



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Great Slave)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	525
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	525
45-18(2) – Amendments to the Child and Family Services Act (Abernethy)	525
46-18(2) – Celebrating 50 Years of Partnership with the NWT Association of Communities (R. McLeod) ..	526
47-18(2) – Premier Absent from the House (R. McLeod).....	526
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	526
Remediation of Pine Point Mine and Town Sites (Beaulieu)	526
Future of Renewable Energy in the North Slave Region (O'Reilly)	527
Cultural Importance of Hide Tanning Workshops (Blake)	527
Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life 2016 (Vanthuyne).....	528
K'aagee Tu Protected Area (Nadli)	528
Plan to Address the High Cost of Power (Testart)	528
Housing Needs in Nunakput (Nakimayak)	529
Allocation of Lottery Funds (Green)	529
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	530
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	530
ORAL QUESTIONS.....	531
REPLIES TO BUDGET ADDRESS	537
MOTIONS	543
Motion 15-18(2) – Reappointment of Human Rights Commission Members (Vanthuyne).....	543
Motion 16-18(2) – Appointment of Equal Pay Commissioner (Blake)	543
Motion 17-18(2) – Extended Adjournment of the House to June 13, 2016 (Green)	544
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	544
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	555
ORDERS OF THE DAY	555

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, June 9, 2016****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Masi. Good afternoon, colleagues. Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 45-18(2):
AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILD AND FAMILY
SERVICES ACT**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to continue implementing the Building Stronger Families Action Plan to transform Child and Family Services, including work around the Child and Family Services Act. The main purpose of the Child and Family Services Act is to protect children in situations where they may have been harmed or where there is a risk of harm. The Act serves the best interest of the children by protecting them from exposure to abuse and neglect. The performance audit of child and family services, conducted by the Auditor General of Canada in 2014, revealed long-standing systemic issues and deficiencies. The Auditor General's report coupled with the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Social Programs led to the creation of the five-year Building Stronger Families Action Plan which is intended to transform the nature of child and family services. The reality is we still have far too many children who come into care under our legislation either taken from their families or put into foster placement or else remaining with their families but requiring support from our system. We never want to take a child away from their family if it's not necessary, but, at the same time, we have a legal responsibility under the Child and Family Services Act to protect children and youth from harm, including abuse or neglect.

Building Stronger Families is intended, fundamentally, to make child and family services more family-oriented and less adversarial than it

has been in the past. To achieve that goal, I am pleased to announce that, as of April 1st, amendments to the Child and Family Services Act have been implemented. Several changes have been put in place to ensure families are supported. The director of child and family services is now required to advise children, youth, and parents of their right to be represented by legal counsel throughout the child protection process. Transition plans are now included in the act. These plans are part of a case management tool intended to identify educational, life skills, supportive relationships, and financial planning goals for youth in permanent custody of the director. Other changes include the requirement for the director to provide notice to applicable Aboriginal organizations for apprehension hearings, permanent custody applications, and youth protection applications. The Aboriginal organization is entitled to be present and can contribute and participate in the proceedings. In order to ensure that all options have been explored before children are taken into care, child protection workers must also state the alternatives that had been considered prior to the apprehension within the time limits established for temporary custody, depending upon the child's age. The removal of a child from their permanent home is always a last resort.

Voluntary support agreements and foster care services will be extended to youth 16-18 years old. There will now be provisions for the protection of youth through an application for a youth protection order with temporary and permanent custody conditions. As well, Mr. Speaker, the provision is now made to extend services to the age of 23 for permanent custody youth to support independent living. Finally, there is an expanded criteria for when a child or a youth requires protection. This now includes prostitution and the removal of a child after repeated exposure to physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as neglect. These amendments will address the gap in services to youth and will encourage the least-intrusive measures possible. They will further the purpose of the act, which is to establish the legal framework to support the rights of children. Also, Mr. Speaker, the legislative review of the Child and Family Services Act will be required every five years. With these new amendments now in force, we can look towards providing a better life for most of our

vulnerable young people in care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 46-18(2):
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITIES

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities celebrates 50 years of collaboration and partnership among community governments and with the Government of the Northwest Territories. The NWTAC has long been an important partner of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. Since the beginning, the association has acted as an advocate for NWT community governments, ensuring that MACA and GNWT policy and programs reflect the needs and circumstances of their member communities. The association works closely with MACA and has played an integral role as MACA has developed and implemented the New Deal for NWT Community Governments, the municipal funding review, and the Accountability Framework, to name a few initiatives. MACA aims to encourage the development of capable, accountable, and self-directed community governments across the NWT and actively engages with the NWTAC to advance initiatives which support this goal. The Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment to its mandate to develop a strategy to address the existing gap in community government funding levels. We have also committed to develop and propose amendments to the Civil Emergency Measures Act and the Fire Protection Act. MACA's relationship with the NWTAC will support the department as it works to complete these actions over the next several years. Engagement and consultation with community governments, as represented by the NWTAC, is critical for developing new initiatives and implementing existing programs. I place great value on our relationship with the NWTAC as it ensures that the programs and services delivered by MACA are responsive to and supportive of the needs of the NWT's 33 community governments. I would like to congratulate the NWTAC on their 50-year anniversary. I look forward to the continuation of a strong and meaningful relationship with the organization and the NWT's community governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 47-18(2):
PREMIER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Bob McLeod will be absent from the House today to chair the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group in Ottawa, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
REMEDIATION OF THE PINE POINT MINE AND
TOWN SITES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many years ago just outside of Fort Resolution, actually about 40 miles down the highway or 60 kilometres down the highway or straight across the lake about 20 miles, they discovered lead-zinc. As a result of that, in the early 1960s a huge lead-zinc mine came into operation in the place that they named Pine Point. That mine operated from the early '60s until the late 1980s. At that point, I do believe it was the second-biggest lead-zinc mine in the world. In the 1980s, the price of lead-zinc went down, and it was no longer feasible to do open pit operation in Pine Point, so the mine didn't shut down but the town shut down. All of the workers went to other places to work, and what it left behind was quite a legacy, and that legacy of huge open pits all over the area. At one point, there was a community of 2,500 people that lived there, and almost everyone worked at Pine Point. It was a huge operation. They produced a lot of mineral out of there and left. Now you can't really see the damage to the land by road, but, when you fly over, you're coming back from Edmonton, you can see all the huge pits.

The people have often asked why that site was not restored or remediated, whatever term that's appropriate for cleaning up that kind of site. Today, I want to talk a little bit to the Minister and ask the Minister some questions on what the plan is moving forward for Pine Point. The people see that as a huge opportunity to clean up the land. Also, a lot of the individuals feel that a lot of the sickness in Fort Resolution could be associated with that, so it would be good to get a good, proper assessment and put people to work trying to restore that site. Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE
NORTH SLAVE REGION

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to talk today about the future of renewable energy in the North Slave Region. The Northwest Territories Power Corporation recently cancelled the request for expressions of interest to introduce major renewable energy sources for the North Slave region. Yesterday, the Minister of Public Works and Services tabled the North Slave Resiliency Study in the House. That study basically recommends against investing in renewable energy. As we all know, the low precipitation in recent years has crippled the hydro-generating capability of our Snare and Bluefish facilities. More than \$60 million in subsidies have been provided by this government. Before the election, NTPC issued a call-out for joint venture proposals to provide 10 megawatts of electricity through wind and solar. In April, we learned that the process was cancelled. A number of proposals were received, and significant effort went into those submissions. The parties that submitted proposals were told about the cancellation of the process through an e-mail, and some were not very pleased.

Renewable capacity isn't needed, the utility is reported as saying, because precipitation last winter has fixed our low water problems. Apparently, the decision to cancel the process came from the GNWT. I quickly reviewed the North Slave Resiliency Study last night, and I could not find much about climate change which may be driving low water levels. The report stated, "there is a large amount of uncertainty regarding climate change impacts to extremes, for example, the probability of more extreme droughts, the potential for increased inter-annual variability."

The analysis in the study is based on years of climate and water data, 30 years of climate and water data, but there were no predictions made on future water levels as a result of climate change that I could find in the study. Although we heard yesterday that the GNWT is about to start consultations on a new energy plan for the Northwest Territories, I am concerned that our direction is already being set by the North Slave Resiliency Study and the decision to cancel the Expression of Interest for renewables in the North Slave. I am also worried about the future of the Arctic Energy Alliance and its programs to assist in the adoption of renewable and alternative energy to homeowners and businesses. I will have questions for the Minister of Public Works and Services later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF HIDE TANNING
WORKSHOPS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about the importance of our traditional cultures in the Northwest Territories, especially on moosehide tanning. We're fortunate to be able to fund local community organizations with training opportunities such as moosehide tanning and caribou hide tanning workshops. Mr. Speaker, in my riding, my hometown of Tsiigehtchic, they've just completed a three-week training workshop on moose and caribou hide tanning. This is the second year that this has taken place, with much interest. This project has been able to employ on a short-term basis as many as five local participants, not including the five students who participated, as many members of the community over the spring, Mr. Speaker. As many of you may know, hide tanning is not an easy task: daily fleshing, hours of care put into what seems so simple to us that have never experienced the behind-the-scenes art of tanning. Mr. Speaker, the instructors set up camp, gathered wood, provided and cooked meals, as well as making the fleshing tools that were needed for each participant. The instructors were able to teach various skills and the importance of how to prepare the moose or caribou hides for final stages of smoking. Students from the Chief Paul Niditchie School along with the language program instructor took part in this workshop, as well, working with one moose hide, removing the flesh and hair which will be stored for next fall for completion. The instructors are still working after the initial three weeks so that they can complete their last stages of the project. The students are now working together with advice from their instructors, completing their hides. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the Gwichya Gwich'in Council in Tsiigehtchic along with the Government of the Northwest Territories have partnered to put on this workshop. ITI, being the sole funding source, and our communities' in-kind contributions can definitely see the Mackenzie Delta bring back many of our traditional customs. Not only do we teach ourselves and our community, but the project itself does contribute to the community's economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE
2016

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is about a terrible disease that in one way or another affects most of us in this room and across our territory. I'm speaking, of course, about cancer. While cancer doesn't strike everyone, it's hard to find someone whose life hasn't been affected by the disease. Most of us know someone who has lost someone to cancer, and for many of us it's more personal than that. I, for one, lost my mother to this horrific disease back in 2003. Mr. Speaker, last year the Canadian Cancer Society anticipated almost 200,000 new cases of cancer and almost 80,000 deaths. About two out of five Canadians will develop cancer in their lifetime. One in four will die of this disease, but there is good news, Mr. Speaker. The fight against cancer continues to pick up steam every year. More than 60 per cent of people struck with cancer are still living five years after their diagnosis, and many go into full remission and go on to live full and productive lives, never having a bout with cancer again. This is due in large part to the advances being made in science and technology that have in turn allowed for earlier diagnoses and higher rates of successful treatment. In the cancer circles, we call this hope. Tomorrow in Yellowknife, volunteers, cancer survivors, friends, and loved ones will gather at the Canadian Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life up at William McDonald School. Teams or individuals walk the track, keeping the relay going all night to raise awareness and to raise money for the fight against cancer. The Relay for Life takes place in more than 300 communities across Canada and last year raised \$34 million for cancer research, education, and patient support. I've been involved in the Yellowknife Relays for 13 years now, and it's an honour and a pleasure to be part of such a strong group of community residents, giving their time, hard work, and dedication to help fight this disease. Mr. Speaker, cancer is a terrible disease and the number one cause of death for Canadians, but we must continue to fight against it through fund-raising and research. Through those efforts, Mr. Speaker, I believe that cancer will be beaten. I ask everyone who can to please donate a small amount to support this great cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
K'AAGEE TU PROTECTED AREA

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

The Protected Areas Strategy is a northern conservation tool. It was introduced to help communities identify highly valued areas and preserve them for lasting appreciation and enjoyment. Establishing a protected area under the Protected Areas Strategy involves a seven-step process. It starts with the identification of an area and obtaining widespread support for its protection and eventual designation as a protected area with the full support for partners involved. These parties generally include First Nations, governments, and NGOs. Mr. Speaker, the strategy was put on hold for a period of time during devolution discussions. It has since made its comeback under the new title of the Conservation Area Network. Now Kakisa wants to move forward to establish their protected area. The proposed K'aagee Tu protected area covers 6,800 hectares within K'aagee Tu First Nation's traditional land use occupancy area. It extends into the Cameron Hills, toward Trout Lake, Enterprise, and towards Beaver Lake. The original proposal in 2009 was for 9,605 hectares of land that included a large portion of the Kakisa watershed. It has now since been reduced to 71 per cent of the original area to remove areas of high oil and gas potential while still preserving the most important features of the watershed. Some of this area is withdrawn under the current Dehcho Interim Management Agreement. Governments have said that the K'aagee Tu protected area is consistent with the overall 60 per cent conservation and 40 per cent development land quantum ratio proposed for the NWT.

There have been overlapping interests from Fort Providence and the Hay River Reserve regarding the candidate area and concerns about the proposed wood pellet mill and regional woodland caribou population. Chief Chicot states that the GNWT supports Kakisa's initiative and wants to move forward. He has made Kakisa's intentions known to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The community looks forward to hearing from the Minister and moving ahead to make significant progress toward establishing the K'aagee Tu protected area in the coming year. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PLAN TO ADDRESS THE HIGH COST OF
POWER

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's often said that our cost of living is out of control. It's always the top priority for Northerners when discussing governments and public policy and action that we can take to improve their lives. Mr. Speaker, the high cost of power is a

key driver in making the NWT a very expensive place to live and run a business. Taking control of the cost of power is perhaps the most important way our government can lower the cost of living and reduce government spending, which I'm sure the Finance Minister is pleased to hear. Mr. Speaker, the recent move to remove the Northwest Territories Power Corporation board and promise for a new governance structure could perhaps represent such a move to give the government more control over how expensive power is and real solutions to invest in infrastructure that will produce cheaper, cleaner, and more affordable power. Unfortunately, Northerners still don't know what the government's plan is for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation or affordable power in the Northwest Territories. We've heard that there are issues with developing renewable energy in the North Slave region, which Northerners want. Northerners want a real investment in renewable energy, and we need to look at all options. All feasibility studies aside, we need to make these solutions work today and start generating cheap and affordable power. Mr. Speaker, I encourage this government to do more than develop options and struggle to keep rates under control with costly subsidies. I ask that a real plan with clear outcomes be provided to this House and be shared with the people of the NWT so Northerners can have confidence this government is taking real action on the high cost of power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HOUSING NEEDS IN NUNAKPUT

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year in the House, I highlighted some of the housing challenges facing residents of Nunakput communities. But Mr. Speaker, housing is an issue that demands more attention. In my region, availability is a major obstacle. Lack of housing makes life hard for residents, especially those seeking single-person homes for single-parent families and for women and children seeking emergency shelter. Lack of housing also makes it hard to attract and keep the expert staff that our communities need. Added affordability problems don't make life any easier. In the past, communities like Sachs Harbour have had trouble keeping teachers, first, because they can't find housing and because, when they do, it's too expensive. Mr. Speaker, let's use Sachs Harbour for an example. The community's 40 households include 21 public housing units, and, between 2004 and 2009, there was a big drop in the number of homes in core need in this community. But then that rate began to climb again. In 2014, 29.6 per

cent of homes were in core need. That may not sound like a lot, but in our smallest communities, small changes have big impacts, Mr. Speaker. That's what makes it so frustrating when work falls behind schedule. In Sachs Harbour, a prefab duplex has been left uninstalled, waiting for a building pad. We know there is need. We know it is urgent. We know we must take action. When the federal budget was tabled earlier this year, it included \$12 million for affordable housing in the Northwest Territories and another \$15 million for housing in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, or the ISR, over the next two years. As we get into the nitty-gritty of our own territorial budget this week and in the weeks to come, I will be closely watching the government's response to the NWT's critical housing needs. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ALLOCATION OF LOTTERY PROCEEDS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the money raised in the NWT through the Western Canada Lotteries Program, like Lotto 649, Lotto Max, and all the scratch tickets, is administered by the NWT Sports and Recreation Council. About \$4 million a year has been disbursed to the territorial sporting groups and events for each of the last four years. These lottery profits go only to sports organizations here in the NWT. In all other jurisdictions except Nunavut, lottery money is also dispersed to arts organizations and community service groups. The question of whether sporting organizations should continue to be the sole beneficiaries of lottery funds has been debated as far back as 2008, when questions were raised in this Assembly about the diversification of funding to other participants. In response to questions of that day, the Minister of MACA, who is the same Minister today, by the way, said that: "MACA is working with the NWT Council of Sports and Recreation partners to review the overall management of lotteries in the Northwest Territories." Well, that was hardly a review that would result in one of the reviewers opening its own cash box for other organizations. The money continues to be sports-only. This year, a request for proposals was issued for another review of lotteries in response to specific legal matters raised by the Canada Revenue Agency; again, though, no mention of a broader division of proceeds. The arts are equally worthy of funding, not only for personal growth, but as a promising segment of economic growth. National statistics show that, on average, investments in the arts result in an 8-to-1 payback for every dollar invested. They provide attractions for tourism, increased business for hotels and restaurants, products for craft and fine art sellers,

and jobs, to name a few of the spin-offs. As this government worries about its bottom line, seeding our limited funds to areas that will provide economic diversification makes good sense. We have only to look at our neighbours in the Yukon to see what benefits a serious investment in the arts community brings in terms of tourism product and employment. I will have questions for the Minister on taking a new look at the allocation of lottery funds. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to special guests we have here this afternoon. We have Anthony W.J. Whitford here with us. He is a former MLA, former Minister, former Speaker, former Sergeant-at-Arms, former Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. He's currently Honorary Captain for the Royal Canadian Navy, Honorary Clerk of the House, and he's also celebrating his 75th year in the next two days, so that's going to be a big day for him.

I'd like to welcome Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford, and also he's accompanied by naval colleagues and family, as well, here in the gallery. Naval colleagues, Captain Davenport and Lieutenant Peats are here with us. Welcome. I would also like to recognize in the gallery Mr. Anthony Whitford's family members. We have his son here, Warren. Warren is my classmate of Sir John Franklin back in 1988, so welcome. His wife, Bev, and his son David here with us. Also accompanying Mr. Anthony Whitford is Jeanne Gagnon. Thank you for being with us. Those we may have missed, thanks for being here with us.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize the interpreters we have in the House from my riding. We have Tom Unka. Tom Unka is from Fort Resolution, and he interprets for us in Denesuline. Mary Rose Sundberg who is from Detah, and she interprets for us in Tlichio. Thank you.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome Mr. Les Carpenter, who is the CEO of the Native Communication Society and, also, he was board member of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Inuit

Circumpolar Council. Les has done a lot of advocacy work for Inuit, not just in Canada but internationally, as well, around the Inuit circumpolar world, so welcome, Les, and thank you for contributing.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like yourself, I want to take this opportunity to recognize our esteemed guest and Yellowknife North resident, Mr. Anthony Whitford. I also want to recognize the special guests in the gallery, and, in particular, I want to say hello to Woody Whitford, as we knew him, in high school, and his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two of our Pages here today from the Inuvik Boot Lake riding, Ms. Katelynn Crocker as well as Ms. Nicole Verbonac. I appreciate all the hard work that you did over this past week, and I hope you enjoyed your experience paging for Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly. As always, it's a pleasure to recognize Mr. Tony Whitford. Every time you come to the House, it's great to see you and your family. Everyone else in the gallery, welcome. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Again, if we missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Assembly, the Chamber. I hope you are enjoying our proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in the gallery. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Member for Yellowknife North.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 7-18(2):
JEANETTE SAVOIE – LEGAL AID LEADER
AWARD RECIPIENT

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'd like to acknowledge my constituent, Jeannette Savoie. On Tuesday the Canadian Bar Association recognized her as a recipient of the Legal Aid Leader Award. This national award recognizes legal aid lawyers who have made a significant contribution to providing access to justice for people in need. A legal aid lawyer in Yellowknife, Ms. Savoie engages in improving legal aid services and works with mobile legal aid clinics, providing justice services to isolated communities. Colleagues, please join me in acknowledging Ms. Savoie for her achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 195-18(2): HOUSING NEEDS IN NUNAKPUT

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I spoke about housing in Sachs Harbour in Nunakput. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Housing. My first question is: what's the status of the installation of the duplex in Sachs Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, the contractor was unable to complete the gravel pad last year. I'm happy to advise the Members, though, that all of the materials to complete the installation of the duplex are in the community at this point. We're anticipating that the duplex will be fully operational prior to August and allocated shortly after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, my next questions are: what are the Housing Corporation's infrastructure priorities for the Nunakput region in the coming year?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The Housing Corporation has identified needs within the communities from our previous needs assessment, and so we've identified that we need to replace older public housing; we need new affordable housing; we need major renovation projects on public housing. However, we have committed to working with the IRC, and, as such, we will do so before we define exactly what our priorities will be for that region.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister of Housing is: how will the GNWT work with Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to make the most of the new federal funding over the next two years?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated in the previous question, the Housing Corporation is using its definition of needs based on the needs assessment that was done. We've also met with members of the IRC individually, representatives, to see what they define as the needs. The final process that we'll be doing is actually calling a meeting with the IRC, which will be happening within the next couple of weeks, to show the results of what we've compiled and actually to hear what they have to say. They will take the lead on defining

where we go with that. I have committed, as the Minister, that I will actually attend that meeting in person to make sure that I fulfil my commitment.

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

QUESTION 196-18(2): PLAN TO ADDRESS THE HIGH COST OF POWER

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation said, first and most importantly, this change to the board of directors of the Power Corporation will save ratepayers \$1 million per year. My question for the Minister today is: that million dollars, how are ratepayers going to see that coming off their bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As this House will know, an application has gone in for an increase in power rates of 4.8, four, and four per cent over the next three years. The savings of a million dollars allowed us to keep the application that low. Had that million dollars not been saved, the application would have required a higher rate of return to cover the costs of the board. I haven't calculated the exact amount, but it would have been considerably higher than the rates requested. Thank you.

MR. TESTART: Previously the Minister had said that the Northwest Territories Power Corporation has been the recipient of substantial GNWT subsidies in recent years. Why is it then that the Power Corporation continues to increase power rates each year, more than 40 per cent since 2012? Is this subsidy a prudent expenditure of government resources in keeping the cost of power under control? It doesn't seem to be working, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly, there have been increases in power rates over the last five or six years, and we are anticipating increases over the next three years. However, this increase in rates is driven by several factors. The cost of fuel is certainly one of the factors. Also, too, the amount of power that the corporation actually sells is not increasing, and so costs tend to be stable or increasing while the amount of power actually sold is decreasing. Therefore, unless we are able to find a major export market, it would seem to me that power rates may continue to increase.

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, the Minister clearly has a keen grasp on the issues facing affordable

power in the Northwest Territories, but I don't hear much of a plan to deal with them. Can the Minister share with this House some of the ideas he has on dealing with this problem moving ahead and perhaps on how we're going to build on the NTPC's success with renewables specifically, Mr. Speaker?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The Northwest Territories is an acknowledged leader in biomass heating and ranks second in the country in solar capacity per person. As the House heard yesterday in the Premier's speech, we are going to be rolling out a new energy plan. We will be seeking the input of the public, Members of this House, interested parties, and we are anticipating in being able to table a new energy plan early in 2017.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the new federal government has offered billions in green infrastructure and plenty of money available for developing renewable power and renewable energy economies. Has the Northwest Territories Power Corporation applied for any of these resources, and are they looking at deploying to the Northwest Territories so we can get away from increases over every year, as The Minister said we can anticipate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Certainly, Mr. Speaker the Power Corporation is interested in keeping rates down. As I mentioned earlier, one of the projects that is a possibility, and this was mentioned in the House yesterday by the Premier, is the possibility of exporting power to Alberta and Saskatchewan. Those discussions are at a very preliminary level as they are governments, provincial, federal, and Aboriginal, involved. But I would expect, should we be able to move forward on that project, that we would hope to obtain significant funds from the federal government. It is a renewable resource, hydro. Provinces to the south of us, particularly Saskatchewan, have indicated that they wish to get off coal, and it does present an opportunity for us.

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

QUESTION 197-18(2):
FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE
NORTH SLAVE REGION

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions about the future of renewable energy in the North Slave region and I'll ask them of the Minister of Public Works and Services. I'd like to start with the North Slave Resiliency Study. I cannot see in the study where climate change models may have been used to predict water levels. Analysis seems to have been based on the past 30 years of

data. Can the Minister confirm that the North Slave Resiliency Study did not consider climate change and then no predictions were made of future water levels? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Public Works and Services.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Climate change was taken into consideration, but the focus was really on the previous 30 years and that is why one of the recommendation is to consider an upgrade and to keep monitoring our hydro production so that we can keep better statistics on the water levels and where we're going in the future with climate change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for the response. The North Slave Resiliency Study basically recommends against investing in renewable energy in the North Slave. Can the Minister indicate what the position of this government is regarding investment and renewable energy in the North Slave region?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: I would like to start by reinforcing that hydro is actually a renewable energy and one of the most cost effective as well, and we have a good supply as related in the Member's opening speech. It's sufficient for 90 per cent of our needs at this time. Unless there's a major mine would we actually have to look at expanding upon that. Within the cost analysis it was shown that the current system as we have now is cost effective versus bringing in something such as a solar system which would cost millions of dollars, and that cost would actually have to be transferred to the ratepayers. We're on top of it, we're watching it, but one of the priorities within this Assembly is the costs of living. We're really conscious that we want to support renewable energy but the most effective renewable energy options that we have at this time.

MR. O'REILLY: I guess I do agree with the Minister in that the North Slave Resiliency Study did recommend against investing in solar, wind, and biomass. Hydro, yes, we can probably spend a lot more money on that too perhaps, but we've already made a significant investment in Arctic Energy Alliance as the delivery agent for a variety of very successful energy conservation and retrofit programs over many years now. What impact will the recommendations from the North Slave Resiliency Study have on this investment that we've already started through the Arctic Energy Alliance and its programs?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The NWT is actually the second in Canada in regards to renewable resources and I really want to keep that

title. In fact, I would like to be number one if we could get there. Arctic Energy Alliance is really key in distributing the renewable energy resources to communities, so we are committed to maintaining an Arctic Energy Alliance within our programs and projects to work with renewable energy within the NWT.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Minister for her commitment that the recommendations coming from the North Slave Resiliency Study will not impact in any adverse way Arctic Energy Alliance. Yesterday in the House the Premier announced that there was going to be a new energy plan for the Northwest Territories. We already know that NTPC cancelled work leading to renewable energy in the North Slave. The North Slave Resiliency Study recommends against solar, wind, biomass investment in the North Slave. It appears this government has already started to make up its mind about renewable energy, at least in the North Slave. Can the Minister tell this House how renewable energy will be considered in the energy plan and whether that will be an open and transparent process? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, the new energy plan will be... We will try to consult as much as possible within the definition, so although right now at this point the study showed that within this region that we have capacity, that we're fine within the hydro system, the renewable energy system that we have currently, we still are focusing within our thermal communities. We need to get them off diesel. This is really not sustainable energy and it's not good for our environment. This is not only a concern for the Northwest Territories, this is national wide and international wide, so we've committed to working nationally and internationally on this issue. We take it very seriously and we will continue to research and stay abreast of current practices and as soon as the cost of alternative besides hydro becomes more cost effective than we will refocus and relook at that again because there have been really amazing results come in with the solar and the capacity of batteries, et cetera. We're on top of it and keep watching it.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

QUESTION 198-18(2):
K'AAGEE TU PROTECTED AREA

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. "Collaborate with First Nations government" seems to be the mantra that this Cabinet has put forward, and there's also a need

for jobs, so of course obviously a need to work with industries as well. Can the Minister explain how our concerns over the wood pellet mill and the woodland caribou population within the K'aagee Tu protected area are being addressed? Mahsi.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Ms. Speaker. The department is working on the Conservation Net Reduction Plan to bring forward towards this House here during this session. Hopefully we're going to bring forward our new strategy and Conservation Action Plan. These two questions that he's proposed to me are both related to the conservation area that he's referring to. The woodland caribou has a strategy that we're developing right now with our Aboriginal partners and collaboratively with all people, user groups, and that. I'm glad to say that the working group has worked on a plan and we're expecting to release that by the end of 2016 for the Deh Cho region. As the Member is well aware, the Conservation Action Plan will protect areas for the habitat of boreal caribou. That's something that'll be in the long-range plans for that region and also for the territory-wide one that we will be introducing on boreal caribou. As for the question for the pellet mill and its effect on conservation areas, there's two things, I guess, related to the pellet mill: one is the boreal strategy that also would be affected by the FMA holders in their wood lots. Those things were addressed through the land use permitting of those FMA holders. I believe that the total area for both FMA holders in boreal caribou would have a minimum impact as low as point-two-five per cent of the range plan for boreal caribou. Yes, we are trying to work with all groups in this and move this forward, so thank you for that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Negotiations can take time; however, I believe the department and this government could consider mechanisms including fast tracking negotiations or putting interim measures in place. What is required to move candidate area from its current evaluation stage to the next step in the process? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Ms. Speaker. As I've said, we are moving forward with the conservation network planning for the NWT. Hopefully within this session we're going to be tabling Healthy Land, Healthy People NWT Conservation Area Action Plan 2015-2020. Within that strategy it's going to have an engagement section and we want to get going on all these areas that were put forward as soon as we can once this is brought to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: How does the Department of Environment and Natural Resources plan to

support the processes here? You know, it's moved from an initial concept of Protective Area Strategy, it's kind of moving to this new conservation network initiative there. How would the department plan to support this process?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Once the plan is tabled in this House, we will be looking at seeking engaging our Aboriginal partners and advising a plan with the priority outcomes and that. We will continue with the process with all Aboriginal governments and private sector and user groups as we did previously. We will be looking to engage them in a meaningful way.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are the two protected area linked to the Deh Cho land use plan and the overall land use plan for the Northwest Territories? Mahsi.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I would have to get back to the Member on that particular issue. I'm not quite certain how they're linked together. In the land use plan there's a Territorial Land Use Plan Strategy and the Deh Cho has their process for their protected areas as well. I'd have to get back to the Member on that.

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

QUESTION 199-18(2):
ALLOCATION OF LOTTERY PROCEEDS

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, Mahsi. My questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. First of all, can you update the House on the status of the review of lotteries to bring them into compliance with the CRA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're still doing the process of trying to bring the lotteries into the department. It was recognized a few years ago that having lotteries distributed by SRC may have been taxable to the point of \$1.4 million. The SRC to their credit are the ones that brought that forward to our attention, though it's better that these proceeds go to physical activity across the Northwest Territories rather than their existence. We're still in the stages of that right now. We're getting legal opinions and everything and we're trying to ensure that we have that transferred too within the department so that we can use that \$1.4 million for physical activity Northwest Territories. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge we've never consulted with the public to determine whether there's a desire to see the funding eligibility opened to the arts as well as to sports. Program review seemed to involve only sports organizations and, of course, they have a vested interest. Is there an opportunity to have a broader conversation on how the proceeds are allocated? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, there is always a broader opportunity to have further discussion on this. We feel that the investment that's made by the government through ECE into the arts through ITI is fairly significant and to the point of, well, \$2 million, I think, through ECE. I'm not exactly sure what the ITI numbers are. To say that this money is going directly to sports, it actually goes to the overall physical activity and healthy choices activity for people across the Northwest Territories. This program, I think, was \$5 million that we're looking to distribute, and that would go to our four sporting organization partners who deliver a lot of programs in all the remote communities, plus it also goes toward funding all the territorial sport organizations across the Northwest Territories. That little pot of funding has to go a long way. Unfortunately, we don't have the level of profits as other jurisdictions across the country and if we start spreading those small proceeds even further then hopefully we don't want to water down their effectiveness. We believe that there's a fairly significant investment into arts and culture across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you to the Minister for his answer. At the beginning I thought that I heard that he would be interested in having a public conversation. What would it take to get that conversation started?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we hear from the public all the time, through Members. Asking me to take this on the road to 33 communities has got to be cost-effective first of all, and we know what we're going to hear. We're going to hear... Well, we assume we know what we're going to hear: the arts organization across the Northwest Territories will say that they would like part of the lottery proceeds and all the folks that are responsible for delivering physical activity in healthy choices sport programs will say that we need more money ourselves. We feel with the \$2 million plus investment from other government departments, that's a fairly healthy investment into the arts community. I told the Member that there's always opportunity to have public consultation, what that consists of we'll have to determine that. I do have a forum coming up later on this spring or early summer. I've made a commitment to our sporting partners that we were going to have another sport forum once we get further into the lottery proceeds

going over to the department, and that might be a great opportunity for me to get their input as to what the next steps may consist of. I'll have that conversation with them and we'll see where we go from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for that. Mr. Speaker, I don't expect the sport organizations to say that they would like to give up any of their revenue so I'm not sure that really will achieve the ends that I'm looking for here. The information I have is that lotteries contribute \$4 million a year to sports organizations, and I take the Minister's point that this is physical activity. I don't know how the money invested in sports compares to the money invested in arts, all things being equal for that same age group. I wonder if the Minister could commit to producing that information as a starting point to having this conversation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member is absolutely correct, I don't think the sporting organizations would say we want to water down our investment any further, much like if you asked the arts community if they want to spread that \$2 million plus they get between another 30 different organizations. I don't think they'd be in favour of that as well.

I mean, there's opportunities here to get some feedback and I will commit to the Member that I'll spend the next little while exploring these options a little further and then we'll continue to have a dialogue. I'll talk to the sporting organizations during my forum with them and seek their input, and we've got the input from the Member obviously, and I'll continue to seek more input.

It has to be balanced, Mr. Speaker. There's a very healthy investment in the arts for such a small jurisdiction and we have a healthy investment into the overall physical activity and healthy choices and supporting activity in Northwest Territories, so we have to find a good balance there, but I'll commit to the Member that I'll continue working on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 200-18(2):
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING POSITION IN
TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, it's been a couple of years since we had a commitment in this House for a full-time LPN in Tsiigehtchic. I'd like to ask the Minister, what is the latest update on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that commitment was made prior to my term as the Minister of Health and Social Services and we have had debates in this House before. At this point in time we're not planning to put an LPN in the community but we have been working with the community to come up with an alternative, a community-based solution. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have attempted to get into the community a number of times to work out that pilot with the community where we think there's a significant opportunity to train somebody local to provide some of the emergency response as well as some of the other services in the community. Unfortunately, all the meetings that we've had have been cancelled due to unfortunate circumstances beyond anybody's control. I will commit to having our staff go in there. In fact, we have been able to confirm a date. Our staff are going in to meet with the community on August 29th, which I know is a little ways a way and I understand how frustrating that can be considering how long it's taken us to get there, but we are committed to getting this done; we know there's interest in the community, and we have a date. Hopefully, you know, barring any unfortunate, unforeseen circumstances we'll get in there and we'll start developing that pilot. It's going to be a great opportunity to work with the community to develop something specific that works with the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, you know I've said a number of times in this House every spring and fall we have a nurse in the community for a total of close to five months out of the year, which is great for the community. If the community had a nurse that is willing to live and work in the community would the department be open to this?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the challenge of that is if we put one nurse in the community we could actually create some liability issues. I know we do it during freeze-up or break-up but we don't have one-nurse stations here in the Northwest Territories; we're trying to ensure that there's proper and adequate backup so that the individuals who are on call during the evening don't have to be on call every day 24/7. It can be quite extensive. I'm happy to have that discussion. If the Member can have that person share their information with us and let them express their desire, we'll certainly have that discussion. Our concern is having a 24/7 person in that community. One person can't reasonably do it. We would be looking at the alternative that we've discussed and coming up with a community-based solution.

MR. BLAKE: I thank the Minister for that, that's very promising. One thing the department should know that everybody that lives in Tsiigehtchic is pretty much on 24-hour call all the time because we don't have nursing services or policing service, so the community is always the first people to act, Mr. Speaker. With that then I will be sure to pass that on to the person that is interested and get in contact with the Minister as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I'll take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 201-18(2):
REMIEDIATION OF PINE POINT MINE AND
TOWN SITES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all fairness to the Minister, I'm going to be asking my questions in my own language.

[English translation not provided.] Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little bit of a delay there. Pine Point, as the Member stated, was around for a long time and for a number of years it's been shut down as I know, as I'm a resident very close to that community. Pre-devolution I believe the Pine Point mine site would have been a federal responsibility and I would have to look into that matter, but I believe prior to devolution it was under the responsibility of the federal government. Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: [English translation not provided]. Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check with the federal government if this is part of the devolution final agreement on contaminated sites and get back to the Member where that's at if it's part of devolution.

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: I have had the opportunity to meet the Minister from the federal government, my counterpart, but we not had direct discussions on Pine Point Mine site.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral Questions. Member for Tu-Nedhe-Wiilideh

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, [Translation] the people are saying there the Pine Point Mine, the work that was worked on all the

chemicals that was used would be going into the water. The Fort Resolution bay might be affected by the chemicals that were used for the mine. It seems like the people are getting sick from it and we don't know. I would like to ask the Minister when are you going to start doing an assessment on how the land is impacted, the extent of the impact? When are you going to do that? [Translation ends].

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: The Pine Point site falls under the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. ENR works closely with all other departments. Related to this land use it would be the Department of Lands and ENR. Under ENR we'd have a water licence and all these things are monitored adverse to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. Back to the federal government, if it's a federal government responsibility and we're still trying to figure out how that's working with devolution. The remediation plan will have to be coming probably from the federal government; no different than other federal sites.

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

QUESTION 202-18(2):
REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
JUDICIAL REMUNERATION COMMISSION

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a document that was tabled yesterday by the Minister of Justice and it hasn't really received much press so I'd just maybe like to ask the Minister about it. It's the Report of the Northwest Territories Judicial Remuneration Commission. I was looking at it and I guess it's like negotiations with judges for judicial remuneration, and I see that they got about \$1000 a month raise. I'd like to ask the Minister is this correct? That's it for now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, one of the hallmarks of a democracy is an independent judiciary. In 1997 the Supreme Court stated that there were three components of judicial independence: security of tenure, administrative independence, and financial security. As a result of that case, every jurisdiction set up a commission, a Judicial Remuneration Commission, including ours, and every four years they give us a report. I think this is the third or fourth report. It's not a negotiation in a sense but both sides, if I can put it that way, represented by counsel, put their arguments forward. The commission determined that an increase was merited. In the first year it'll be approximately 4.5 per cent and the three following years it'll be the Consumer Price Index plus 1.5 per cent. There is an increase and this increase is not really subject to any further negotiation. We've

agreed to be bound by the findings of the commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I respect the separation of the judiciary from the Legislature. Does this increase have any sort of effect on ongoing negotiations or can it be used as precedent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: No, this is quite different in my understanding from other negotiations, because it's not a negotiation in the normal sense; it goes to a commission. It would be more like a binding arbitration. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is quite different than any other negotiation the government is entering into or conducting at this time and could not be treated as a precedent. Thank you.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How well do we pay our judges compared to other jurisdictions in Canada? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the commission looked at was salaries of other judges and I think the salaries of our judges are on a par with other jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, there are some challenges certainly in living in the Northwest Territories and the judges must travel far more than judges do in the south, so it's more demanding from that point of view. The salaries certainly are not out of line with the salaries in other jurisdictions. Thank you.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just thought that was something the public should be informed of so I wanted to get the Minister out of his seat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. I'll take that as a comment. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 203-18(2):
IMPACTS OF PROPOSED GNWT POSITION
REDUCTIONS

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On June 1st, budget day, I asked the Minister of Finance if we could get a table that would lay out the job changes that were being proposed in the budget, things like whether the positions were vacant or not; whether these changes were a result of reductions, sunsets, or new initiatives full-time, part-time, and I'm still waiting for that information. I raised it again with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment a couple of days ago and he committed to work with his Cabinet colleagues on this. Mr. Speaker, we've now finished four of the departments and this is an important piece of information that this side of the House would like to get to help us with our review

of the budget. I'm just wondering if I could ask the Minister when I might expect to get this information and if he can't give an immediate answer can he take it as notice. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Finance.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I could give the Member an answer but I will take it as notice and I will commit to getting the information put together. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, replies to budget address. Member for Sahtu.

Replies to Budget Address

MR. MCNEELY'S REPLY

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to reply to the budget address. Mr. Speaker, last week we heard the presentation of this Assembly's budget. As we stand here today, if we turned back the time to last year or last Assembly's budget deliberations to unwind our current financial position, we would only find ourselves faced in a similar decision about our financial destiny. This budget is based on current challenges to reach balanced financial positions on terms developed by our peers and colleagues across the floor. It is said, and I agree, that the best social programs are wage-earning opportunities that bring security and self-reliance to all who participate on infrastructure and proposed infrastructure development.

Mr. Speaker, governance means setting priorities to achieve the goals and aspirations our voters expect of us for the delivery of programs and services. Our population living in small communities has and will contribute to the totals gained through the federal transfer payments. Given that calculations are equal to those living in larger centres, together the income makes up for over half of the GNWT's income. The smaller communities' populations therefore must be served with the same privileges as any other Northern residents. Mr. Speaker, that privilege includes the right to develop their own lands for economic opportunities. We cannot afford to sit idle on this vast land of potential and wait for the TFF payment. When it comes to infrastructure development, Mr. Speaker, let us review the principles of engagement for the stakeholders on the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway extension: the portion from Wrigley to Norman Wells is 330 kilometres in distance. Of that right-of-way 72 per cent is in the Sahtu region and 28 per cent in the Deh Cho. The capital cost of this project is applied for at \$700 million. During the previous years, this

government participated and assisted the regions to develop a project description report. This report in our area, or Sahtu area, shows granular embankment volumes in excess of 8.5 million cubic metres of granular material. If you multiply that by a rate of your choice on the royalties, you would see significant income from that commodity by itself. I only can assume it would take place over several years, thus creating multi-year activity at a time of great need. As stewards of the land and elected officials of this government, it is incumbent upon us to provide growth opportunities based on the principles of commerce and trade.

Mr. Speaker, let us review some elements of the ROI or return on investment for this proposed capital project. Tourism is already worth over \$100 million in annual income for our territory, and by creating affordable access to the central Mackenzie Valley area further attractions to that area would bring additional traffic and higher revenues. By developing oil and gas and mineral potential in the area we could reasonably expect resource royalties to contribute in excess of \$30 million in annual income to this government. Savings to this government also should be realized through more affordable construction, shipping, and overall mobility. In our selected options for revenue generation, we risk being viewed as the Sheriff of Nottingham by placing additional taxes on our few northern residents.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, the Mackenzie Valley Highway is supported by Members of the previous Assembly, the Sahtu Secretariat, various NWT chamber organizations, Alberta NGOs, and the recommendations made in the Transport Canada's recent National Transportation Review, as well as many other representatives of governments and industry. We will be resilient. Through sound and prudent financial planning I believe we can overcome this troubled financial inheritance and work together to create a prosperous future for all residents of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Replies to budget address, day seven of seven. Member for Hay River North.

MR. SIMPSON'S REPLY

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a few general comments in reply to the budget address and I'll save my specifics for when we debate the main estimates. This budget process has been quite a unique experience. We have an unprecedented number of first-term MLAs, elected during a time when commodity prices were falling to ten-year lows, investment in the territory was waning, and no new mining projects were on the horizon. The Department of Finance told us that we need to find \$150 million in savings, and because the previous Assembly saw fit to extend its term, we

were forced to compress a budget process that usually takes about six months into three. These factors provide the backdrop to this budget and are contributing factors to the frustration expressed by Members on this side of the House.

One of the biggest contributing factors, as I see it, was the expectation for change. We were elected on the heels of sweeping changes to federal and provincial governments, whose partisan systems allowed changes in ideologies to be superimposed on an existing government structure. Our system is different. We're not party politicians who adhere to a party mantra handed down from on high. We each think for ourselves, and our policies are driven by the wants and needs of our individual constituencies. That means that change comes slower than it would in a party system. We cannot immediately imprint our way of doing business on the apparatus of government, because it takes time to figure out what our way of doing business is. This has drawbacks and benefits. It provides stability by reducing the risk of wild shifts in policies after each election. The mandate document produced by this Assembly is an example of us trying to find our common vision. Regardless of our individual political leanings there is something in the Mandate for all of us. The left-leaning priorities are countered by right-leaning priorities. The aggregate is a middle of the road document. Without strong leadership and collaboration among all Members, the stability that consensus government provides can also be its biggest drawback.

You'll notice that our mandate is full of references to ongoing GNWT initiatives and many vague and non-committal phrases. Without a unified vision, we defer to the expertise of departments and their stable guidance. We continue on the middle-of-the-road policies from the previous Assembly, which followed the same middle-of-the-road policies as the Assembly before that and so on. Now in this 18th Assembly we're expecting a change in the functioning of a government apparatus whose mode of operations is fully entrenched. We had unrealistic expectations about change: not about the amount of change, but about the speed of change. Even when there is political will, change is slow. The Premier or a Minister cannot perform the actions of government. He or she relies on departmental senior management to dutifully carry out orders. If the orders do not follow the middle-of-the-road path that a department is used to, there can be resistance. It appears to me that some departments think the best political input is no political input. At times the Regular MLAs have been inundated with unrequested information, while at the same time being forced to wait weeks for pertinent and time-sensitive information that we did request. This lack of information and input is the source of my frustration. When combined with the

truncated timeframe and the opaque nature of the main estimates, the first steps towards finding \$150 million in cuts or revenues is happening without Members being given the proper tools to provide adequate input or oversight. Don't be mistaken, Mr. Speaker, I will attest that everyone on this side of the House is working hard and doing the best possible job with the information we have; we just need more information. With all that being said, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that I actually do see change happening. We, the Regular Members, did not get everything we want in the budget consultations leading up to the debates on the main estimates, just as I'm sure each Minister didn't get everything he or she wanted when Cabinet was debating the budget internally. However, I will give credit where credit is due. There have been instances where Cabinet was responsive and by working with them we were able to maintain millions of dollars in programs and jobs.

---Applause

It's my understanding that in previous Assemblies, such compromise was unheard of. Despite not getting as much information as I would like or want we were privy to a level of detail that, again, was unprecedented in previous Assemblies. That fact that these comments seem at odds with my earlier statements about the lack of information speaks to how slowly change occurs and how far we still have to go. While there may be countervailing views, I don't believe that we've hit a brick wall in Cabinet relations; I believe we're making progress. Has the Premier fulfilled every promise he made when he ran for the position? No, but he hasn't turned his back on those promises either. Even our Finance Minister is softening his steely persona, as evidenced in the House these past few days.

---Laughter

I join my other colleagues and question the need for the \$150 million in cuts. I've been asking but I have yet to receive a satisfactory or detailed answer to how that number came about. Regardless, that's the number that they're sticking with. The exercise to find \$150 million was a perfect opportunity to find efficiencies and streamline departments. If a corporation, which always has the bottom line in mind, wants to find efficiencies and improve operations and accountability, they will undertake an internal audit. Effective internal audits adhere to universally accepted best practices that require an objective and independent auditor who has the freedom to speak to every member of a department in confidence and provide an unbiased appraisal directly to a Minister.

Unfortunately, the approach that this government took was to give each department a reduction total and let them figure it out. What the departments

came back with is what we'd expect: cuts to frontline staff and programs with no substantial changes in department structure or senior management staff. But really, what else could they do? The job of senior management is to run the departments efficiently. If that's the case then they should have already found all the efficiencies and a different approach to the reductions should have been taken. By tasking the departments with this reduction exercise the government passively prioritized cutting spending through layoffs and program cuts over finding money through innovation, identifying efficiencies, and addressing the structural problems within departments. I'm not opposed to the idea of reducing spending. Like my colleague Mr. McNeely stated, we can't just sit on our resources and wait for the next federal transfer payment. We can generate the revenue we need to provide services without attracting significant new investments in the resource extraction industry, and that requires us to make investments in transportation infrastructure. However, the manner in which the reductions were done has the appearance of favouring bureaucracy over efficiency. This government can do better. Now, Mr. Speaker, these are just my general observations as a Member of this Assembly six months into my first term, part way through my first budget session. Despite my criticisms, I'm still confident that we will ultimately be able to do good for the people of this territory. I encourage Members on both sides to strive to work together so we can give our citizens the change they voted for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Replies to Budget Address, day seven of seven. Member for Kam Lake.

MR. TESTART'S REPLY

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government has brought its budget for the coming year. I am pleased to see it is not in fact an austerity budget, rather is one of status quo. It balances reductions with new spending in an effort to meet the shared priorities of both sides of this House. While I'm pleased with this outcome, I cannot say the same for the efforts undertaken by the leadership of the Premier and Cabinet to communicate these spending measures. In fact, I do not believe that any reasonable Northerner would have believed in the months leading up to the introduction of the budget that this plan was anything else than one of damaging cuts and significant job losses. Great pains were taken by this government to spread the message of economic uncertainty at a time when Northerners needed hope and a vision for growth and stability as the 18th Assembly came into its own. This message was soundly rejected by the Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly and our desire for a stronger economic plan for our future

was widely supported by our constituents at home across the territory. I continue to question why this heavy-handed rhetoric of austerity and fiscal crisis was ever required given the final outcome of this budget process and I have great confidence that it had everything to do with the hard work and undaunted advocacy of Regular Members calling for real growth and programs that respond to the priorities of our people. I give a great deal of credit to the Premier and Cabinet for listening to the concerns of Northerners and of their representatives and tempering the message of fiscal doom and gloom while offering a budget that maintains a healthy level of government investment in our economy and communities. Clearly there is still hope for our consensus government system as we work together for a prosperous and healthy future for the Northwest Territories.

While this government was warning against so-called reckless spending that would beggar our grandchildren, the Premier and Cabinet eagerly await handouts from a government in Ottawa that, by their own assessment, is doing exactly that. I am, for one, grateful to have a willing partner in the federal government in Prime Minister Trudeau that understands the need to grow and diversify the national economy through significant spending and by taking ambitious risks that will pay off with increased growth and new job opportunities. That does not mean, Mr. Speaker, that I do not believe in fiscal prudence or removing the weight of tax burdens governments sometimes implement on the shoulders of their citizens. Being that there is no new oil and gas production activity happening within the Northwest Territories, the closing of the Mackenzie Valley Petroleum Office makes good fiscal sense, while reducing taxes on small businesses will invigorate entrepreneurs to do what they do best, innovate.

This is more important than ever in this current economic climate for the Northwest Territories. Bedrocks of our economy, mining and mineral exploration, are in trouble and we, as leaders, must do whatever we can to restore this industry to growth, to create jobs and lasting prosperity for our communities. Increasing the Mining Incentive Program, as I promised I would fight for in my campaign, is the right course of action to help our partners in the mining industry achieve new opportunities for exploration so we can be ready to develop new mines when commodity prices return to health.

This government's commitment to review the Heritage Act will ensure that resource royalties from mining will provide economic benefits to future generations and provide new and sustainable revenues for this government moving forward. Film, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and the support of an evolving knowledge economy is where I know

we must aim if we are to diversify our commodity-dominated economy like most other jurisdictions have in the past. Supporting the same through tourism, product diversification and the film rebate program is a good start, and I agree in principle with the Convention Bureau, but I need more clarification to reassure me that we are not just creating an advertising department for one hotel in our capital. We need more infrastructure to support our tourism industry and make the north as spectacular as our marketing slogan is. Bring more people here. Show them how beautiful it is and allow them to make the decision on their own to relocate here and increase our population base. Tourism 2020 can be a key component to beginning our long road to diversification, for as rich as we are in minerals, the natural beauty of our lands and the thriving culture of our peoples is on par with any jurisdiction in our great nation or the world. As the government puts it: we are spectacular!

I'm troubled by the fact the government has only thought of utilizing Aurora College as a proponent of the knowledge economy. Although it is a great institution unto itself, it's not the only option. Dechinta and College nordique francophone are offering great programs that can relieve pressures and expectations currently solely invested in Aurora College, and we can act as their partner in attaining the knowledge economy that this territory truly needs. I'm not unrealistic; I know we are almost always a one-horse economy. Mining and mineral exploration have not only been the dominant and economic force in our past but without question will remain that way for our foreseeable future. For if we wish to return to the robust growth that we have become accustomed to only a few short years ago, it will be upon the back of that industry. We are a volatile economy, if not the most in the country. We are dominated by the price of the commodities and as I stated earlier, I believe diversification is vital for long-term economic stability but that is still a while away.

I believe the government made the right choice in not implementing austerity and I applaud the Minister of Finance for that because if this government would have taken such action it would have only added to the suffering of those most affected by an economic downturn: the working poor and employees in the natural resource sector. I will be keeping my eye on the Department of Finance in future budgets and I pledge I will never support a government that puts its bottom line over the well-being of its people, its stakeholders, and employees. On that note, the Department of Finance has become the perennial bearer of bad news, providing a constant reminder of fiscal trouble and economic downturn. Even when other departments deliver positive results relating to

tourism, agriculture, and other areas of economic growth it all ends when the next fiscal update hits the floor, and that's why I would strongly advise this government take into account the need for change of tone when presenting fiscal updates to the public. The Minister of Finance has also become the grim reaper of the public service. An undeserved reputation given that cuts are, in fact, balanced with new positions and new spending. Indeed, the sense of concern is borne not of action but instead from a persistent communications campaign that has promised cuts without promising growth. I urge this government to develop stronger communications plans in the future that emphasize the positive aspects of our economic outlook and plan budget measures. Hope for the future is always stronger than the fear that this government has nurtured over our economy and fiscal future. Voters in the last election chose a new government and demanded new leadership and a new way of doing business. While they certainly did not vote for cuts and austerity, equally, they did not vote for the status quo. While I am grateful that the Premier has listened to the concerns of Regular Members and has been working with this side of the House on creating a balanced approach to this budget, I'm disappointed that this budget does not go far enough to deliver real change. The Finance Minister said our economy is the most volatile in Canada and in principle I concur. It's clear we need to make stabilizing our economic growth a critical priority for this and future governments, and achieve this stability by investing in jobs and economic diversification. There's real potential in growing our agricultural, manufacturing, tourism and arts industries along with pursuing innovation through new opportunities and clean energy and renewable resources.

Mining and mineral exploration industry is still our economic bread and butter and we have a duty to support them, for if even one disagrees with that industry there are real people involved who suffer when commodities are down and we, as their representatives, cannot let that suffering go unanswered. On November 23, 2015, I had the honour of being elected by the constituents of Kam Lake to implement real change and I do not take that responsibility lightly. What the North needs is not the status quo but rather the transformative change that puts our economy on a new sustainable course for the future. I declare here, though, if the government does shy from that responsibility to ensure this change we, on this side of the House, will not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Replies to Budget Address, day seven of seven. Member for Yellowknife North.

MR. VANTHUYNE'S REPLY

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted on my first day that I arrived here, I'll have to get used to going last with a name like Vanthuyne. Mr. Speaker, I am joining my colleagues today in replying to the budget address. The Members on this side of the House who have spoken before me, have provided thoughtful insights on the processes we have collectively experienced since we took office. They have also spoken, more specifically, about their observations on the standing committee's review of business plans and the budget deliberations now underway in the Legislative Assembly. I appreciate the views they have shared. I am also grateful for this opportunity to add my perspective on the work of the government and the role of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I believe we all share the view expressed yesterday by our colleague Mr. Beaulieu, who adamantly noted in his reply to the budget address, "government must change the way we do business!" I couldn't agree more. With this goal in mind, the challenge is to determine how to deliver better government for NWT residents.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say at the outset that there is much that is good about our government and government in general. I have a personal vested interest in government. I have spent seven years now as an elected official on two levels of government because I care about my community and I care about the North. I want to give back to the North because it has given so much to me. I want to do my part and bring about effective change, positive and productive change for our territory, in an effort to allow all Northerners the opportunity to have their dreams come true. I believe deeply in government. However, I am also deeply concerned about some of the problems we face today: an economic downturn, poverty and homelessness, escalating health costs, climate change, the list goes on. How do we address these problems? We can start by addressing them as a collective body, as one government. Mr. Speaker, many people believe that this government should run more like a business. As a small business owner you might think I'd be one of those believers. Yet, I acknowledge that government and business are, for a variety of reasons, fundamentally different institutions. In fact, I believe most people would not really want to see this government act like a business: making quick decisions, behind closed doors, with no need to consult. Wait a second. Just kidding! Just kidding, Mr. Speaker.

---Laughter

One of the fundamental differences between government and business is that business is driven by the profit motive: the best decisions are those which increase the bottom line. Government, on the

other hand, is geared towards balancing the needs and rights of many people with varied interests, with the goal of creating a better society. While government cannot be run like a business, it can adapt the very best aspects of the business model by becoming more entrepreneurial. Mr. Speaker, there is a vast difference between bureaucratic behaviour and entrepreneurial behaviour. Our government's bureaucratic behaviour receives failing grades, treats citizens like clients, and is criticized for being slow and cumbersome, where no one is willing to take action unless it is covered by a policy. Entrepreneurial behaviour is innovative, creative, more effective and efficient, and does more with less. I believe most people would like to see our government be less bureaucratic. I also believe that with a change in attitude that fosters an entrepreneurial spirit, government can surely begin to shift its position on that scale. Naturally, we value our education, our health care, and the necessary infrastructure to deliver these programs. We don't want higher taxes that lead to a higher cost-of-living in an already very expensive region, and we don't want cuts that lead to layoffs, lost jobs and reductions to valued programs and services. The government has told our residents, our business community, our NGOs, and our employees that there are only two ways out of our fiscal predicament: we can raise taxes or we can cut spending. People are tired of this messaging and are ready for a new alternative, a third choice. Mr. Speaker, if I may be blunt, what needs to be cut is government waste. Unfortunately, waste within our government does not come in a convenient little garbage bag, ready to be tossed to the curb. It is marbled throughout our bureaucracies. It is embedded in the way we conduct our business. Waste is employees on idle, working at half-speed or barely working at all, and often at no fault of their own, but due to lacking orientation, training, direction, and leadership. It's people working hard at tasks that simply aren't worth doing, following policies that should have never been written, filling out documents, spreadsheets, and forms that should have never been developed. As all of us know, our fiscal system encourages departments to waste money. If managers don't spend their entire budget by the end of the fiscal year, two things happen: they lose the money they have saved and they get less next year, hence the time-honoured government rush to spend all funds by the end of the fiscal year. Waste in government is staggering, but we cannot get at it by wading through budgets and cutting line items. We must turn our bureaucratic departments into entrepreneurial operations ready to identify and drop obsolete initiatives, willing to do more with less, eager to absorb new and innovative ideas, and encourage employees to be creative and resourceful. In other words, be entrepreneurial, use resources in new ways to maximize productivity and effectiveness.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear, the great folks who work in our government are not the problem, it's the bureaucratic systems they work in that are the problem. In no way am I criticizing any of our employees; in fact, I am trying to give them hope. We have roughly 4,500 employees in the GNWT and many others throughout other orders of government. That's a tremendous proportion of our northern workforce, and they are talented, responsible, dedicated people trapped in archaic systems that frustrate them, limit their creativity, and zap their energy. As I noted above, I believe the systems need to be changed so we can liberate the enormous creative energy these great individuals have and bring new life to public service.

Mr. Speaker, the lessons are there, this is not new. Many governments are faced with the same challenges of growing demands for more programs, services and infrastructure, while having limited revenues. Many of these governments have been in much more dire circumstances than ours and they have found ways to look within and get lean. Like them, we have to be creative. We can't keep looking at our problems the same old way, blind to the solutions that lie right in front of us. Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear again, it's not about how much government we have, it's about what kind of government we have. Too many of our past Assemblies have taken the two-option model as a given, and that was tax increases or no tax increase; more cuts or no cuts. Our fundamental problem is not too much or too little government. Lord knows many Assemblies have debated that issue endlessly and it has not solved our challenges. The fundamental problem is that we have the wrong kind of government. I know there are many bureaucratic systems that are still working well in different parts of the world. That's fine if the situation is stable, the tasks are straightforward and simple, and if everyone wants the same outcomes. Here in the North we live in a time of dramatic change, whether it's the effects of climate change, our diverse population, balance between traditional and knowledge-based economies, land claims, social challenges, and the ever-advancing wants and needs of Northerners. In this environment, our bureaucratic systems are failing us. Northerners want to see our government be more flexible and adaptable. As we all learned and observed on the campaign trail, residents are demanding higher quality programs and services and insisting that we squeeze more bang out of every buck. What does all this mean? It means our government must become responsive to our people and offer more options and choices, getting off of standardized services. It means communicating with persuasion and incentives rather than commands. It means giving our employees meaning, control, even ownership. It means no more prescribing policy after policy that takes away

their ability to use good judgment. Most importantly, it means empowering our citizens and communities rather than simply serving them, treating them like clients. The intention is not to criticize government, we know that goes on enough already; in fact, the hope is to renew it. My sense in the election and more recently among new Members especially, is that there is a need for fundamental change. We've heard it in this room. We don't want to belabour another strategy, another plan, another survey, more policies, more regulation and acts; we want to be part of a government that transforms itself from entangled bureaucracies into an innovative, flexible and responsive government.

It is on our shoulders as Members, and perhaps more importantly as Ministers, to lead this change. The leadership of a government or a company can tell you a lot about how it is run and the way it does its business. If we want these changes, we must lead the way, enabling and inspiring our managers and employees to do the best work of their lives. All should feel the strength of the team and the support of the leaders in making change happen. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we don't need more, we don't need less, we need better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 11, replies to budget address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, report of standing and special committees. Item 14, report of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Member for Yellowknife North.

Motions

MOTION 15-18(2):
REAPPOINTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION MEMBERS,
CARRIED

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Section 16.2 of the Human Rights Act provides that the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission is composed of such members, between three and five in number, as may be appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS there will be three vacancies on the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission as of June 30, 2016;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha that the Legislative Assembly recommend the reappointment of the following individuals to the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission:

- Ms. Marion Berls of the Town of Fort Smith, for a term of four years; and
- Mr. Charles Dent of the City of Yellowknife, for a term of four years;

AND FURTHER that the Speaker be authorized to communicate the effective date of these appointments to the Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motion's in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Motions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

MOTION 16-18(2):
APPOINTMENT OF THE EQUAL PAY
COMMISSIONER,
CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Section 40.2(1) of the Public Service Act provides that the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, shall appoint an Equal Pay Commissioner to exercise the powers and perform the duties set out in the act;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of the current Equal Pay Commissioner, Ms. Nitya Iyer expired on June 30, 2016;

AND WHEREAS Ms. Nitya Iyer has expressed an interest in reappointment for a fourth term as equal pay commissioner; and whereas the Board of Management is prepared to recommend her reappointment;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Ms. Nitya Iyer be appointed as the Equal Pay Commissioner in accordance with the Public Service Act for the commissioner of the Northwest Territories as recommended by the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER that the Speaker be authorized today to communicate the effective date of the appointment to the Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motion's in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried. Motions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

MOTION 17-18(2):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO
JUNE 13, 2016,
CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River South, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns today, June 9, 2016, it shall be adjourned until Monday, June 13, 2016;

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to June 13, 2016, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should begin at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Motions in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried.

---Carried

Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now call the Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 15-18(2), Main Estimates, 2016-2017. With that, Mr. Chairman, we would like to continue with the Environment and Natural Resources and possibly get into Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): We will consider the document after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Minister, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber? Please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: On my left I have Susan Craig, director of finance; on my immediate right I have Deputy Minister Ernie Campbell. On my further right, I have Assistant Deputy Minister Erin Kelly.

CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE): Thank you, Minister. Committee, as mentioned yesterday by the other chair, please keep the sidebar conversations to a minimum. It is kind of difficult to hear when questions and answers are being asked. Thank you. With that, committee, we will continue with Environment and Natural Resources, forest management, operation expenditure, activity total, \$37,922,000. Committee, any further questions? Committee, are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Next, we have Environment and Natural Resources, water resources, operation expenditure summary, activity total, \$11,475,000. We will defer page 99 and continue with page 100. Environment and Natural Resources, water resources, grants, contributions and transfers, information item. Any questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of questions here. There was a partnership with Wilfrid Laurier in that we have contributed \$200,000 to last year. This year, there is zero in the budget. Can the Minister or staff explain what is happening here? Is their research finished? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was the last payment in a series of payments for a ten-year partnership with Wilfrid Laurier. We no longer need to make those payments because we are paid up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Will we continue to work with Wilfrid Laurier in any way,

given that this was a ten-year partnership with them? Thanks Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, there is ongoing work that is being undertaken. There are many partnerships that we are working on with Wilfrid Laurier University. They have research at several research stations around the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. The Water Strategy Action Plan, there is a reduction there of... I am not going to try to do the math in my head. \$116,000 my colleague tells me. What is the reason for that reduction? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is related to the negotiations and implementation of Transboundary Water Management Agreements. There is less consultation than there was before and more implementation. Therefore, funds have been transferred to O and M. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Not on this page. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I want to commend the department for the efforts they have put in previously in negotiating transboundary agreements with other jurisdictions. I just wonder if this is the right area, I believe it is, to ask the department what the current status of negotiations are with other jurisdictions, in particular Yukon, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan? What resources will the government be putting towards that? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are in ongoing discussions with Saskatchewan, the Yukon, and Nunavut. We are just at the very beginning of preliminary discussions with Nunavut. We have an existing agreement with the Yukon from 2002 that we are looking to update to be more similar to the agreements we have signed with Alberta and British Columbia. We are hoping we have a draft agreement that we are reviewing with

Saskatchewan at this point. With respect to funding, as directed, we will be going forward with the forced growth submission on this go-around. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions on page 100? Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Next, we are on water resources, active positions, information item. Any questions on page 101? Committee, are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Now we turn back to page 99. Environment and Natural Resources, water resources, operation expenditure summary, activity total, \$11,475,000. Are we agreed? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I did have a question on the page. I just couldn't see where it could get raised anywhere else. Water regulatory line, under program detail, there is fairly significant reduction there of \$200,000. I think that is money for the department to get engaged or involved in water licensing. I note that the Jade Project is likely to enter into water licensing during this financial year, so I just want to make sure that we actually have the capacity and the capability to continue to engage in that and a number of other water licensing proceedings. Can the team explain the reduction of \$200,000? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Return to Ms. Craig.

MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Within the water resources division, we moved a position from the community stewardship advisor, we decentralized that into the Fort Smith region as... We relocated it to Fort Smith. There was a reduction of funding in water resources. It was increased elsewhere in the department. In water research and study, which I believe the Member was asking about that budget as well, that we had an increase there for the expansion of the hydrometric network. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Craig. Any further questions Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: I am glad that the witness mentioned the hydrometric network. I know that there is quite a bit of discussion behind the scenes to help improve the network. I am just wondering if the Minister would be able to speak to the ability of the department to continue to expand that network over the next couple of years. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There will be five additional sites that will be added to the 90 existing hydrometric sites in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Return to Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the work that is going to be done this year. I am wondering about the next couple of years after that. Is there a longer term plan or commitment from the department to continue to expand the hydrometric network? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. There has been an assessment done of priority monitoring stations. As resources become available, we will of course look at those stations in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks for the answer. I will try to work with the department to continue to expand that network. The last question I had, Mr. Chair, is contract services: there is quite a large increase there from the previous year. What is that additional money going to be used for? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Craig.

MS. CRAIG: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I refer back to the comments made by Dr. Kelly earlier regarding the transboundary and water stewardship funding, where we moved contribution funding into O and M and contracted services is one of the areas where we moved those funds. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Craig. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Sorry. One more. I just didn't know where to ask this question in other sections. We are supposed to be talking about water, but I understand the department is also developing some air quality regulations. Just wondering if the Minister can provide a bit of a status report of where that work is at. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The expectation is that the framework for air regulations

will be going out for engagement this month. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: No thanks, Mr. Chair. That is good news. I appreciate the responses. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Any further questions to page 99? Activity total, \$11,475,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. That brings us to page 103. Environment and Natural Resources, wildlife, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$14,957,000. Committee, we will defer this page and turn to page 104. Wildlife, grants, contributions and transfers, information item. Any questions, committee? Mr. Vanthuyne

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just go back to the previous page under grants, contributions, and transfers. A question there first in that we are allocating \$574,000 down roughly about \$50,000 or \$60,000 from the year previous, but down significantly from 2014-15. I am wondering just in general if the department has a comment with regard to that effect. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The majority of that funding is on two big initiatives. One of them was the grants and contribution for the completion of the Wildlife Act and the second area is the grants and contribution that went towards the Barren-ground Caribou Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That might help explain a little bit. Then I guess on page 104 under contributions, the Wildlife Management Board, would that be similar reasoning for the reduction in the proposed amount this year of \$118,000 versus last year's nearly \$180,000? If we can get clarification that would be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That reduction is a contribution that we had to the Prince Albert Grand Council for caribou monitoring work in northern Saskatchewan, and we're hoping to work with the Grand Council to find other alternative

funding to cover that reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne? Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've noticed that, on this page, the caribou strategy work, there was \$627,000 expended back in 2014-15 but nothing last year and nothing in the budget for this year. Is there some other place in the budget where work related to caribou is found? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2014-15, the \$627,000 was for grants and contributions for the Barren-ground Caribou Strategy. That strategy sunsetted, and we no longer have that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Surely, though, we must be spending some money on caribou by ENR. I know they are developing a Bathurst Caribou Herd Range Plan. They have some aerial surveys that they work with the Government of Nunavut on the calving grounds, so is the money for that work found somewhere else in here? Or am I just not seeing it somewhere? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the money is found elsewhere in the department to carry out some of the work the Member identified. We know that around every three years the large surveys are undertaken, so we then look at other programs in the department to undertake those surveys. Then, on the off years, we go back and the money for the other programs is used for processes such as surveys, monitoring, et cetera, for other species. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just wanting to go back to the Minister's introductory remarks for the department, and there was a line in here that ENR "will continue to collaborate with Aboriginal governments, co-management boards and neighbouring jurisdictions to protect and conserve our barren-ground and boreal caribou populations and their habitat, as well as other wildlife species." There has been some public concern expressed about resource development in calving grounds for barren-ground caribou herds, and those calving

grounds are found in Nunavut. What is the position of the GNWT with regard to resource development in the calving grounds of barren-ground caribou? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The position of the GNWT over the last number of years regarding calving grounds for barren-ground caribou is that we are not supportive of developing calving grounds. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Just to follow up on that, so when there is an environmental assessment of a project going on, or a wildlife management plan, or something that's being developed on the Nunavut side of the boundary, does our government actually express those views to co-management bodies or governments on the other side of the boundary on a regular basis? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The answer is yes. Through the environmental assessment processes, we do come forward with that message. Currently the Nunavut Land Use Planning Board is undertaking hearings as well and, again, our message through that process is consistent. As well as through other hearings; there are hearings coming up next week with the Nunavut Land Use Planning Board... Wildlife Management Board, sorry. Again, our position remains consistent there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. No. I do want to commend the department for bringing forward that position. I think it's really important for residents here that continue to rely on caribou that we have a very strong, consistent position on that. I really encourage the department to continue to bring that forward, and thank them for their work to date. Thanks very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Good comment. Next we have Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm on number three, disease contaminants. You know, in my region, we rely heavily on blue whales, on fish, and on ocean-bearing, sea-bearing mammals. I was just wondering if there is any type of research

going on with the amount of mercury, and also the amount of parasites within caribou on land-based and sea-bearing mammals. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is ongoing work through programs like the Northern Contaminants Program and the extensions from the Arctic Net Program as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions, Mr. Nakimayak?

MR. NAKIMAYAK: One more, Mr. Chair, thanks. I see the Wildlife Management Board, there is quite a drop from \$223,000 to \$118,000. Can the Minister or his staff explain that please? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's a decrease of \$60,000 for supporting the Prince Albert Grand Council for the caribou work in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions, Mr. Nakimayak?

MR. NAKIMAYAK: That's good. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Next we have Mr. McNeely.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Some of my questions were answered here on the caribou strategy line, but just to add to that: weren't there any money set aside, or could be transferred, for the conclusion of a transboundary agreement particularly between the communities of Deline, Colville and the Nunavut government on a transboundary because of the caribou calving grounds on their side, but the migratory route on our side?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a forum where those parties work together to consistently have management approaches for those herds in those areas, particularly the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West, and Cape Bathurst herds. They do have funding available for some of this work. Again, those dollars primarily flow through the land claims and, again, we provide support to those boards for that cooperative agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. McNeely?

transboundary agreement between the three parties I mentioned, the communities of Colville, Deline, and the Nunavut Land Use Planning Board?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The agreement between those boards has been concluded. They do have that agreement amongst themselves. At this point, I'm not aware of a link between that process and the Nunavut land use planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions? Okay. Next we have Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to get an understanding in terms of the government's work, especially this department, with groups that haven't settled a land claim in terms of what kind of resources the government is providing in terms of assistance. I wanted to see if I can get some clarification in terms of Wildlife Management Boards. Is that strictly for land claim groups or does that include non-claim groups? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the known land claim groups there are different pots of money for different processes with regard to some of the environmental assessments. For example, there's the IRMA Program for co-management of the wildlife resources. Most of that money flows from our department, GNWT working with those Aboriginal governments for the different forms in the engagement, et cetera, that we have with them on wildlife management. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you. Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Nadli, sir?

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wonder if the deputy minister can provide an example in terms of how engagement is flowing in terms of non-claiming groups and if maybe he could draw an example perhaps of an instance where some work has been done with non-claiming groups. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. One example would be the development of advisement management plans. The other one would be when we've recently established a committee for the development of a mechanism to manage the Bathurst caribou herd. Those are two examples where non-land claim groups come to the table and we provide support. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Nadli?

MR. NADLI: Yes, just maybe a final question, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to get some clarification. Where in this budget in the Interim Resource Management Assistant Program located? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Ms. Craig.

MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The budget for the interim resource management funding is found in the conservation assessment and monitoring division under grants and contributions.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Craig. Any further questions, committee? I see none. Committee, under wildlife, grants, contributions and transfers, are we agreed with the information item on page 104? Agreed?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Okay. Next we have wildlife, active positions, information item on page 105. Any questions, committee? Are we agreed?

SOME HON MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed, thank you. That brings up back to page 103, wildlife, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$14,957,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed, thank you, committee. That brings us to page 106. Lease commitments, information item, any questions on page 106? Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed. That brings us to page 107. Environment Fund, information item, any questions? Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. A couple questions here. There's a fairly significant reduction in expenses called other expenses, and I'm just wondering if the department can... Or at least from the revised estimates for 2015-16. Just wondering if someone can explain what happened here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Craig.

MS. CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. During 2015-16 the budget was increased partway through the year because we were implementing the Electronics Recycling Program and that was forecasted to be a one-time activity where we would increase those

expenses and then in the 2016-17 budget that is being forecasted, it is back to a "normal operating year." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Craig. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have one other question. For the Electronics Recycling Program, people pay a fee when they purchase an item, and the fee is basically used to try to pay for the recycling of that item when it's finished. With beverage containers, there's a part of the deposit you pay that's a fee to help cover the recycling cost, but there's also a deposit that you get back that's sort of an incentive then for people that bring their beverage containers into a depot and get the refund for it. A colleague asked me to ask about the potential of having a deposit on electronics, so that when people take a TV back or something then they would get a deposit back. Then there'd be an incentive for people to take computers, mice back to the depot to get the material recycling and get their deposit back. I understand that we want to have our fees comparable to what they are in Alberta, because we don't want to create an incentive for people to go down south to shop, but has the department considered a refundable deposit for electronics as part of that recycling program? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The department has committed to meeting with distributors and other interested parties in a year to review the fee structure for this program and that could be brought forward at that time. That could be considered. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Anything further, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: No. Thanks, Mr. Chair. Other than to say this is a great program. I was involved with it for a decade and really appreciate the work of the department and the staff on this one, so thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Committee, any further questions on page 107? Environment fund, information item. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed, thank you. That brings us to page 108. Fur marketing service revolving fund, information item, any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed, thank you, committee. That brings us to page 109. Work performed on behalf of others, information item, any questions? Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's a whole variety of changes here between 2015-16 and 2016-17 for a number of these programs. I don't want to drag us through them all, but I noticed that in the Health and Social Services budget, they actually had a helpful line at the end of similar sort of programs where they said this was the end of a funding arrangement or here was the date that this arrangement ended. That I think would probably pre-empt a guy like me from asking all sorts of questions. I'm trying to be helpful here. I even got a thumbs up from the Minister of Finance. I don't think that's ever happened before in this House.

---Laughter

I'm just trying to be helpful and suggesting that maybe that extra level of detail here might be more helpful in the future, but... Yes. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will provide that for this particular page even and we'll consider doing that in the next one too, so thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Schumann. Any further questions Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: I don't think so. Maybe I can just ask for a general comment. There's sort of big changes from 2015-16 to 2016-17. Presumably these are the result of the end of a research program, a funding arrangement, that sort of thing. I just want a general answer from the department. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Many of these are programs that have started and are at one year of funding or have a couple of years of funding and then that funding ends their partnership funds, so you're correct with your assessment as you described it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Next we have Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question has been asked and answered. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Any further questions, committee, on page 109? Mr. Nakimayak?

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just looking at the actuals from 2014-15 for climate change adaptation project, and this here it shows 200. Can the department explain the reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Ms. Kelly.

DR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Because of all of the work that's been going on with the pan-Canadian framework, the federal government is looking at those contributions and they put forward \$200,000 this year but are looking at other funding opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Ms. Kelly. Any further questions, Mr. Nakimayak?

MR. NAKIMAYAK: None at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Any further questions, committee, on page 109? Work performed on behalf of others, information item, are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed, thank you. Next we're on page 110. Work performed on behalf of others, information item, any questions. Committee, are we agreed on page 110?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed, thank you. On page 111, work performed on behalf of others, information item, any questions. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Agreed. That brings us to page 112. We're nearing the end here, committee.

---Laughter

Work performed on behalf of others, information item, any questions. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Okay. I see none. Committee, please return to department total on page 79. Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that our guests and the Minister want to wrap this up, but I also recognize that there are a couple components that haven't been discussed in our conversations over the last couple days with ENR, and so I think that before actually closing out this department there a couple points that I want to

raise so that we're on the public record. We have it in our mandate document, Mr. Chair, that we are going to finalize and implement the conservation action plan in order to finalize existing plans for protected areas. I wonder can the department please give as much information as they can on what that plan is, what resources we're allocating, what kind of time frames we're looking at. I think the public is looking for some clarification on what this is now. There's been a name change apparently you know in recent months from preservation strategy to conservation network strategy. I think the public would really appreciate some clarification and elaboration on this aspect. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That document is currently going through the process. We just recently completed a discussion on it through the committee of Cabinet and the next stage is to Cabinet, so I'm assuming Members will see it shortly after that. We did previously engage with the Standing Committee from the last government. Near the end of the last government we engaged with all our partners on that document and we are currently running the revised document through the process I mentioned. The name change as from Conservation Action Plan and through the engagement process, it was decided that we would change the name now to the GNWT Priorities for Advancement of the Conservation Network Planning, and that document will focus on two key areas, one being the completion of the existing candidate areas and the second area being the renewed strategy. With part of devolution, we had the Protected Area Strategy and now going forward we're going to have a renewed strategy that again focuses on the GNWT being the lead for that strategy. We hope to have that document out this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions from Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the deputy minister for that clarification. I feel that that's well appreciated and certainly look forward to it coming forward to standing committees for further input. Mr. Chair, I wonder similarly, as it relates to the establishment of the Thaidene Nene park, can the department please maybe let us know where or what the status of that establishment is, who our partners are, what each partner's role is, and is there still opportunity for the public to provide its views and opinions and input on the establishment of the park? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thaidene Nene is in a similar process as the conservation plan, we're running it through the process. We, again, had pause to settle negotiations as a result of a transition period, the previous election, et cetera. We now are running through the system and we'll have clearer direction through that process and which will allow us shortly afterwards to start the negotiating process to complete Thaidene Nene. Again, we expect hopefully we can complete Thaidene Nene in the next short while. We feel we're not that far off from completing Thaidene Nene. As far as the negotiations of course we keep in contact with our partners and, again, just to inform them that a commitment is still there, that we will be back engaging with negotiations very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the deputy minister for that. Further, I'm wondering, do we have specific partners on this? When we say the term negotiate, with whom are we negotiating? What is that process? Is it with these partners? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The negotiating partners for Thaidene Nene is primarily the Akaitcho, being of course Lutsel'ê, Yellowknife Dene First Nation, Fort Resolution. We also are having negotiations with the NWT Metis Nation, they're part of the group as well. As far as other partners, of course there's residents, there's public forums, there's the Chamber of Mines, et cetera. That's through the engagement process so, again, of course part of the process going forward, to re-engage with those partners as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To be clear, is it the territorial government that in fact is the lead on the establishment of the Thaidene Nene park?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the territorial government is the lead for negotiation of Thaidene Nene. Again, that's outside the national park footprint and, of course, understandably they would be the lead for that. Anything outside the

proposed national park area would be the Government of Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the department maybe recommend that if there was public input to be considered, like a recommendation from the public in terms of an actual change to be considered with the actual design, I don't know if design's the right term, of the part that affects, you know, the federal component of the park. You know, are we hearing now that there would be two different entities that individuals, Northerners in fact, would have to talk to? Is there a parks party or parks leads that we would have to talk to and then possibly even the territorial government because they are a partner in this? I wonder if there's some clarification there, that if a good suggestion or one to be considered is coming forward from the public on a change to the Parks Canada portion of the park, to whom would they actually be directed to go and make that suggestion to? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The residents or the concerned parties for the Parks Canada portion absolutely would be directed to go to Parks Canada. Parks Canada is undertaking their own consultation and engagement process. To date, on just where we're at, there is some refinement that needs to be completed on boundaries. Again, we have to have some further discussion. That refinement is to be a minor area. All of that is actually in the national park area, so most discussions would be for that area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Vanthuyne, your time has expired, if you have further questions, you can go after the next person. That brings us to page 79, Environment and Natural Resources, departmental total, \$90,315,000. It's Mr. O'Reilly next, thank you.

MR. O'REILLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I didn't want to dump on my colleague, but I did hear a couple remarks here that just started to set off some alarm bells for me. I think I heard the deputy minister say that they're going to reopen negotiations. I'm hoping that we're not looking at the whole arrangement unraveling at this point though the territorial government wanting to make a bunch of significant changes. I know that some of the other parties to these negotiations have had significant amounts of time invested and energy, and commitments from third parties that are time-

dependent. I just get worried when I hear the words "reopen negotiations." Perhaps we can just get a little bit of clarity here about what is actually taking place. Like, if we're reopening negotiations on the whole package, I'm more than a little concerned. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A couple things I guess. We're not reopening negotiations. All what happened was this process was put on pause during the 17th Assembly for the election. What we're doing is going back through the process and bringing this back to open the box back up and essentially to get things going again. It's not like we're re-negotiating. What we negotiated already we're just... The process was put on pause and now we're re-engaging with the stakeholders. One thing I'd like to suggest maybe is we can offer a briefing to committee on this whole process and then everyone can ask as many questions as they want. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Schumann. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: No. I do want to thank the Minister for that reassurance. If it's just re-commencing where we left off, I'm more comfortable with it. I think that invitation from committee is probably on its way, may be on its way already, so I'll look forward to getting that briefing. Thanks, Mr. Chair. One other question about this in general though, if I may. As part of this package on the conservation network action plan... I think that's what... I don't know if I got the title right. As part of that package, I guess we're looking at having an overall strategy for conservation areas throughout the Northwest Territories, and presumably part of that is going to be legislation and looking at our toolbox. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Yes, it is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Schumann. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly?

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks. A nice short answer, I'll try to keep my questions shorter too. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Next we have Mr. Vanthuyne.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to quickly go back: can the department clarify that we're in fact hosting two different avenues of

consultation: that the feds under Parks Canada are responsible for in hosting their own rounds of public consultations; and is the GNWT hosting its own rounds of consultation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the Member's correct.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Schumann. Any further questions Mr. Vanthuyne?

MR. VANTHUYNE: No further question, just a general comment. I would probably have to suggest then that this might be some of the challenges that the public has in understanding what is going on with the establishment of this park? Who in fact is the lead? Who is responsible for what? Is that we seem to be a little bit challenged in even identifying who can just simply be the voice of communication on the establishment of this park. That's just something for the department to consider maybe in working with the partners, to try to establish one voice so that communication can be clear to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Would Mr. Schumann like to comment on?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I respect the Member's comments, but I think that the briefing that we'll offer will help clear up a lot of this stuff, and we'll look forward to engaging with committee. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Schumann. Next we have Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to understand. Earlier I did mention the term Protected Area Strategy initiative and where it fits within the government at this point. I understand it's been changed into conservation network initiative, so if I can get some explanation in terms of whether they've changed gears in terms of how the approach will be taken in terms of engaging and collaborating with communities.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the Protected Area Strategy, again, is evolving now into what's called GNWT Priorities for Advancement of Conservations Network Planning. Again, through that process there's two key objectives there, and one of them is to develop this new strategy. We will no doubt pull in our partners and have those discussions on what this new strategy is going to look like for the Government of Northwest

Territories. Again, there more likely will be some areas of the former Protected Area Strategy that will be reflected in this new renewed strategy. Again, we're not there yet. We need to talk to all our partners on developing that strategy. In the meantime, the other piece of that plan, basically a work plan, this network planning initiative, is completing the existing candidate areas. Those candidate areas and working committees and of course we'll continue to engage with those committees and, as we go forward, they'll have to be of course evolved to be consistent with the new strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Any further questions, Mr. Nadli?

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand in terms of some background context, I think how PAS or conservation area networks are related was this concept of Y-to-Y, Yellowstone to Yukon, you know, establishing a network of conservation areas for wildlife habitat. My understanding is that was the founding initiative that drove the development of the PAS initiatives. I understand NGOs had a clear role in terms of ensuring resources and commitment and support were given to communities along with government. I just wanted some clarification whether the parties remain the same, as both levels of government involved, including the federal government, plus NGOs and communities? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The parties will most likely remain the same through this process as the previous PAS and the link to what the Member just mentioned there, the Y-to-Y as a form of protected area or a key piece, this new renewed strategy of course will be focusing on keeping ecosystem integrity in place. I'm not overly familiar with the Y-to-Y, but there'll be no doubt the consistencies there because we expect the renewed strategy consistent with the old strategy, the commitments there, to go forward with that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This will likely be my last question. There's several strategies that are developed, including the conservation network initiatives, there's the Boreal initiative. How integral will the Land Use and Sustainability Framework play in terms of ensuring that there's consistencies with plans across the NWT? Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For us in the Northwest Territories, absolutely these initiatives fall under that Land Use and Sustainability Framework initiative. The overarching principles from the Land Use and Sustainability Framework guide these other initiatives similar to land use planning. Of course, the conservation network stuff, protected areas, we've seen it in the past, there is consistency and they complement each other; land use plans and conservation are... There's renewed strategy. The consistency will be there going forward as well. I just need to confirm that the LUSF there is certainly the overarching document. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Next, we have Mr. Nakimayak.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just getting back to what Mr. Nadli was talking about on conservation areas. I know there's a few going on, and one in western Canada and one in eastern Canada as well too. The one in eastern Canada involves Canada, Greenland, the federal government, Nunavut. That's just an example of how many different organizations, you know, can be sitting and negotiating on conservation areas. I hope that we don't establish these conservation areas just to protect them from development, but also have the Aboriginal people... Like, there's a lot of Aboriginal groups in my region. We use the ocean, we utilize that a lot, and then we're looking at high seas fisheries regulations to prevent and regulate fishing by other countries in our waters. Pretty soon the polar ice cap is melting, the waters are opening up and I hope that we can continue to monitor, you know, with ENR and along with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, with the Government of Canada on this, to ensure that when we do start to negotiate for our territory and our regions that our Aboriginal groups are involved in every step of the way. Like Mr. Nadli says, it's important to have as many groups as possible that have a stake in the region. The stakeholders in my region would be the Inuvialuit. I hope that the GNWT is playing a parallel role with the Inuvialuit to ensure that conservation is not just preservation, but actually conservation for the better of our environment and our people. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Through practically all of our initiatives there is a collaborative approach. Certainly in some of these other initiatives absolutely we want to ensure that we continue that collaborative approach. If there's links again to some of the other processes, we certainly want to have that discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Schumann.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that this is another initiative that the department's bringing forward and it's working its way through the system. I think this is something we would gladly bring to committee on a briefing and have a good discussion with everyone and get them up to speed on where we're at, so we'll offer that too. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister Schumann. Any further questions, Mr. Nakimayak?

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a general comment. I appreciate the work that the department's doing to collaborate with Aboriginal groups on conservation. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Committee, any further questions on page 79? Environment and Natural Resources, departmental total, \$90,315,000. Are we agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, committee. Thank you, Minister, and thanks to your witnesses for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): We'll begin with consideration of the Department of Health. I'll turn to the Minister responsible for the department for opening comments.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm pleased to present the 2016-2017 main estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. The total proposed budget for the department is \$414,234,000. Overall, the department's estimates propose an increase of \$7.3 million or 1.8 per cent over the 2015-2016 main estimates. These estimates continue to support the objective of limiting expenditure growth in order to sustain the long-term sustainability of the fiscal framework.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- forced growth of \$12.9 million;
- subsets of \$9 million;
- funding for initiatives totalling \$5.3 million;
- reductions of just under \$2 million.

The proposed Department of Health and Social Services estimates continue to support the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly, to support the priority of making strategic investments in

transportation infrastructure and workforce development and utilizing partnerships with northern and Aboriginal businesses. The budget includes \$1.9 million for the new Hay River Regional Health Centre set to open on June 11, 2016. I am pleased that the budget also includes proposed funding of \$501,000 to implement the new Mental Health Act. This act will support the Legislative Assembly's priority of focusing on mental health and addictions by ensuring that services are delivered locally with culturally appropriate methods. Finally, \$1.1 million in new funding is proposed for the operation of the new wing of the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors Home in Behchoko. Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening remarks.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Minister. Recognizing Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we report progress.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake): Thank you, Mr. Testart. Committee, there's a motion before us. The motion is non-debatable. Question's been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is passed.

---Carried

We'll now rise and report progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. May I have the report, Member for Mackenzie Delta?

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 50-18(2), Main Estimates, 2016-2017 and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do we have a seconder? Member for Hay River South. Motion's in order. To the motion. Question's been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Masi. Item 23, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Monday, June 13, 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. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 50-18(2), Main Estimates, 2016-2017
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House adjourns until Monday, June 13th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

