed to helping where we can

by passing on cost savings on fuel products in the form of lower prices wherever possible, as soon as possible. Managing energy costs is an important responsibility of both residents and government as we face challenging economic times. With this in mind, the energy division of the Department of Public Works and Services is working to improve energy awareness, promote energy efficient behaviours, and seek out and adopt affordable alternative and renewable energy solutions that will benefit residents, businesses, and government in the long-term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Environment of Natural Resources.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 20-18(2):  
NEW ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PROGRAM**

**HON. WALLY SHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories joined Canada-wide efforts to recycle end-of-life electronics with the launch of the new Electronics Recycling Program on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Electronics can contain hazardous chemicals and heavy metals, including lead, cadmium, and mercury. These chemicals and metals can make their way into our environment if we do not properly manage the disposal of our old electronics. This new program is integral to leading environmental stewardship in the Northwest Territories, a priority of this Legislative Assembly. Old electronics will be collected at the bottle depots in our ten largest communities and one-day collection events will be held in other communities within the next year and then every two years thereafter. This program has been in the works for some time. In 2008, members of the public identified electronics recycling as one of the top three priorities for the government's waste reduction and recycling program.

In September 2013, an electronics recycling program was launched in four Northwest Territories communities. Last year, stakeholders were also consulted for their views on the program. The program is designed to be revenue-neutral, which means it will pay for itself through the collection of environmental fees charged on new electronic and surplus in the Environment Fund. Fees are charged on designated electronics, including televisions, desktops and portable computers, tablets, printers, copiers, facsimile machines, and scanners at the

point of purchase. There is no refund on electronics returning for recycling. The program has been designed to ensure a level playing field for all electronics distributors and retailers, including online sales. All distributors and retailers will be subject to on-site compliance reviews. Cost-savings have been found by using the depots, transportation systems, and processing already in place for beverage container recycling. The electronic waste will be shipped to a registered electronics recycling facility in Alberta to ensure environmental health and safety standards. During the next year, we will work with local electronic retailers to identify any issues of compliance and make improvements to the program. Environmental handling fees will also be reviewed following the first year of operation. Expansion of the program to include a more comprehensive list of electronics will be explored during the next two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 21-18(2):  
ON THE LAND COLLABORATIVE FUND

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide Members with an update on an exciting new initiative to support on-the-land programming in the Northwest Territories. We know that there is huge demand for on-the-land programs in the NWT. They are important components of community wellness, healing, healthy living, and environmental stewardship and protection. They support the traditional economy, sustainable livelihoods, and building capacity in our communities. The benefits of on-the-land activities are well documented, and residents have told us that these programs are a priority for them, most recently through the Minister's Forum on Addictions and Community Wellness, which was established by the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Government alone cannot meet this demand. While there are many sources of funding for on-the-land programs, it can be challenging for organizations to deal with multiple funders for a single project, and to navigate different application, administrative, and reporting requirements. In 2014, the departments of Health and Social Services and Environment and Natural Resources, in partnership with Tides Canada, co-hosted a workshop which brought together funders, program partners, and community representatives involved in supporting and delivering on-the-land programs from across the territory.

The outcomes of that workshop led to the creation of the NWT On-The-Land Collaborative Fund, which was developed to maximize the amount of funding and other resources available for on-the-land initiatives in the NWT, and to make them

easier to access. The fund brings together government, charitable and other partners so we can combine our efforts and pool our resources, including funding, expertise, tools and equipment, and other supports. In addition to the Government of the Northwest Territories departments and Tides Canada, current partners include Dominion Diamond Corporation, the NWT Recreation and Parks Association, TNC Canada, the PEW Indigenous Leadership Initiative, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, and community advisors from across the Northwest Territories. The first call for applications to the fund was issued in late 2015, and applications closed on January 31 of this year. The response to this first call for applications was overwhelming and very positive. More than 200 applications were received from across the territory, with requests for funding totalling almost \$9 million. The collaborative partners met in early February to review each application and select funding recipients. This was a significant undertaking, and Minister Schumann and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of the funding partners and community advisors to making this process a success.

The huge response to the call for applications to the Collaborative Fund is further evidence that on-the-land programs are a priority for NWT residents. The collaborative approach provides us with an opportunity to leverage new funding from external partners while also putting our own resources to more efficient and effective use. Beyond funding and other resources, the fund is designed to provide practical support to program organizers. The community advisors provide guidance to applicants through the application process and play an essential role in the review by providing recommendations and regional insight to the funders. Through this first review cycle, collaborative partners allocated almost \$400,000 to 27 exceptional projects, with recipients from every region of the territory. Projects range from small local projects, such as the new Nature Club in Hay River and the Women Coming Together initiative in Lutselk'e, to large regional and territorial programs such as the Northern Youth Leadership Society and the Foster Family Coalition's Camp Connections. In addition to direct funding of these projects, collaborative partners were able to use their networks and expertise to connect many other applicants with additional sources of support and referral. On behalf of all of the collaborative partners, including my colleague Mr. Schumann, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, I want to congratulate all of the recipients and thank all of the applicants for their leadership and dedication to on-the-land initiatives in their communities.

Members agreed that this government was going to change the way that it did business, and we are already delivering on that shared priority. This is a brand new way of doing business for our government. It is a demonstration of our commitment to finding new approaches to address shared priorities, and to working in meaningful partnership that improves the lives of all NWT residents.

Funding collaboratives are relatively new in Canada but have seen great success in other parts of the world. We are proud to be part of this innovative new approach. The early results of the NWT On-The-Land Collaborative Fund are very promising, and we expect to welcome even more funders and partners to the team in the future. Minister Schumann and I look forward to keeping Members updated on progress on this important collaborative effort as it moves forward.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Deputy Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 22-18(2):  
PREMIER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Bob McLeod will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the First Ministers meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

### Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REPLACEMENT OF  
MOOSE KERR SCHOOL

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for those of you old enough to remember, 1969 was a big year. The Vietnam War was on, Nixon was in office, The Beatles released Abbey Road, and the world watched Neil Armstrong take those first historic steps on the moon. Know what else happened that year? Moose Kerr School was built in Aklavik.

---Laughter

While all those other things have passed into history, Moose Kerr School, nearing 50 years of age, is still expected to serve the 160 students and 14 teachers working there. Samuel Hearne High School, which was also built in Inuvik at the same time as Moose Kerr, was demolished and replaced a couple of years ago. Despite its age, Moose Kerr is still standing, and my constituents and I want to know: When is the government going to do the right

thing and replace this piece of aging infrastructure? The students who go to Moose Kerr deserve a learning environment that is modern, innovative, and above all, safe. I am concerned about the safety hazards posed by this old building. At the time this school was built, asbestos, a known carcinogen, was routinely used in building products. Samuel Hearne was built at the same time and in the same region, and was found to contain asbestos. It stands to reason that Moose Kerr poses this risk also. I am equally concerned about the risk posed by busy traffic around the school. Pedestrians and automobiles don't mix, and many parents in Aklavik are concerned that, unless a parking lot is built soon, someone is going to be seriously hurt in a traffic accident around Moose Kerr School. I have repeatedly asked for assurances in this House and have been told by the Minister of Education that the replacement of Moose Kerr is in the capital plan. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Specifically, I was told in this House on February 21, 2014, that Moose Kerr School was scheduled for replacement and renovation in 2019, which is 20 years after its last major retrofit in 1999, and in keeping with capital planning specifications. Later today, I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on the status of this project.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN  
IMMIGRATION STRATEGY

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories has a strategy for growth. We know that to develop our economy, create growth for our communities, and enhance our society, we need to attract new people to make their homes here in our great territory. We need more skilled professionals and tradespeople who want to set down roots, build their homes and businesses, and create opportunity and wealth in the Northwest Territories, and as we know, the more we build our own population, the better the balance of federal transfer payments to support our programs, services, infrastructure, and overall capacity as a territory. In the mandate that we adopted earlier this session, we agreed to "increase the number of immigrants working in the NWT and increase investment by immigrants by implementing an immigration strategy that prioritizes streamlining application processes, increasing awareness of immigration programs, and consolidating our administrative support." We need a made-in-the-

North immigration policy. We need to be able to attract the specific skills and talents that will build our Northern economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The North has a long history of immigration. Newcomers made essential contributions to the fur, mining, and transportation industry. More recently, immigrants have supported our small business sector and secondary diamond industry.

Every year, we celebrate as a group of permanent residents join us as Canadian citizens. We need to ensure that immigrants feel like they can live here. We need to identify specific actions to fulfil our mandate in the area of immigration, and measure our success. We need to ensure that the process for establishing a business is clear and that we're connecting skilled individuals to new and existing opportunities. We need to identify barriers for new Canadians and do the hard work required to remove those barriers. We need to work with our federal counterparts to clear the hurdles to residency status, health care, and other important services. An immigration strategy is an exciting opportunity for the Northwest Territories, both for immigrants themselves and the communities where they will make their new homes. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN YOUTH ABROAD PROGRAM

**MR. THOMPSON:** Today, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Northern Youth Abroad and congratulate the organization as it released the names of selected 2016 participants, including 29 participants representing 19 communities from across the NWT. Northern Youth Abroad began in 1998 and served youth living in Nunavut until expanding also to serve youth across NWT in 2005. In fact, it was through the hard work and determination of those involved in education in NWT that Northern Youth Abroad was able to expand to serve our young people, and has continued to do so for the past 11 years. For that, I am thankful for the group of volunteers. Northern Youth Abroad offers unique programs and inspires self-confidence, promoting cultural exchange, building leadership, and providing young people with the skills and motivations to achieve their full potential. All this is done in a setting where youth get to gain high school credits, work experience, and job skills while travelling to new and different environments where they are encouraged to grow and learn. Northern Youth Abroad's placements have brought youth from the North all across Canada and internationally, but it's important to state that the most important work for each

participant is done in their communities, with the help of hundreds of volunteers from across the NWT. Northern Youth Abroad provides the experience that promotes leaving your comfort zone, facing challenges, and realising your own potential, but it does it in a way that is totally tailored to support each youth and contributes to their success.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Education, Culture and Employment for their long-term funding for NYA, and to thank Minister McLeod and Minister Moses for doing this as well. Please know what an important investment impact that this support has made. I have been fortunate to have been personally involved in seeing the great impact of this organization and program over the past eight years and have volunteered as a facilitator for the NYA program since 2008. As a facilitator, I have seen youth grow from year to year and listened to their stories. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks, colleagues. Northern Youth Abroad invests in long-term success of the participants by strong dedication to support program alumni in whatever next steps they choose. One of the most important aspects of it, and what you will see, we have one of their past participants now sitting in the Legislative Assembly in Nunavut, and I would think in the short term we may have one here sitting with us. As well, they have selected for the first time, a former alumnus, Karen Aglukark, to become the first chairperson of that organization, and we have two alumni, as well, who are members who sit on the board, including Sam Mantla of Gameti. At this point in time, I would like to thank that organization for helping support our youth and their growth.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BEST WISHES TO KAM LAKE ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN 2016 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Speaker, the 2016 Arctic Winter Games begin on March 7 in Nuuk, Greenland. This will be the biggest event of its kind in the history of Greenland. Sixteen sports will be held in Nuuk with a hockey competition held in Iqaluit. The games bring together young athletes from all over the circumpolar world in friendly competition, and it is an opportunity to share in the rich cultures of northern regions around the world. The games celebrate sport and social exchange in northern communities and are an incredible



opportunity for those living and often remote areas of the world to build partnerships, embrace diversity, and help our future northern athletes develop their potential.

I am proud to have the opportunity to attend the Arctic Winter Games this year and cheer on Team NWT in person. In particular, I would like to recognize the many fine athletes from my riding of Kam Lake: Brian Johnston, Lauren Eggenberger, Stephen Messier, Shakita MacLennan-Jensen, Akash Yadev, Deanne Whenham, Lacey Munroe, Lonan Bulger, John Angel, Logan Debogorski, Leonard Karambera, Kiah Debogorski, Liam Laroque, Hayly Soares, Kandis Villebrun, Tamara Toole, Sylvain Rourke, Andre Balasanyan, John Roche, Emil Balasanyan, Destiny Hobbs-Stewart, Devon Fillion, Shara Lafferty, Braden Johnston, Brynn Martin, and Tatston McQueen. I'd also like to recognize coaches and mission staff from Kam Lake: Aaron Wells, Gina Michel, Scott McQueen, and Jan Vallillee.

I want to thank all of our NWT team athletes and coaches for their hard work leading up to the games and wish everyone the best of luck. Go NWT! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to promote and praise our integrated environmental management system in the Northwest Territories. This system is the result of hard-fought, constitutionally protected land rights agreements negotiated by Aboriginal governments. Some parts of the Northwest Territories now have legally binding land use plans, environmental assessments, land and water management, cumulative impact monitoring, and environmental audit functions in place. These components work together to protect our land and water, ensure we benefit from resource development, and allow people to have a meaningful say in decisions. Our system is the envy of many around the world searching for ways to build sustainability and use traditional knowledge. If there are problems with our so-called regulatory regime, these stem from chronic underfunding, a failure to properly implement the components as originally negotiated and legislated, and attempts to circumvent and undermine it.

The mining industry continues to complain about our environmental management system due to perceived uncertainty. Mr. Speaker, if you want to see uncertainty, go to the Ring of Fire in northern Ontario where there was a development free-for-all

with no inspections, no consultations with local communities, and at the end of the day no mines. Our co-management boards have been working together for years, and since 2008, through a number of standard procedures and consistency working groups to develop guidance on application forms, community engagement, water use policies, and more.

This work has not received the recognition it deserves from this government or the mining industry. Attempts to unilaterally change the system have resulted in legal action. The legitimate and legislated way to improve our environmental management system is through the five-year Northwest Territories environmental audit. I look forward to the 2015 audit to be released soon, and to the response from GNWT that is to form part of that report.

This will be the first time our government has actually responded to the audit. I would like to hear our mining industry and this government begin to promote our world-class environmental management system. The continued negative messaging around our system is driving away potential exploration and development. Environmental management is not a barrier to development. It is the foundation of certainty of investment and stewardship of the land. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to my colleagues. One of the unfinished pieces of business with our environmental management system is the absence of participant funding, something available to all Canadians south of 60 in terms of federal environmental assessment. Later today, I will have questions for the Minister of Lands. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Hay River North.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend is going to be a busy one in Hay River, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to let everyone know about some of the exciting events that are going to be happening in our region. This year will be the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Kamba Carnival held just across the river at the K'atl'odeeche First Nation. It's an annual celebration of spring and a tradition in the region, attracting people from all over the North. It features snowshoe races, talent shows, dog sledding, fish-eating competitions, traditional games, and more. There's something for everyone

in the family to enjoy, so it's always a good time, plus there's cash prizes for a lot of the events, so it will be definitely worth your while to check out. Another great event that has become an annual tradition is the Polar Pond Hockey Tournament.

This year, a great group of volunteers turned the river at the Fisherman's Wharf into seven three quarter-sized hockey rinks. There will be about 30 teams participating in three different divisions: 18-plus, old-timers, and the women's division, also known as the competitive division. Teams play four on four with no refs or goalies and players are guided by sportsmanship and fair play. There is great hockey, food, drinks, and a live band, so it's a great time and it's really like nothing else around.

The other big event this weekend is Weekend Warriors put on by Race Hay River. This is a two-weekend racing circuit that takes place on the Hay River by the ice crossing. Racers compete in snowmobile, cross-country, and drag races, then ATV and dirt bike races. There's usually around 150 entries and some nice cash prizes, so it attracts a lot of good talent and makes for a lot of exciting races. There's lots going on in and around Hay River this weekend, but there's plenty of time to check out all of the events. The weather is going to be great, so I encourage everyone to come down to Hay River and take in all the festivities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCOME ASSISTANCE POLICIES

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I call Members' attention to the CBC North story of January 11, 2016, titled, "Woman says she was forced to evict two of her kids to keep her rental home." The story details the tragic experiences of a low-income mother. Income support refused to pay her rental allowance for the month because of overcrowding. In order to keep her place, she had to evict a teenage daughter and a son in his early 20s.

The mother of nine children with finally able to rent a two-bedroom home in December with support from ECE and the family was set to be reunited. But wait a minute, come January when staff learned she was sharing a two bedroom home with her three children, Income Assistance told her it could not support overcrowding. They said two of her children would have to go, or no more financial support. To give at least two or three children a room to themselves, she started sleeping on the couch in the living room. Not good enough. Two bedrooms means two people and two kids have to go. As this mother so accurately put it in the CBC story, "They don't support overcrowding, so in other

words, they're promoting homelessness." To avoid losing her home, she faced what she called her worst nightmare. In January, her 22-year-old son began sleeping at the Side Door, a youth homeless shelter, while her 16-year-old daughter was now crashing on a relative's couch. Income Assistance approved her rental assistance the day after these family evictions. The mom is now left to worry about her children's safety. The story contains an email reply from ECE to reporter questions, which says, "For the safety of NWT residents, in situations where income assistance clients are living in an overcrowded residence, ECE works with clients, other departments, NGOs, and landlords to address the situation." There doesn't seem to have been, however, much flexibility or common sense in this case.

The story of these experiences raises a lot of questions. In the broader sense, we know there isn't near enough housing to accommodate our citizens, so it's a choice between overcrowding and homelessness. You just can't escape the numbers. I'll have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Honourable Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM RATES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about something that is a very important item to the small communities and that is the attendance of students K to 12. Absenteeism is very high in some of our small communities and I would like to recommend to the Minister -- not now, I'm not making a recommendation now, but in the future I recommend that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment start to collect data so that they could determine the level of absenteeism in all of the communities, but specifically in the small communities. We know that if a student misses one day of school per week, that's an 80 per cent attendance rate, then at the end of 12 years of school, or 13 with kindergarten, they would have missed two and a half years of schooling. I think those numbers do come out at the end of the day when people graduate from grade 12 and they've missed two and a half years of school, then it shows. They are at approximately a grade 10 level when they finish grade 12.

I think that one of the things that I'm going to do is that I will be discussing the rates of absenteeism and the attendance with the principals of the schools in Tu Nedhe-Willideh and see what they see as a solution. Previously, in one of the small communities, we had a breakfast program. Absenteeism was very high, attendance was down, and the breakfast program seemed to change that.

A lot of students were starting to come in and have breakfast and then they were able to spend the entire day in the school, but that was discontinued because the cost was considered too high. I think that the cost is not too high, that we should have programs like that. But again, I wouldn't be standing here making a recommendation, but I would get the principals' opinions on how to get the classes in the seats, then present that to the Minister in another forum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Honourable Member for Range Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BEST WISHES TO  
NWT ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN 2016  
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge all of the youth participating in the Arctic Winter Games to be held in Nuuk, Greenland from March 6 to 11, 2016. The 2016 Arctic Winter Games is not only an athletic competition, but also an international circumpolar celebration, which provides an opportunity for our youth to develop new friendships, talk about the wonderful assets of the Northwest Territories, and learn about other cultures. I'm extremely proud that 21 of the participants are residents of the Range Lake riding, and no matter how each of them does, it's an honour that they're going to the games representing our community and the NWT as a whole. I cannot emphasize enough how proud I am of all the youth participating in this event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONDOLENCES  
TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE LATE OTTO  
BINDER

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take this opportunity to speak about a role model, a mentor, innovator, elder, family man, and respected resident of Inuvik, the Beaufort-Delta, and the North. Otto Binder was born in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. During the 1940s and '50s, he herded reindeer at Reindeer Station. He met his wife Ellen Pulk, daughter of Sami herders who brought the reindeer to the Mackenzie Delta region in the 1930s.

In the early 1950s, Otto moved his family to Aklavik where he began working as a game warden so that his children can receive an education. Soon after, he became an RCMP special constable, a job that made use of his knowledge of the land and his fluency in Inuvialuqtun. Otto's role as a special constable helped bridge the gap between the

Inuvialuit and the police, and his presence in the RCMP helped other Northerners like Gerry Kisoun and many others, see the benefit of becoming a special constable. After around 25 years in the RCMP, Otto retired and worked as a barge captain on the Mackenzie River for a decade before retiring to spend time back on the land. The Binder Family reacquired the reindeer herd in 2001. Otto would help his son Lloyd out occasionally during the winter until he was 85, then continued to provide advice. Lloyd mentioned that like many of his generation, he preferred to remain active into his last decade. It was difficult to become housebound. Otto continued to live a remarkable life surrounded by his family and friends.

I had the honour of presenting Otto with a plaque on his ninetieth birthday during my first term as an MLA. Afterwards, every time I saw Otto, he'd always give me words of encouragement and support when I saw him about the work that's being done in this House. Otto passed away peacefully in his home in Inuvik on Thursday, February 25, at the age of 93. He will be greatly missed by many Northerners as well as people in the circumpolar region of the world. There will be a service held this Saturday in Inuvik. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and his friends. Quanani. Masi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Honourable Member for Great Slave.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Minister's statement earlier today I talked about the On-the-Land Collaborative Fund, and I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize some of the collaborative partners who are in the gallery today.

First, Stephen Ellis, the program lead for Northern Canada Tides Canada; Geoff Ray, the executive director of NWT Recreation and Parks Association; Sabrina Broadhead, the director of Aboriginal health and community wellness with the Department of Health and Social Services; Claudine Lee, the head of the environment communities, Dominion Diamond Corporation; and Steven Nitah, the senior advisor Indigenous Leadership Initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Honourable Member for Hay River South.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize some of the people on the On-the-Land Collaboration Fund. Sarah True, regional environment assessment coordinator for the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources. Sarah was the administrative lead for the first round of applicants, coordinating all the partners and the massive number of applicants received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to acknowledge Stephen Ellis, the northern leader of Tides Canada, and thank him for his visionary leadership in self-determination. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everybody into the House today, and in particular, Mr. Geoff Ray. He and I go way back in terms of doing a lot of work, whether it was the anti-tobacco work that we did, helping create legislation in this House, as well as the Get Active campaigns and many healthy living initiatives. I'd like to welcome him to the House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize Geoff Ray, an individual I have worked with for a number of years over the time. Hopefully, I'll continue to work with him as an MLA. As well, I'd like to recognize Sabrina Broadhead, who was a former colleague of mine and was a mentor when I first started the job. Welcome.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Recognition of the visitors in the gallery. Member for Nunakput.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Quanani, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to acknowledge Geoff Ray in the gallery. I was with Geoff Ray when his team won the \$600,000 of the Arctic Inspiration Prize, so welcome, Geoff.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we may have missed individuals in the gallery, welcome. It's always nice to have audience as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 97-18(2): ADDRESSING HOUSING CORE NEEDS

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I made a Member's statement on the Housing Needs Survey. I'd like to ask the

Minister some follow-up questions. Yesterday I indicated the last survey I had was 2009, but it's actually 2014. There was an update done. The NWT Bureau of Statistics has worked with the NWT Housing Corporation to do a survey on housing. This survey began decades ago, and it's done approximately every five years, most recently in 2014. The survey reports on nationally acceptable indicators such as suitability, adequacy, and affordability. This is how they determine the core need. I'd like to ask the Minister if the Housing Corporation is continuing collecting information in this manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the NWT Housing Corporation does use the Bureau of Statistics to provide survey information every five years, and we will continue to do so. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I was wondering if the Minister is contemplating collecting additional data in a different way in order to supplement the needs survey for future development of programs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Yes, I really took heed of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's priority about wanting change within the government, and to be as transparent and as inclusive with the public as possible. The needs surveys that are provided every five years does give us the basic information, but we're actually looking for more information: a breakdown by community on what the people using the community -- the chiefs, the people, the LHOs, et cetera -- would like to see, and programs to be maintained, to be sustained, and to be expanded upon.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** When the Minister reaches out to the communities and gets community input on what they see as key in their communities for housing programs, how quickly, after that, then, can the Minister make changes to programs so that communities can take advantage of the programs, say, this coming summer?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** In all honesty, it is a question that I probably cannot answer. We are waiting to find out the negotiations that will be happening this coming week, actually, in Ottawa, with the Housing Minister and the definition of the budget coming down from the federal government. Once we get that funding and we know exactly what we're dealing with, or lack of what we're dealing with, then we will be able to develop a plan and start implementing program changes or upgrades.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** So I take it that if we don't get any money from Ottawa there will be no changes; that's not too good. Will the Minister take a serious look at the sale of public housing as a reduction in core need in the small communities? Thank you.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** As stated earlier, my goal is to ask the communities what they want in each community. It's not up to me. If I'm doing the process according to accreditation standards and best practices, it's not up to me to define what the community needs. It's for the community to define what they want. We will be making choices whether the federal government gives us extra money or does not. We will be trying to base the Housing Corporation's programs on what the communities need individually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 98-18(2):  
REPLACEMENT OF MOOSE KERR SCHOOL

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow-up to my Member's statement, I have some questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. As I mentioned, my constituents also want a school that could provide subjects -- for example, automotive. You know, many of our schools in the territory do not have, whether it's a two-bay garage or anything like that, that students can actually bring vehicles in and do automotive work or welding, carpentry; that sort of thing. I'd like to ask the Minister: the 20-year capital needs assessment dated 2011 showed a \$24.8-million replacement of Moose Kerr School being funded over four years, starting with \$2.9 million in 2018-2019. A later five-year capital needs assessment dated 2013 shows the replacement of 3,600 meters squared, Moose Kerr School, but without any funding. Can the Minister please clarify: What is the current status of Moose Kerr School replacement project in the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Typically, for capital planning purposes, the replacement or major renovation of a facility is planned at 40 years from the date of construction or 20 years from the date of a major renovation. My understanding is that a large capital project was completed in 1999, and there were additions to the building including a community library, three classrooms, and a science room, and that there also has been some small capital funding included

in the 2014-2015 capital that had been carried over into 2015-2016. Any maintenance upgrades in the amount of about \$2 million from 2008 to 2012 was spent on Moose Kerr School in that time, and there's various amounts of projects that happened in that time as well.

I just want to let the Member know that as a Minister early on in this government, we are planning on getting out into the communities and the schools to do visits to the communities as well. One of our first tours will be up in the Beaufort-Delta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** Will the Minister ensure that a planning study is undertaken as soon as possible, as the community of Aklavik expects?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As mentioned, based on the typical planning model, Moose Kerr School would be identified for renovations or replacement in approximately 2019 or 2020, but the existing condition of the building would need to be assessed prior to a recommendation for renovation or replacement. As I mentioned, technical assessments and numerous elements have been replaced or repaired through the maintenance funding, as I mentioned earlier, and that addressed a lot of issues.

Once again, I would be willing to work with the Member to do a community visit and look at the building. One of our policies as well is with school utilization. It's good for all Members to know, I think, that once school utilization hits an enrolment of about 85 per cent, then a school will be looked at in terms of being replaced or additions would be added to that. The utilization over in Moose Kerr School is at 48 per cent.

**MR. BLAKE:** As you may recall, the former Minister committed to actually replacing this school, and so I ask the Minister: will the Minister commit to re-flagging this project in the capital plan, so that the students can get into a safe, modern school, without the aging relic of a bygone era that they are currently stuck in?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As mentioned, if there was to be a replacement or major renovations to the Moose Kerr School, it would be in 2019, and that is during the life of this government. I will go back to the department and look at how we can put that possibly into the planning study before it gets into the building stages. I once again want to assure the Member that we will be doing a community tour up in the Beaufort-Delta during the month of March.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 99-18(2):  
NORTHERN IMMIGRATION STRATEGY

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. As I mentioned in my Member's statement a made-in-the-North immigration policy could be a key element in the Northwest Territories' goal to increase its population and generate wealth and economic activity. The department had targeted last April 2015 as the date for implementing the NWT Nominee Program, which would identify and fast track opportunities for immigration. Can the Minister advise the House of the status of an immigration strategy for the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, enhancing the Nominee Program is critical for the Northwest Territories, as the Member had stated in his Member's statement, in achieving its population as well as economic growth objectives, and also meeting some of the staff needs for northern businesses and northern employers. We have had success moving forward, but the department, I'll have to say, is currently developing an immigration framework, which will provide an integrated approach to implementing and monitoring long-term objectives of the Nominee Program, while also supporting territorial population growth.

The framework will be developed with extensive consultation with all stakeholders, and as mentioned in previous answers to other questions during this session, we do have the labour market review that's coming out, as well as our Skills 4 Success Initiative that's going to help drive us to see what needs we have throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** I thank the Minister for his reply. Has the department had the chance to learn from any successful nominee programs in other provinces or territories, and if so, what have we learned?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, as best practices, the department does go look at other jurisdictions to see what's happening with their programs, and we try to fit that and adapt that to northern situations. We have also a consolidated program delivery and dedicated specialized resources to the program. We've engaged employers and stakeholders that do need some of the personal resources to help them do their jobs, and just for the Member, in 2015, there were 106 nominees and their dependents approved under this program, and 460 since 2009.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you to the Minister for sharing those numbers because that answers my next question. I'll jump to my last question. Can the Minister identify any new ways in which we could help prospective employers and immigrants to find opportunities in the Northwest Territories?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** The department is currently working on an immigration communication strategy, which will continue to promote and raise awareness about the program. Increasing the awareness is critical for all employers, as well as stakeholders in the Northwest Territories. We also have a 1-800 number and employers can check online to see how they can get into the program, and we are, I believe, looking at a goal of 60 nominees for 2016.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 100-18(2):  
PARTICIPANT FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that the Department of Lands now coordinates GNWT participation in environmental assessment. Since the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act came into force in 1998, participant funding has been made available for exactly three of the more than 70 environment assessments or impact reviews that have taken place. Can the Minister of Lands tell this House who is responsible for participant funding for environment assessments in the Northwest Territories? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Lands.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the national scale participant funding is part of the overall federal environmental assessment regime in Canada, which also applies to the Inuvialuit Settlement region. The absence of participant funding in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act is a long-standing issue. The GNWT takes the view that the Government of Canada is responsible for participant funding based on the fact that the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act remains federal legislation and Canada has retained key authorities, such as policy direction and appointment to boards on the basis the boards are funded by Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I'm glad I'm not a pencil today.

---Laughter

The current federal government has realized the mistakes associated with excluding Canadians from pipeline project assessments and has announced changes in the way that citizens can be involved in such decisions in the future. Can the Minister of Lands tell this House what he is prepared to do to ensure NWT residents have access to the resources necessary to meaningfully participate in environmental assessments?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The reason I dropped my earpiece before was I have had feedback that I do tend to snap my earpiece a lot. I just realized I was doing it, so I dropped it, so I picked up the pencil and now I'll break it.

---Laughter

The GNWT continues to press the Government of Canada to address this issue. Officials from the Department of Lands raised the issue in early 2015 in a meeting with INAC senior officials. Obviously, the GNWT supports decision-making in the environmental assessment process but we will continue to work with our counterparts in Ottawa to see if there's ways that we can address the issue of participant funding.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I appreciate the Minister's response and his work with his earpiece as well, but the benefits of participant funding are well documented and they include building confidence in our environmental management system and creating buy-in for our residents while considering projects. I'm wondering if the Minister can just provide a little bit more information about what specifically the GNWT is prepared to do to push this issue with the federal government. I understand he mentioned letters that have been sent in the past, but is this something he'd be prepared to take up with the new Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We recognize the value of having our NWT residents participate in a lot of these processes, and I will commit to the Member that I will continue to raise the issue with our federal counterpart. We are fairly new in devolution. The responsibilities we're taking over are fairly new. I will take up the cause and continue to raise that issue with Ottawa so people in the Northwest Territories are able to be funded to participate in some of the hearings.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the response from the Minister. I'd be happy to work with him on this issue. I've got a little bit of experience in this area and would be happy to share that with him, though Canadians south of 60

degrees are entitled to participant funding through federal environmental assessment legislation. Here in the Northwest Territories there's the Interim Resource Management Assistance Program, or IRMA, to build capacity in Aboriginal governments outside the areas covered by land rights agreements. This is a very helpful initiative, but can the Minister tell us whether the GNWT is prepared to enhance our resource management legislation with a real participant funding program that is actually legislated? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take the Member up on his offer to work with myself on advancing some of these issues, again recognizing the fact that we're early in devolution and we're trying to work our way through the process and make sure we have a very strong regulatory system in the Northwest Territories. If that means funding some of the participants to make their cases to the respective boards, then it's something that we will continue to work on. Again, I will take the Member up on his offer.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 101-18(2):  
HIGHWAY NO. 1 MAINTENANCE

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during my 23 years of living in Fort Simpson, I've noticed there are some differences in how a section of Highway No. 1 -- not No. 7, No. 1 - - was maintained from Fort Providence Junction to Fort Simpson. As well, I've heard a number of issues raised by my constituents. Can the Minister of Transportation please advise this House how the section of Highway No. 1 from Fort Providence Junction to Fort Simpson is maintained?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Highway No. 1 is broken into two sections. The first section is from the Providence Junction at Highway No. 3 to Redknife, which is maintained by the Providence crew. That is managed by the North Slave region. From Redknife to Fort Simpson is the second section of Highway No. 1. That is run and operated through the regional staff in the Fort Simpson office. The maintenance on Highway No. 1 is done in accordance with the NWT Highway Maintenance Manual, which provides guidelines for various summer and winter maintenance. The supervisors in both regions are well-experienced and considerably skilled people at maintaining the road, and in the wintertime, both sections are maintained on a daily basis.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for his answer. Can the Minister provide the House with the cost to maintain each section of the road, Fort Providence Junction to Redknife and Redknife to Fort Simpson?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** To maintain each section of this highway is largely dependent on the weather and conditions of the infrastructure. There are a number of things that contribute to that, but both sections' cost is very comparable in maintenance.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I really didn't get an answer from the Minister, but that's all right. I'll move on to my next question. I find it very interesting that the Department of Transportation would split these two sections of the highway. Can the Minister please provide the rationale on why the North Slave district has a responsibility to maintain a section of the road and not the Fort Simpson District?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The Department of Transportation has divided the highway system in the NWT into four sections. We have the South Slave, the Fort Simpson section, the North Slave region, and the Inuvik Region. The boundaries for each regional operation are based on a range of factors such as operational efficiencies, workload, capacity, cost and service, and traffic levels, weather, and geography.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions, Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for his answer. I'm a little bit concerned with the answer. My challenge is: How can the North Slave District really manage this section of the highway? I understand the great work the Fort Providence staff do, but management based out of Yellowknife have no real vested interest in this highway if they don't drive down it. Will the Minister commit to looking to have the Fort Providence to Redknife section of the road transferred to the Fort Simpson District for more efficiency, or if that is not possible, can the Minister have his staff post on their website and on signage along the highway section between Redknife and Fort Providence Junction, and tell the users where they can raise their concerns to about the road conditions?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** All highways in the Northwest Territories are of great concern to the Department of Transportation and we take maintaining and looking after them very seriously. If the Member, or any resident of the Northwest Territories, has a concern with our highway system, they can always get hold of the department or myself personally.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 102-18(2):  
SUPPORT FOR NWT ATHLETES

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I spoke earlier, athletes from the NWT, including many from my own constituency, will be competing in the upcoming Arctic Winter Games. It's evident that we are giving the necessary support for athletes competing in these games, but what about other athletes throughout the Territories who have not been so fortunate as to gain entry into these games?

Cynthia Simmons, a proud Northerner and an amazing speed skater, is competing for a chance at gold at the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games this week in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. In fact, she is the sole athlete competing in these games from the NWT. I for one salute her courage and tenacity for being our ambassador at the Special Olympics and hope that she will return with a gold medal on her shoulders and a warm welcome from a proud territory. My question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs is: What programs and funding are provided to our athletes, and how will those programs work to send future athletes to games such as the Special Olympics?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We were very disappointed in the six sports that were excluded from the 2016 Arctic Winter Games, and we tried very hard to get an alternative event planned. Unfortunately, one of the jurisdictions backed out and we were unable to pull that together. We have given the excluded sports an option to find an opportunity to find a development opportunity, a tournament that they can go to as they would if they were competing in the Arctic Winter Games. We have a very strong, healthy support system for all of our athletes. We have the \$650,000 that we use for multi-sport events, and we continue through many of our programs to have opportunities for athletes to compete not only at a territorial, but at a national level as well.

**MR. TESTART:** I know that the Minister is very keen on sports and a real champion. In fact, recently he committed almost \$25 million to build the athletes' village for the Canada Winter Games.

---Laughter

Given that, will the Minister commit to allocating some of those funds and improving our programs for sport-oriented training and healthy community



initiatives, in particular for youth development in the Northwest Territories?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We were quite disappointed that the 2023 Canada Winter Games were not bid on by the capital city. I think it would have been a fantastic opportunity for not only the athletes in the Northwest Territories, but all the people involved in sport across the Northwest Territories, so we were quite disappointed. The \$25 million that the Member spoke of, that was a commitment that was made to help facilitate the games and provide an athletes' village, and then be used for some much-needed housing afterwards. We have a very strong, robust support system for our athletes and our youth across the Northwest Territories, and we will continue to provide that support.

**MR. TESTART:** Well, if it's not about spending new money, maybe we can ask the Minister if he will commit to avoiding any cuts to our already excellent support for youth and sport in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We value the input of all of our youth across the Northwest Territories. There have been no decisions, as the Member well knows, that have been made yet, and we will debate all aspects of the main estimates during the business planning process that is upcoming in just over a month. We will have that opportunity to debate and have feedback from committee as we move forward.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I definitely did not get a commitment, but I look forward to working with the Minister on these discussions going forward. I do think, as a champion of sport and youth, though, this should be an area that he finds easy to support, so I'll ask again if he'll remain committed to sport and recreation in the Northwest Territories through enhanced funding, or at least keeping funding the same.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I am committed not only to the development of our athletes across the Northwest Territories, which I think has been clearly demonstrated in my time as the Minister responsible for sport in the Northwest Territories, and I remain committed to that. I would like to see not only to the athletes, but to the health and wellbeing and the physical activity of all our children across the Northwest Territories, all of our athletes across the Northwest Territories, and I will continue to do what I can on my part to see that level of

commitment carried on. Again, as I said before, no decisions have been made, and we have an opportunity to debate this further. If there are opportunities somehow to enhance any of the funding that we have in the Northwest Territories, then we will seriously have a look at that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 103-18(2):  
ELIGIBILITY FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. The story of the rental assistance client being forced to make her children homeless because four people in the two-bedroom trailer is considered overcrowding. My first question is: what is overcrowding? Can the Minister inform us if universal uniform standard numbers are used to define overcrowding as it relates to eligibility parental assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of speaking to individual cases due to privacy laws that protect personal information, we cannot speak to personal individual circumstances or caseloads that are within our department. However, in terms of overcrowding, I don't have the exact number that the department does go by. I can inform the Member, though, that the department does currently get its guidance from sources like the National Occupancy Standards and the Residential Tenancies Act in assessing the appropriateness of housing of clients.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you to the Minister for his answer. I'm looking for two things now. I'm looking for a commitment for the Minister to provide that information about what the standard is for overcrowding that the department uses, and my second question is: who enforces these standards?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** When a client comes to the office, our CSOs, I believe, do a great job. Within the last government, a lot of changes and improvements and developments have been made, compliance and audit of the files have been developed, our regional managers actually do a monthly compliance of the workloads that their CSO's do. We have increased the staff training, as well as development. We also got to understand that in some cases, with some of our clients, they also need to live up to what is in the lease agreements with their renters as well, when going through this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you to the Minister. My questions the Minister is: Can he make a commitment to inform this side of the House what overcrowding is in terms of rental assistance and who enforces these standards.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As mentioned earlier, we do take guidance from the National Occupancy Standards, as well as the Residential Tenancies Act. That was reviewed in the last government, but we don't have a specific policy related to overcrowding. Obviously, we do want to provide the best possible outcomes for families and those that are in need of being housed, but it is a shared responsibility of individuals as well as the social departments within the governments. If that's something that we do need to set as a policy or standard, like I mentioned, we'll have to look at what the National Occupancy Standards do have and maybe also bring it before committee to see any recommendations that they might provide as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister. What I heard the Minister say here is that there are no specific standards for overcrowding as it relates to rental assistance, and so I'm wondering on what basis any standards are enforced in terms of how many people live in one dwelling. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As mentioned, when clients do go on income assistance or need that top up for market rental rates, the clients also have to adhere and still need to live up to the elements of what's in the lease agreement. When they get income assistance, they have to also abide by what they signed in the forms. Our Client Service Officers are just following policy, following legislation, and the landlords are also following what's in the lease agreements. When we fill out forms, we've got to make sure that we do it in the best way that's going to keep the family in the home.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput

QUESTION 104-18(2):  
SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS  
PROGRAMS

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Suicide is a major concern in the NWT and particularly in the Beaufort-Delta region where we have the highest rates of suicide in the territory. Suicide is preventable and most people who die by suicide

show warning signs. What is the department doing to prevent suicide and raise awareness of the issue in the NWT? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department does have a wide range of Mental Health Programs available across the Northwest Territories. Specific to suicide prevention, the regional health and social services authorities are funded to offer the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. This is often known as ASIST. ASIST is an internationally recognized training program based on best practices in suicide prevention and intervention. It is a two-day workshop that trains individuals to recognize the signs of someone at risk for suicide and how to safely respond to using the ASIST Model. There are upcoming workshops planned in Yellowknife, Aklavik, and Tulita. Suicide prevention and intervention is also a component of the Mental Health First Aid for Northern Peoples Training Program, which was jointly developed by the NWT and the Mental Health Commission of Canada in partnership with the three territories.

I've personally taken the Mental Health First Aid training. It's a fantastic training program, and I'd like to challenge all the Members to actually go out and actually complete this Mental Health First Aid training. It's very valuable, help break down the stigma of mental health and help your constituents, people across the territories, deal with the surge in suicides in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** There is no single cause of suicide, but one of the warning signs is withdrawal from family and friends. What resources are available to directly support someone who might be thinking about suicide if they are withdrawn from those who might have intervened to help them?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** This is one of the things available through the ASIST training, but also Mental Health First Aid, and help is always available through the healthcare providers in the communities whether a person seeks help on their own or whether family or friends bring them to seek care and assistance. It's really important to take warning signs seriously, and anyone who is thinking about suicide needs to know that there is help available.

Another source of support that we have in the Northwest Territories is actually the NWT Help Line, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Help Line is actually staffed by trained counsellors who specialize in mental health and addictions and who are able to assist callers with

helping them to de-escalate the immediate crisis situation, answering questions on suicide and on mental health issues such as stress management and depression. The Help Line can make referrals to community-based services, including health supports and community counselling programs available throughout the Northwest Territories and it also offers the option to have follow-up calls. Just so everybody knows what it is, the toll-free, throughout the Northwest Territories, Help Line number is 1-800-661-0844. I'd encourage Members to include this in their newsletters and maybe some of the advertising that that they're putting out so that people are aware of this important help line number.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Adding to that, is the department doing anything to build on these programs?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Yes, the department is in the early stages of actually developing a mental health and addictions strategic framework that will aim to address the gaps in current systems, improve services and program delivery across the territories, improve inefficiencies, and ensure that the public is safe. We are seeking advice from nationally recognized experts, as well as within our own system and throughout the Northwest Territories in all of the communities. The strategy will be released in the spring. Specific action plans under the strategic framework will be developed to address the key areas including mental health services, children and youth, and addictions.

In 2016-2017, the department also will be looking at expanding the NWT Help Line services to include live chat, which is a new function; telephone group sessions, which provides more opportunities for different discussions; as well as some work through Facebook pages. Health and social services authorities are funded to deliver the Mental Health First Aid training program and the ASIST Program each twice per year in every region, so Members will have lots of opportunities to get out and attend those training sessions. The department is also exploring partnership opportunities to expand training even further. We're always looking for ways to expand what we're doing in this area.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister provide some examples of things being done in the Nunakput riding to address suicide? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** In addition to the items that I've already described specific to the Nunakput Region, in Ulukhaktok the ASIST training, it took place in November last year, from November 24 to

25. The Suicide Awareness Event Workshop was held in September 2015. It included a community feast, a sharing circle, discussions, and addressed impacts, prevention, supports, and resources available in the community. National and territorial hotline numbers were also shared with the community members during that event.

In Paulatuk, Mental Health First Aid is scheduled to take place March 8 to 11, 2016, so in a week. In Sachs Harbour there was a community presentation by a counsellor in August 2015. The presentation included discussions of suicide risk in the context of substance abuse in youths, and recognizing an individual's pattern and behaviours, trying to create awareness within the community. Supports or programs available within the community were discussed, emphasizing the use of health centre staff, RCMP, and counselling, as well as continual reference to the 1-800 lines that are available. All of the suicide hotline numbers were provided at that time. In Tuktoyaktuk, once again, the Mental Health First Aid is scheduled for delivery from February 23 to 25, so that was last week.

A counsellor is working in the school twice weekly with children and youth providing individual support for individual children who are struggling. A women's group has also been set up with a strong following that indirectly addresses suicidal ideation and preventative measures in the context of relationships and other stressors. There are a number of things that are actually happening in the region on top of what we're providing at a territorial level.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Hay River North.

#### QUESTION 105-18(2): LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAM REVIEW

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Hay River right now, we're in the process of moving the medical clinic to the new health centre, and it's my understanding that, I imagine, in the next year or two the rest of the hospital will move as well. The Minister of Health and Social Services tabled the Long-Term Care Program Review in this House on Monday and it discusses our lack of long-term care beds. Currently we're slated to get 10 new beds built onto the Woodland Manor, and all that does is take the current long-term beds in the current hospital and move them to the Manor. My question to the Minister is: Since we have this shortage of beds and since the all-in capital investment of new long-term care beds is between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million, and since the cost of operating a current bed is \$136,000 a year, why aren't we continuing to use the current long-term care beds in addition to the 10 beds that we'll be getting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad the Member has read the report. This is a huge issue affecting us here in the Northwest Territories, and we certainly have to think outside the box to ensure that we are providing the 258 long-term care beds that are necessary by 2016. In the short term, we are staying in the old hospital until we have actually addressed the Woodland Manor expansion, but at the same time, and I've had discussions with other individuals who have indicated maybe we should look at a larger project in Hay River to accommodate the 50 beds that will be needed by 2026, we have to look at all options before we can consider a permanent residence in the existing HH Williams. We'd certainly have to have Public Works and Services do a technical review of that building to see if it's even appropriate.

One of the reasons we got out of that building was it wasn't meeting our acute care needs with respect to things like infection control, and we would definitely want to make sure, if that was something being considered, that that building would be suitable, so that assessment would have to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I could probably live with that 50-bed expansion that the Minister mentioned.

---Laughter

I understand the old hospital is not meeting, maybe, today's standards. I know there's an older part of it and there's a newer part of it, and the older part is the issue. That's the reason, I believe, that we needed to move out. The new part appears to be structurally sound. I know there needs to be some renovation done to it. Will the government look at renovating that building so the newer part of the building can extend its life?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** This is a conversation that will obviously have to occur between a number of different departments. I have been in that building and I know if you walk from one end of the building to the other end of the building, at one point you are technically walking downhill, so it does need some significant work. Before we can even have a discussion about whether or not it's a suitable building for this particular discussion, we would need Public Works and Services to do the assessment on the building to find out what kind of mechanical upgrades it might require, and whether or not it is the best use and best value for money, but certainly, as I said, we have to look for all options when we're trying to address this 258-bed problem and we certainly will consider options such

as HH Williams, if it were to get a suitable review from Public Works and Services.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I would like to ask: Will the Minister commit to doing that review with Public Works and Services so we can use this facility?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** As we leave to building to move into the new hospital, as well as the expansion of Woodland, the building would get an assessment from Public Works and Services to determine whether there was actually any practical use for this building. We will certainly have those discussions, and I commit to having those discussions with the Minister to see if this is appropriate, but we also want to make sure we get the best bang for our buck and best value for every dollar that we have to spend, given that is going to be a significant expense. Long-term care facilities are a person's home, and we don't really feel that an institutional setting is necessarily the most appropriate, so it may require significant renovations, if the building is even remotely suitable. But certainly, we will have those discussions and I commit to having those discussions as well as additional discussions with the Members from Hay River, who might have other alternatives for consideration.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Hay River North.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My grandma has lived in that building for 12 years, and so while it is an institutional setting, it is still a home and she looks at it as a home, so I know people do. It is their home. I would ask that the Minister commit to sharing that assessment with myself and the other Member for Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** As we are working for solutions to address the 50 beds that are going to be required in Hay River by 2026, I'm certainly going to be working with both Members from Hay River. I think this is a huge undertaking in Hay River, as it is in the Beaufort-Delta, as it is in Yellowknife, as it is in the South Slave, Sahtu, Fort Smith, and Simpson. This is a huge issue that we are going to have to work with all of the Members on, and I am committed to working with the Members to address this significant challenge.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 106-18(2):  
FIBRE OPTIC LINK PROJECT

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance. CBC is reporting that Ledcor has fired its

subcontractor on the first two-thirds of the fibre optic line because the work was inadequate. My question for the Minister is: What is the impact of this change on the cost of the project? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Finance.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There should be no change. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi to the Finance Minister for that. I would also like to ask about the impact on the timing of the completion of the project.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** There should be no impact, but I will follow up with their proponent and confirm that.

**MS. GREEN:** My larger question is about P3s. First the bridge, now the fibre optic line, and soon the hospital. What kind of oversight is the government providing of P3 projects to avoid the kind of problems that we seem to run into consistently with them?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have oversight on these projects, and that is how we discover some of the deficiencies in the project. You know, we can't assume that with the new hospital we're going to run into difficulties there too, but we do have a fairly significant oversight to a lot of projects that we work on.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Finance Minister for that answer. Could the Finance Minister please explain what that oversight process looks like? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** We would ask for updates from the proponents, and we have our own people monitoring these, and if we feel that there's a need for additional information we will seek that, but I can assure all Members that for the projects we enter into, we will have oversight, because these are public dollars that we are speaking about.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 107-18(2):  
STATUS OF THAIDENE NENE PARK  
DEVELOPMENT

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker and my apologies to the Minister of the Environment and

Natural Resources that I didn't give him a heads-up, but I'd like to ask him some questions about Thaidene Nene, if I may. I think these are sweetheart questions, so I think they are going to be pretty easy for him to answer.

---Laughter.

There's a rather large land withdrawal that has been set aside for this area and some of it dates back to 1970, and I think that's a good thing, but as I understand, that land withdrawal is going to expire on March 31 of this year. Is the department prepared to extend the land withdrawal? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the Member is correct. Interim land withdrawal is expiring in the coming days, but we have applied to renew that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I want to thank the Minister for the response. I think one of the key pieces that's missing to get this going a little more quickly is a review of the Territorial Parks Act. This is an ancient piece of legislation that dates from the 1970s that helped us set up roadside campgrounds, and it really needs to be updated to provide for much bigger protected areas, landscape-level sort of protection. Is the Minister prepared to review and amend the Territorial Parks Act?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The Territorial Parks Act is actually under the banner of ITI, but we will be looking at bringing that forward with him and it's something in the mandate of this 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I appreciate the answer from the Minister. Can the Minister tell us when we might expect to see a legislative proposal for the Territorial Parks Act?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** That is something we would have to confirm. As I said, it falls under the department of ITI, but we can look into it and get back to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to getting the information from the Minister. The last question I have on this is this. I did attend a public consultation session on the Thaidene Nene last year. I was a bit alarmed to hear the Minister of the day of Environment and Natural Resources say that the primary objective of the territorial government was to limit the federal footprint in the

Northwest Territories with regard to Thaidene Nene. I don't think that's a good idea. The feds actually can bring money to the table, and actually have a lot of experience with co-managing parks. I just want to ask the Minister. Is it still a primary objective of the GNWT to try to limit to federal footprint in the Northwest Territories with regard to Thaidene Nene? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** This is something that the department is still working on with all Aboriginal governments and partners, including Parks Canada and people in the general public, so what the park and who controls what in the end is still not a final decision. That's something that we will continue to work on, and we can engage the Member on that too.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 108-18(2):  
BOAT FOR AKLAVIK RCMP DETACHMENT

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for the Minister of Justice. During my last tour of my constituency, I visited the RCMP in Aklavik and found that they actually don't have a boat in the community, which, as you may know, is isolated for a good portion of the year, mostly during the summer. If there's any search and rescue or issues like that, how will the RCMP respond? I'd like to ask the Minister: what are the plans for getting a boat for the RCMP in Aklavik? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Justice.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I understand from what the Member has said is that there is no boat at Aklavik. I understand that there are several boats in Inuvik. I can look into this for the Member, but I don't have any information before me. Thank you.

**MR. BLAKE:** It's good to hear that there's a number of boats in Inuvik. So what's the Minister's plan? Is he going to transfer a boat to Aklavik for the RCMP there?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Certainly nothing will be done before the ice goes, but --

---Laughter

I think that's mainly an internal issue for the RCMP to determine the allocation of resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** We have less than two months here to figure out a solution, otherwise, as the Minister identified we'll have no ice road to actually ship the boat over. We can bring it over in the summer, but

then we won't have a trailer to take the boat out of the water. Will the Minister ensure that by the end of the ice road season there is a boat in Aklavik for the RCMP, in case we have an emergency over the spring breakup? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I don't really think I can make that kind of a commitment. Again, it's an internal matter for the RCMP to determine the allocation of resources. I will, however, look into it and get back to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 109-18(2):  
HIGHWAY NO. 1 MAINTENANCE

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Transportation to make a commitment either that he's going to look at the efficiencies of combining it, or put signage and post on the website as to whom complaints should be addressed. I didn't get an answer. Can I get the Minister to please make a commitment to either looking at the department moving it to Simpson, to placing signage on the road and on the website? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Member I will look into the matter, and as I stated earlier in the House today until we make a decision on the Member's concerns, they can phone the 1-800 number or get a hold of myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for the answer, but why can't we put it on the website? Why can we not put it on the website saying here's the information and to whom to address the issues?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I can talk to my department to see about how we can address his concerns, but in the meantime we'll have to have a look internally what we're going to do with this.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. The time has expired for oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Member for Frame Lake.

### Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 2-18(2):  
ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY AT PRAIRIE  
CREEK MINE SITE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Lands.

Regarding the Prairie Creek Mine site, could the Minister inform me when the most recent third-party

assessment of environmental liabilities was made, and:

1. Who conducted it?
2. What was the scope of this assessment (that is, what was included in the assessment)?
3. What was the amount of the liabilities estimated to exist?
4. Can the Minister table this report?

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I have another written question if I may?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Written questions. Member for Frame Lake.

WRITTEN QUESTION 3-18(2):  
REMEDICATION OF THE PRAIRIE CREEK MINE  
SITE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, again my questions are for the Minister of Lands.

Regarding the Prairie Creek Mine site and its ultimate environmental remediation and abandonment, what would it cost to remediate the entire site to current standards, and:

1. Is there an approved plan to carry out this work?
2. What is the current amount and form of financial security held under various instruments for the Prairie Creek Mine site?
3. Does Canadian Zinc have the financial capacity to conduct a full remediation on the basis of its current worth?
4. What is the plan to close any shortfall between the currently held financial security and the site environmental liability to ensure there are no public liabilities?

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's 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. Government House Leader.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 24-18(2):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION  
18-18(2): RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH AND  
RECONCILIATION COMMISSION REPORT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following letter dated March 1, 2016, to Mr. Michael Nadli, MLA for Deh Cho, regarding Oral Question 18-18(2), Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. 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. Minister of Finance.

### First Reading of Bills

BILL 4:  
INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS  
EXPENDITURES), 2016-2017

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 4, Interim Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2016-2017 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. Motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 4 has its first reading.

---Carried

First reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 4:  
INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS  
EXPENDITURES), 2016-2017

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 4, Interim Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2016-2017 be read for the second time. This bill authorizes the Government of Northwest Territories to make interim appropriations for operation expenditures for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principal of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried. Bill 4 has its second reading.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 4:  
INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS  
EXPENDITURES), 2016-2017

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr.

Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 4, Interim Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2016-2017 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion carried. Bill 4 has its third reading.

---Carried

Masi. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**PRINCIPAL CLERK (Mr. Ball):** Orders of the day for Thursday, March 3, 2016, 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 Commissioner's 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. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned to Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:16 p.m.