



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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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Members Present

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

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Masi. Colleagues, on behalf of the Assembly, I'll let you proceed with this session. Thank you, Mr. Blake, for the opening prayer. I'm pleased to welcome you back to the Chamber, to reconvene a 2nd session of the Legislative Assembly.

At this time, colleagues, I'm saddened to announce that Mr. Bryan Pearson passed away yesterday, October 12, 2016. Mr. Pearson was first elected to 7th Council of the Northwest Territories on December 21, 1970 to represent the Eastern Arctic. In 1975 he was re-elected to an 8th Council at the Northwest Territories. On behalf of the Assembly, I offer sincere condolences to his family and friends. Flags at the Legislative Assembly were at half-mast, yesterday and will be at half-mast again on the day of Mr. Pearson's memorial.

Colleagues, on September 1st of this year Deline became the first self-government community in the Northwest Territories and the first self-government community in Canada that is the home to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. After 20 years of hard work and negotiations between the Deline First Nation and Deline Land Corporation, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Canada, this was a day to be remembered and celebrated. This was an important day not only for the people of Deline, but for all people of the Northwest Territories. Colleagues, I ask you to join me in congratulating the people of Deline.

I would also like to take a moment to offer my personal gratitude and appreciation to Harriet Koyina of Behchoko for the beautiful beading and embroidery on my robe. Ms Koyina is a talented and accomplished artist and I am proud and honoured to display her work in our Chamber. Masi, Ms. Koyina.

I would also like to extend special thanks to the pages who will be joining us throughout this sitting. We will have students from:

- Charles Tetcho School in Trout Lake;
- Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah;
- East Three Secondary School in Inuvik;
- Ecole Boreale in Hay River;
- Mangilaluk School in Tuktoyaktuk;
- Alexis Arrowmaker School in Gameti; and
- Range Lake North School in Yellowknife.

Colleagues, it is a pleasure and an honour to share this Chamber with the youth of our territory. They are our future. Please join me in thanking them and welcoming them to the Assembly.

Colleagues, our form of consensus government works best when we abide by the rules and procedures of this House, conduct ourselves with dignity and show respect for one another, our Assembly and all people of the Northwest Territories. Before we turn our attention to the work at hand, I ask that we take a moment to reflect upon the reasons why we are here, the communities that we represent and the people who have elected us to make decisions on their behalf. Our positions are not to be taken lightly. Colleagues, I wish to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It reads:

Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of:

- Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2017-2018;
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2016-2017; and
- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2016-2017

during the 2nd session of the 18th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Gerald W. Kisoun, Deputy Commissioner

Masi, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 76-18(2): OCTOBER 2016 SESSIONAL STATEMENT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all Members back to the second session of the 18th Legislative Assembly. During this session we will continue our work together to advance the priorities of the Assembly and the mandate commitments of the Government of the Northwest Territories. One of the priorities of the Assembly is to improve accountability, transparency, and collaboration. The Government of the Northwest Territories made several commitments in its mandate in relation to this priority, including a commitment to improve public visibility and accessibility of Cabinet by organizing Cabinet meetings in each region of the Northwest Territories.

Over the past several months we have made good on this commitment by holding public open houses with all Ministers in four communities; Inuvik, Norman Wells, Hay River, and Fort Simpson. We are planning a fifth open house here in Yellowknife next Tuesday evening in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly. The open houses have been very informal, Mr. Speaker, but that has been the point. Our intention was to hear from members of the public about the issues and concerns that they had. We did not want to go in with an agenda of our own or any government initiative to promote or sell. We simply wanted to hear from NWT residents directly.

The meetings have been well received by NWT residents, Mr. Speaker. We have been warmly welcomed in each community and the events have been generally well-attended. We have heard that people appreciate the time we have taken and the respect we have demonstrated by going to them and their communities, not expecting them to come to us.

Based on this reception, we are now looking at scheduling additional open houses in each region. Our focus this time will be on some of the smaller communities and some of the constituencies we have not already been to. Our hope is that by this time next year we will be able to report that Cabinet has visited every constituency in the Northwest Territories as a group at least once.

During our trip to Hay River, Mr. Speaker, we also held the inaugural meeting of a committee of Cabinet in public. Holding selected committee of Cabinet meetings in public was another one of our

mandate commitments that is meant to shed more light on how government does business.

Our first meeting, a meeting of the Economy and Environment Committee of cabinet chair by Minister Schumann included an opportunity for each member to provide an update on the mandate commitments they are responsible for. Members also received a presentation from an outside party on new airship technology and its potential application for transportation in remote areas with limited infrastructure.

In some ways, Mr. Speaker, we are breaking new ground for the government. I do not recall any time in the past when the entire Cabinet has made it a point to visit and meet with residents in each region. Nor do I recall any previous examples of Cabinet inviting the public to attend any of its committee meetings.

Breaking trail can be slow going, and doesn't happen without some course corrections along the way. That is particularly the case when you are trying to change processes and practices that have built up over decades. But we are committed to improving the level of public engagement and transparency in the Government of the Northwest Territories, and we will continue to develop and refine our processes as we go forward. These efforts complement the many things we already do to support government accountability and transparency.

Most important among these is the ongoing interaction between Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly and Ministers here in this House. Each day during session, Ministers are asked to account publicly to Members for their policy decisions and the administration of their departments. In Committee of the Whole and standing committee meetings and briefings, Regular Members have the opportunity to dig more deeply into proposed Government of the Northwest Territories initiatives and decisions and have their questions answered by both Ministers and senior public servants.

A range of public reports and other information is regularly tabled in this Assembly, where any Member can bring it forward for additional discussion or ask Ministers questions about it. These are very immediate and ongoing ways that Regular Members have for holding the government accountable by raising issues or concerns with Ministers in a public forum at almost any time.

Even when the Assembly is not sitting, Ministers continue to provide information and briefings to standing committees, answering their questions and seeking input on proposed legislation, policies, decisions, and initiatives. Of course, we can always

make improvements to the system and the way we work together on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. One way we will do this is through the creation of a new Joint Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Rights.

Establishing a joint committee between Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members to share information and discuss approaches on the advancement of land, resources, and self-government agreements was one of the GNWT's mandate commitments. I am happy to report that terms of reference for this committee have been finalized and it will hold its first meeting shortly.

Finalizing outstanding claims and bringing increased certainty to land and resource management in the Northwest Territories is one of the most important challenges the 18th Legislative Assembly faces. Decisions about how the land and resources of the Northwest Territories are used and managed are central to the health of our people, our economy and our environment. Resolving Aboriginal claims will be an essential step towards determining what land is available and how it can be used for economic development, for conservation, for recreation, and for traditional activities.

Mr. Speaker, establishing the special joint committee is one approach we are taking to reach that goal. Another approach was the appointment last summer of Ministerial Special Representatives for the Dehcho and for the South Slave by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. The ministerial special representatives have been tasked by myself and Indigenous Affairs Minister Bennett to talk to all of the parties involved in negotiations in these two areas and report back on any issues or roadblocks that continue to stand in the way of settling claims in these regions. Through this process, we hope we can move past the current impasse and identify a practical path for moving forward that will work for all the parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, establishing clear Government of the Northwest Territories priorities and policies for land use, development, and conservation is another critical step in creating certainty for all land users in the NWT. The Government of the Northwest Territories continues to work towards this goal, based on the northern principles and priorities outlined in the Land Use and Sustainability Framework. Some of that work includes the recent release of Healthy Lands, Healthy People by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources earlier this month. Healthy Lands, Healthy People outlines key tasks the Government of the Northwest Territories will undertake over the next five years to pursue a comprehensive and collaborative approach to conservation network planning. Clear

outcomes for that work include completing planning and decision-making for existing candidate areas, a GNWT mandate commitment, and developing a renewed strategy for Northwest Territories conservation network planning.

Mr. Speaker, work undertaken in recent months to finalize consultation boundaries for the proposed Thaidene Nene Park is another example of the Government of the Northwest Territories pursuing certainty with respect to land use while balancing the interests of the Aboriginal people of the region, recreational users, industry, and environmentalists. The draft Recreational Land Management Framework released this month by the Minister of Lands is another example of how the Government of the Northwest Territories is looking to create certainty with respect to land use and management in the Northwest Territories.

The draft framework outlines the Government of the Northwest Territories' approach for reviewing and updating its management of cabin leases and recreational uses of public land across the Northwest Territories. Informed by extensive public engagement, finalizing the framework will allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to improve coordination and effectiveness in resource management systems, recognizing traditional knowledge, land claim agreements, and devolution.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to creating the kind of certainty around land use necessary to support responsible economic development in the Northwest Territories, the Government of the Northwest Territories is also committed to investing in the infrastructure necessary to support a strong, prosperous territory in partnership with the Government of Canada.

This past July, the Minister of Transportation announced with federal infrastructure Minister Sohi an investment of almost \$81 million in territorial transportation infrastructure. The 13 projects being funded include the rehabilitation of nine bridges, three access roads and the construction of a four-bay highway maintenance facility in James Creek. Mr. Speaker, improving the transportation system has a long-term impact on economic growth in the Northwest Territories.

Ongoing investments in transportation infrastructure can contribute to improving the quality of life of communities by ensuring people have diverse employment, economic, and social opportunities. The Northwest Territories also has enormous potential for non-renewable resource development, ensuring effective access to areas of high mineral potential, reducing exploration and development costs for industry, and leading to economic growth. The Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to pursue partnership opportunities with

the federal government to support other infrastructure projects, such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Tlicho All-Season Road and improved access into the Slave Geological Province. Mr. Speaker, we will also continue to explore opportunities for partnering with Canada on energy infrastructure projects that could both reduce the cost of living for Northwest Territories residents and help contribute to national and territorial greenhouse gas emissions targets.

Our partnership with Canada includes working together on ways to implement the recently announced carbon price that will not increase the cost of living for Northwest Territories residents, while ensuring we are doing our part to address climate change. We have always recognized that putting a price on carbon is an important tool for encouraging people to reduce consumption of greenhouse gas-producing forms of energy.

At the same time, we have always said it is important that national approaches take the realities of northern living into account and the lack of economically viable alternatives in many of our most remote communities. In that regard, I am pleased to report that federal Environment and Climate Change Minister McKenna recently committed to sending a technical team to the Northwest Territories to study this issue and better understand how our governments can work together to address climate change, while ensuring unintended consequences for Northerners and the NWT economy are avoided.

Mr. Speaker, during this session, Members will be asked to consider the 2017-2018 capital estimates. Supporting NWT residents by lowering the cost of living and growing the economy so people have the income and resources they need to look after themselves and their families continues to be an important priority for this government. One of the ways we can do this is through investments in public infrastructure.

As already noted, investments in transportation infrastructure can pay off by supporting long-term economic growth and improved quality of life including reduced cost of living. Investing in housing in our communities is another way the GNWT can directly affect the high cost of living. In addition, infrastructure projects are themselves an important source of jobs and income for many Northerners who are looking for work in or near their communities. As always, Mr. Speaker, the GNWT must continue to manage the public's money prudently and responsibly. Over the summer, Moody's Investor Services gave our government its tenth straight debt rating of Aa1. This is the second highest rating Moody's offers, and is based on our continuing adherence to the Fiscal Responsibility Policy and high standards of

fiscal management. The high rating reduces the government's borrowing costs and has direct implications for the Government of the Northwest Territories' ability to invest in infrastructure projects. Ensuring we live within our means and do not spend more money than we bring in will continue to be important for the territory's financial health and our debt rating.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing from Members during this session on the Government of the Northwest Territories' proposed capital estimates and on ways we can continue to work together on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 77-18(2): MINISTERS ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Alfred Moses will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Immigration meeting in Quebec. Also, Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Louis Sebert will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers of Justice and Public Safety meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the people in the gallery. I'm pleased to recognize his Excellency Daeshik Jo, Ambassador of Korea, and his spouse, Eunyong Park, here with us today. Also the Ambassador is accompanied by Jaehan Jun, first secretary, and Dr. Yanggyun Chun, senior researcher from the embassy. Masi for joining us. As I spoke of earlier today, we have here with us, I would like to recognize Harriet Koyina and also Lisa Lafferty and Norman Erasmus who are here with us as well. She's the one who made that robe here. Masi. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MACKENZIE DELTA FERRY SERVICES

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ferry services are a key piece of northern infrastructure. They connect communities, secure energy and food supply and other employment opportunities in some of the most remote locations in Canada. As a territory, we can be proud of our marine

infrastructure and all we've accomplished with ferries and ice crossings.

The Abraham Francis ferry at the Peel River and the Louis Cardinal ferry in Tsiigehtchic is part of this infrastructure. It must be maintained until the ice crossing is safe for travel. Reliable ferry service stabilizes the cost of living in Delta communities, where prices are already extremely high. The cost of flying in groceries and other goods and services gets passed on to the consumers.

Many of us remember the line-ups at the gas stations here in Yellowknife when the ferry at Fort Providence was out during one of its final years of operation. People were hoarding fuel, and one retailer even flew a large tank of gasoline across the river. Along with the Louis Cardinal, the ferry at the Peel River is a critical link in the LNG supply in Inuvik. We like to think we can stockpile until the ice road opens, but the weather and timing can be unpredictable. We need the ferry service to ensure uninterrupted transportation of goods and services, especially fuel. If you live in one of the small communities served by the Abraham Francis or Louis Cardinal ferries, you rely on continued road access into Inuvik.

It is unfair to ask people who have pre-existing medical conditions or expectant mothers to leave their homes and wait out freeze-up time for even longer than they already have to. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Small things, like repairs on public housing units or getting a service man who lives in Inuvik to do work on your property, can turn into a big deal if they don't get it done on time because you're waiting for the ice to freeze. Our ferry operators have an important job. They rely on employment for the ferry in a region where there is very little economic activity at the moment and jobs are few. We want to avoid forcing these people out of work. We see the real cost of unemployment when we look at the strain on our social safety nets.

Mr. Speaker, until we get a bridge at the Peel and Mackenzie River crossings, full ferry service is essential. I urge the government to do all it can to keep sailing, and I'll have questions for the Minister later today. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MANAGED ALCOHOL TREATMENT PROGRAMS

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, it's been almost a year since Members of the 18th Assembly were elected, and that means it's almost been a year since Members gathered together as equals and developed a mandate for this government to implement on behalf of Northerners.

I'm ever mindful of my responsibility to my constituents and to all Northerners to hold Cabinet accountable in its continued advancement in executing the mandate. Though there has been some progress in this venture, I am dismayed to see that one of the most pressing concerns, that of addiction, still continues to plague our streets and hold our people back from achieving healthy and productive lives.

Alcohol abuse, Mr. Speaker, is one of the most prevalent forms of addiction we are facing today here in the North. One just needs to walk through Yellowknife's downtown streets to see the terrible effects of alcoholism. If that is not evidence enough, recent media reports have reached out to northern medical professionals serving at Stanton Territorial Hospital on how they deal with individuals utilizing our emergency services. These aptly named "super users" rely heavily on the emergency department and usually for alcohol related issues. Doctors see some of these individuals from 100 to even 200 times a year, driving up our costs for healthcare to enormous proportions.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this rotating door of alcohol abuse and medical assistance keep spinning with no end in sight. There is another way, an evidence-based solution in the form of managed alcohol programs. The basic idea of how this works is that a controlled amount of alcohol is provided to users so that addiction is treated first so that other social issues can be addressed effectively. These individuals can then experience similar benefits to those who have fully recovered from traditional treatment options.

A recent study by the University of Victoria has demonstrated that these programs are successful and should be something this government considers. The study has shown, in particular, that participants in the program spend 33 per cent less time in custody, 43 per cent less time interacting with the police, and were admitted to emergency departments nearly half as often at 47 per cent. The study indicates that when taking social costs of alcohol addicts who also face homelessness into account... Mr. Speaker, I'd like to request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Again, the study also indicates that when taking into account the social costs of alcohol addicts who also face homelessness into account, there is an estimated savings of \$1 for every dollar invested due to significant reductions in frequency of health, social and legal service utilization by participants. Later I will have questions for the Minister of Health on whether he supports a MAP program to give Northerners the support they need and save this government money through preventative programs rather than emergency services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CARBON PRICING

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the important issue of the ever rising cost of carbon. Mr. Speaker, the Trudeau Government in Ottawa has made its position on a carbon tax clear. It recently announced its plans to bring in federal carbon taxation. It intends to bring provinces and territories in line with that plan if they don't develop their own.

The question is: will we in the Northwest Territories be prepared with a plan that suits our unique environment, our economy, and most importantly our cost-of-living? Or will we end up, as has happened before, being told what to do and losing our choice in the matter? Mr. Speaker, our Territory needs its own plan for how we use and reduce fossil fuels. We need a plan for climate change. Our population is small, but we have to do our global part. We have to take a serious role in the climate change discussion because our people, our territory, and the entire circumpolar region are being hit the hardest by the effects of climate change.

That's why we need a plan that's designed here in the North. We have to work hard and develop a real plan. We have to get our communities on renewable energy and seriously reduce our reliance on fossil fuel. We have to continue to engage and reward private sector initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we need to lead. We need to take the initiative before the initiative is assumed by the federal government. We need to work with our territorial counterparts to make a plan to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy. We need to do accurate and thorough research to establish the costs and viability of such a plan, Mr. Speaker. We need to determine how a carbon tax will affect the options we consider, and we need to figure out how all these things will affect our overall strategy on the

impacts of climate change and, most importantly, on our standards of living. Mr. Speaker, it's a big file and it's not going away. We need to take the initiative before it's taken away from us or we'll no longer have a choice. At the appropriate time I'll have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FORT SIMPSON HEALTH CENTRE PLANNING STUDY

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding the contract to complete a planning study on the Fort Simpson Health Centre was awarded in March 2015. In October of 2015, the previous Member for Nahendeh requested an update. During that update the then Minister for Public Works and Services estimated the first phase of the plan he said would be finished in February 2016, and then the second phase would be in the fall of 2016. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this facility is needed to be replaced due to age, quality control and maintenance costs.

A new health centre helps improve the quality of healthcare service delivery in Fort Simpson and the five neighbouring communities. Mr. Speaker, during the fiscal year of 2011-2012 the government undertook work to maintain, renovate, or replace health centres in Fort Good Hope, Fort Res, Fort Providence, Fort Smith, Hay River, Norman Wells, as well as work to renovate or replace hospital in Hay River, Inuvik and Yellowknife. As the government continues to improve our healthcare, one department and a transformation system, we need quality medical workspace in offices as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the government, our own engineers, are doing the studies and recommended replacement of the facilities due to its age and increased maintenance costs. With the new building, the efficiencies will bring down the O and M costs. I've heard the Minister of Health and Social Services speak about the importance of the health centre replacement to deliver improved services and better equipment to the residents of Fort Simpson and the region.

It is my understanding that this project is very important to our residents. We are waiting for the completion of the planning study so we can consider it seriously during the capital planning session for 2018-2019 which begins next spring and summer. Mr. Speaker, as a previous Member for Nahendeh stated, "The capital needs for the health facilities in the communities are just as important in my region and the communities I

represent as the needs to replace the existing Stanton Territorial Hospital." I'll have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services about the status of the planning study at the appropriate time. Thanks. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CABINET COMMUNICATIONS WITH REGULAR MEMBERS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. The process conventions on consensus government developed by the last Assembly stated the following as a guiding principle: "Open and respectful communication between all Members is the most essential feature of consensus government." Furthermore, the Process Convention on Communications between the Executive Council, Ministers, Standing Committees and Regular Members, signed by Premier McLeod on September 8, 2014 states: "Except under extraordinary circumstances Members of the Legislative Assembly should be made aware of and have opportunity to discuss significant announcements, changes, consultations or initiatives before they are released to the public or introduced in the Legislative Assembly." This past summer there were several major policies or decisions that were either made by Cabinet or others where Regular MLAs found out through the media. These matters have a direct relationship to our mandate and work together. They included:

A media story about secret negotiations between GNWT and Newmont over the Con Headframe. When I asked for details I was told that we could only find out what was going on after a deal was reached;

- A news release where the Northwest Territories' Premier came out against a carbon tax despite promising to consult with Regular MLAs and the public before taking a position;
- A media story and public briefing for Yellowknife City Council where it was revealed that the federal government has put the GNWT proposal for a Mackenzie Valley Highway on the back burner; and
- Another media story and presentations to third parties and even a media briefing earlier this week with details about proposed changes to the Yellowknife Airport including increased fees before briefings to Regular MLAs.

It's not clear to this Member what extraordinary circumstances precipitated this flow of information without bothering to inform Members on this side of

the House. I don't want to get into a debate about each of these examples I cited, but there is a disturbing pattern continuing, and this is not in keeping with consensus government. I will have questions for the Minister of the Executive later today. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PUBLIC HOUSING SHORTAGE

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all Members will have experience advocating for constituents in need of public housing. In my riding, issues around public housing are especially acute. I have a higher than Yellowknife average number of low-income earners along with people who are unemployed or hard to employ, especially when compared to the city's prosperous suburban ridings. Of all the many requests I get from constituents for help of all kinds, I estimate that housing issues make up 80 per cent of the total.

The issue for this group is not usually affordability because public housing rent scales apply. Adequacy of housing is the big issue, too many people in too small a unit. But, above all, it's availability. There simply isn't enough housing. A report from 2015 year-end indicated there were 180 single parents across the territory on the waiting list for public housing.

While they wait, these families may be living in crowded conditions with extended family, divided into small groups and couch-surfing, or tolerating violent relationships in exchange for having a place to live. Colleagues, you've heard me say before that having a home is the starting point for success, whether you are working, attending school, or making other productive choices.

I want to share the story of one of my constituents to illustrate the point that housing availability is at a crisis point for single-parent families. My constituent has been living in a tent since the beginning of the summer. He is the father of two children, aged 12 and 17, who are trying to stay in school by couch-surfing with anyone who will have them.

As a homeless single parent with school-age kids, he scores high on the rating system to be next in line for a unit, but so do many others. Since the summer, he has been bumped in and out of first place by people who are in even more desperate need than himself, if you can imagine. The Minister's office has worked hard on this file, and my office has put a lot of work into offering a solution, but, in the end, there was nothing to do but to wait and hope that his place on the list will

coincide with a unit becoming available, and, in fact, that happened this week.

We know all this stuff. I'm not saying anything new. That's why it's part of the 18th Assembly's mandate. That's why it's one of the three priorities of the social development committee, and that's why we passed a motion calling for an annual 2 per cent reduction in the core need of housing over the next four years. Mr. Speaker, this problem is not going away. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this problem is not going away and it won't until this government invests in making more public housing available in Yellowknife and across this territory. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SAFETY CONCERNS IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last month at Woodland Manor, the long-term care facility in Hay River, there was a physical incident involving two residents that resulted in a fairly significant injury, according to the health authority. I'm not going to discuss the details of the incident because of privacy issues, but it's an ongoing concern, and it also highlights an important issue.

Violence among residents is a growing concern in long-term care facilities across Canada. We've been relatively lucky in the North. There have been very few incidents as serious as this. As our population ages and more seniors reside in long-term care facilities, the concern grows here, as well. As the government moves forward with plans to expand long-term care facilities, it needs to consider how these types of incidents can be avoided in the future. I've spoken with residents of the long-term care and extended care units in Hay River. This incident has put many of them on edge, and they're now concerned for their own safety.

The health authority has been very proactive in trying to mitigate these risks, but, in the current system, only so much can be done to protect residents' safety. While we use terms like long-term or extended care, to the residents, these places are home, and they have the right to feel safe in their own homes. We have to be concerned not only with their physical wellbeing but with their psychological wellbeing, as well, which can negatively affect their physical health. There's no simple fix for this issue.

We can't evict residents of these facilities who are violent. They're there because they can't be cared for elsewhere. If a resident has a history of violence or poses a threat, we can't just lock them in their room; they're not prisoners. However, all residents of long-term care facilities are vulnerable in one way or another, and we can't allow individuals who pose a threat or who are psychologically abusive to remain amongst a vulnerable population.

I hope that the incident at Woodland has spurred the government to begin to address this growing concern, and I'll have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Service at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GROUNDED BARGE NORTH OF TUKTOYAKTUK

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my statement will be on the stranded barge at Toker Point north of Tuktoyaktuk in the Beaufort Sea. Mr. Speaker, the Investigator is a barge leased from Harley Marine from the United States by Fathom Marine from Vancouver. The barge went aground on September 2nd at Toker Point, and since that time efforts have been made to remove the fuel and remove the barge. Canadian Coast Guard is the lead agency, with assistance from Transport Canada. ILA has Environmental Monitors out on site for the majority of the time the barge has been accessible by boat from Tuktoyaktuk. Wildlife Monitors have also been on site, provided by community companies.

Some key points from my perspective, Mr. Speaker: this incident has highlighted the need for capacity in the region with regard to monitoring and dealing with ship traffic incidents in the Arctic Ocean. This particular incident is really not as serious. The barge is of double-hulled construction with only 4 per cent fuel capacity on the ship. However, it has taken over a month for any meaningful action to take place, Mr. Speaker. Imagine if the same incident occurred with the Crystal Serenity. Think of what we'd do with people and/or fuel. Mr. Speaker, the coast guard and Transport Canada have been very active in terms of updating local organizations and working with the various parties. There has been good communication between Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the parties involved in this incident. Efforts are currently underway to pull the barge off the shoreline. It is hoped that the barge will be re-floated prior to freeze-up. If it is not re-floated before freeze-up, Mr. Speaker, it will be overwintered on shore. Once the situation stabilizes, I think it would be a good idea to have an incident review where local and federal

organizations can discuss what happened, what worked, and what needs improvement.

This brings forward the need for cooperation and coordination between the GNWT and the Government of Canada. Mr. Speaker, the lands and waters around Toker Point remain an important part of the livelihoods of the Inuvialuit of Tuktoyaktuk. The impacts of an environmental spill would greatly affect life on the land, life below water, and the mammals that live and migrate through the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF ELIZA
LAWRENCE AND MARGARET SAYINE**

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. This speech, unfortunately, has become a convention of mine. I'm going to do a couple of eulogies. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send condolences out to the family of late Eliza Lawrence who passed away on July 24, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Lawrence was elected as MLA to the NWT Legislative Assembly in 1983 representing Tu Nedhe and served one term. People still talk about the good things Eliza did as a representative of the people of Tu Nedhe. Eliza was fluent in her Aboriginal language and used to be a Metis Reeler, a group of jiggers that travelled around the North. She worked as a nurse in Fort Resolution, Edmonton, and Yellowknife, and later as a nutrition educator. She was very well respected by all that knew her. Eliza is survived by her husband, Harry Lawrence; her daughters, Linda Fay, Flory, and Roberta; and all her grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents, Isadore and Elizabeth; her son; eight of her siblings; and one granddaughter. Ms. Lawrence will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, on August 16, 2016, the late Margaret Sayine for Resolution passed away. Margaret Sayine

Margaret loved her family very much and enjoyed spending time with them. Her talents have shown through her sewing and crafts. She was famous for baking and enjoyed cooking for her family. Mr. Speaker, Margaret talked to me about her experience at residential school and how difficult things were as she tried to learn English among other things. She told me these stories because she found it interesting that I was sitting there with her and my father, who was 10 years old at the time, was her interpreter when she first got to

residential school and quickly she learned English because she had to.

Margaret is survived by her children, her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her and loved her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences also to the family and community members. Masi. Member's statement. Member for Deh Cho.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PASSING OF ELDER DANIEL SONFRERE,
OCTOBER 13, 2013**

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take the time to say a few words in my language about the late Daniel Sonfrere of the Kat'odeeche Reserve, who passed away August 24th, a week shy of his 98th birthday.

[English translation not provided]

There was a feast and honour of the late Daniel Sonfrere's funeral and many people travelled to Hay River to attend his funeral. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Minister of Finance.

Returns to Oral Questions

**RETURN TO ORAL QUESTIONS 300-18(2):
REPORTING OF GOVERNMENT FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY POLICY**

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Ms. Green on June 29, 2016, regarding Reporting of the Government Fiscal Responsibility Policy. The Fiscal Responsibility Policy is focused on committing the GNWT to prudent borrowing to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability. If the GNWT does not achieve sufficient cash from operating surpluses to finance 50 per cent of infrastructure investments in a fiscal year, the GNWT would be required to adopt a fiscal strategy to ensure sufficient operating surpluses were achieved over the subsequent two fiscal periods to bring the GNWT back into compliance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to welcome Brenda

Sayers to our Chamber today. She is the Hupacasath First Nation member who led the fight against the Canada/China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Act. She served on the council of her Hupacasath First Nation and a director of the tribal council as well. She's here in Yellowknife this week to speak and teach about the trans-pacific trade partnership. I would like you to join me in welcoming her to our Chamber. Further, Mr. Speaker, in the gallery today are several hard-working EDs of non-profits including Kim Doyle, the executive director of Yellowknife Seniors, Steven Jackson, the CEO of Avens, and Lydia Bardak, the executive director of the John Howard Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize my wife, Judy, who's had to put up with me for 37 years so you all know that she's extremely strong. I would also like to recognize a constituent from Inuvik and my official agent, Mr. Denny Rodgers, and seated next to him is Jiri Raska, I think, with Inuvialuit Development Corporation or Regional Corporation. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Alexander Lambrecht. He's the president of the Northern Territories Federation of Labour. It's good to have you here with us today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize Yellowknife North constituent Lois Little. She is also the chair of the Council for Canadians. I want to also take this opportunity to recognize a familiar face but that doesn't often come and sit in the gallery, and that is Yellowknife North resident and constituent assistant to Kevin O'Reilly and Julie Green, Craig Yeo.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize fellow former City Councillor and of course executive director of the John Howard Society, Lydia Bardak. Also on a rare occasion but a familiar face, my own constituent assistant for the riding of Yellowknife North, Mr. Keith MacNeill. Thank you all for coming.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I am pleased to recognize a constituent from Yellowknife South, Mr. Lona Hegeman, who is accompanied by Mr. Amir Kassab. Mr. Kassab is originally from Paris, France, and is in the Northwest Territories on a two-year work visa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize some students from the Tree of Peace Adult Education program. This program has been operating since 1974 and it has assisted hundreds of Aboriginal people, both access and achieve their academic goals. The students with us today are William Buggins, Annie Harry, Justin Donovan, Ernest Okian, and Marie Louise Abel. I'd like to welcome them to the gallery.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and welcome Steven Jackson, the executive director of Avens, and Kimberly Doyle, the executive director of the YK Seniors' Society. Welcome everybody to the Chamber today. Thank you.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Kimberly Doyle. I can't see her, but she's a constituent. She helped me set up a constituency meeting last week. Also Lois Little, who is the chair of the local chapter of the Council of Canadians and is doing some important work on public education around the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement, and Mr. Craig Yeo who is my constituency assistant, does a lot of work behind the scenes and doesn't often get the recognition he deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to recognize the students from Range Lake. It's always an honour when we have youth attending the Legislative Assembly. They will be our future leaders and it's really great to see them taking part in our meetings here. I also want to take a moment to recognize Anne Harry. Annie is a personal friend of mine. I really appreciate her, and I also want to recognize her daughter, who isn't here but who will be the coordinator of the Housing First project. So I just want to take a moment to recognize and say how much I really appreciate all that they've done. Thank you.

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

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my father, Rocky Simpson. It's always nice to have family in the gallery, so I'd like to thank him for coming. Thank you.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to recognize some folks from the Beaufort-Delta. Jiri Raska from IDC, Denny Rodgers from IDC as well, and Ms. Judy McLeod and also Mr. Rocky Simpson. Welcome to them and everyone else in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I believe the Member for Yellowknife Centre missed an important person, so I'll allow that opportunity.

MS. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I forgot to introduce my mom. My mom is not actually my constituent. She's Cory's constituent. But I'd ask you to help me in thanking her for being here and welcoming her, Ms. Anne Little. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we have missed anyone in the gallery, welcome to the Chamber. I hope everyone is enjoying our proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 305-18(2): STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CARBON PRICING

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier today about the rising cost of carbon and the need for us to establish a plan that is made in the North. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I would like to ask the Minister to explain how is the GNWT working with other territories to develop an approach to carbon pricing that works for Northerners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work very closely with our northern counterparts because the carbon pricing mechanism that Ottawa came up with is going to have an effect on the three territories. We managed to get it into the architecture document that is going to be considered by the first ministers at their upcoming meeting and we also made it quite clear to our counterparts and the federal minister the

effect that proposed carbon pricing is going to have on the Northwest Territories. They've committed to recognizing the uniqueness of the Northwest Territories as they move forward.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Can the Minister tell us what the GNWT is doing to reach out to our residents to communicate with them about climate change and the potential for a forthcoming carbon tax?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We recognize that the proposed carbon pricing is going to have an effect on people across the Northwest Territories. Having said that, we are going to undertake our regional public engagements this fall to inform the development of both the new energy strategy, get some feedback from residents, and I believe it's starting on October 25th and 26th.

There will be a schedule that would be made public, if it's not already. Also we have an on-line survey on the Department of ENR's website to get some public feedback. But we are having five regional workshops, regional public engagements, and we will make the dates known.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I appreciate the reply from the Minister, and I also appreciate that the Minister has indicated that there is ongoing communication going on with the federal government with regard to the potential for some mechanism for carbon pricing or carbon tax. So I just wonder if the Minister can elaborate. Has Ottawa given any detail about the model that it plans to put in place if we don't have our own?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: No, they haven't. They do have a technical team that's coming to the Northwest Territories within the next couple of weeks to meet with our technical folks to have some discussion, and as I stated earlier they have said to us that they recognize the uniqueness of the Northwest Territories and they will take that into consideration. As far as a mechanism, though, they are going to meet with our folks. Once they have some discussions with them and then we have our public engagement, then we will see what the pricing mechanism may look like.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you to the Minister for his reply. This will be my final question. Would the GNWT, if in fact we have to consider a carbon pricing, would the GNWT consider a carbon pricing approach that would reinvest revenues into renewable energy technology?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The federal government has given an indication that any carbon pricing mechanism used, the money would actually stay in the jurisdiction where it is generated. So there could be opportunities there for some investment in

infrastructure, and in our meetings with the federal minister we talked about the fact that we have 22 of our 33 communities on diesel. We need to get them off diesel. There are opportunities there for some federal investments through the green infrastructure and any other pots of money that we may be able to access to help us reduce our emissions. So we are looking at all options, and I can guarantee to this House and to the public that's listening, whatever option that we can get for the Northwest Territories that's going to benefit the Northwest Territories, we will go after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 306-18(2):
CABINET COMMUNICATIONS WITH REGULAR
MEMBERS

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I talked about the growing problem of poor communications between Cabinet and Regular MLAs. My questions are for the Minister of the Executive. Does the Minister agree that there were several significant breaches of the process convention on communications between the Executive Council Ministers, standing committees and Regular Members this past summer, as outlined in my Member's statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Honourable Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wouldn't go so far as to characterize it as serious breaches. I would just talk about the four instances that the Member raised on the Robertson Headframe with Newmont. The proponent wrote to all the Yellowknife MLAs indicating that he had talked to our government. I do have e-mails from the four Yellowknife MLAs outlining their positions with regards to the Robertson Headframe. So for him to say that it's a complete surprise that we were talking about the Robertson Headframe, I guess he considers that as very serious. Perhaps we should have communicated directly with the chair rather than asking the proponent to also bring it to their attention.

On the carbon tax, it's a question of interpretation. If I was totally against it, why would we agree in Montreal that there are different ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and we are open to that? I raised the concerns that we have, not only ourselves, but the three territories, that a carbon tax, we already live in a very high-cost environment, and to add increased costs, you know, we were the only jurisdiction in Canada whose population was declining on an annual basis, and to add to the cost of living would only exacerbate that.

Also that our economy is still developing and also we're concerned about food security, recognizing that we were going to develop our own greenhouse gas strategy which we're rolling out now. On the Mackenzie, well I don't live in a perfect world, we have people that make mistakes. I wasn't aware that somebody was going to talk about Mackenzie Highway. My understanding is the federal government is still looking at the Mackenzie Highway.

On the Yellowknife Airport, we exchanged correspondence. We had requested to do a briefing on a number of occasions, had been refused, and the media briefing was only provided at the request of the media and we only presented information that was already shared with committee. We will continue to endeavour to work to make sure that we communicate with all of the committees, as appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Minister, but we obviously disagree on communications. I'd like to know, can the Minister tell us whether the current executive has accepted and abides by the process convention on communications between the Executive Council, Ministers, standing committees and Regular Members that he signed on September 8, 2014?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That protocol is in the process of being renegotiated. It'll be rolled out very shortly, and we stand by it. Communications is a standing item of all of our Cabinet meetings of every decision paper and we will continue to endeavour to fulfill those commitments that we've committed.

MR. O'REILLY: Can the Minister tell this House what the consequences are for breaching the process convention on communications between Executive Council, Ministers, standing committees and Regular Members?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The consequences are obviously it deteriorates the relationship we have with the standing committees, and so we endeavour to not have that happen. We follow up and work very closely with all of the Ministers and all of the departments. Certainly, deputy ministers are held to account for work that is being done by their departments, but certainly it's something that we are endeavoured to improve upon on every occasion.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Well, we could probably go on and debate this for quite some time, but clearly when I continue to find out things that are going on through the media there's a problem. But I'd like to know

from the Minister, what is he prepared to do to prevent poor communications from happening again and again? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I don't see it happening again and again, but it's something, as I say, it's a constant process, we discuss it all the time. Every issue, every decision paper, every information item dealing, responding to the media, we endeavour to make sure that committees, especially the chairs of the appropriate committee and the MLAs are made aware of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 307-18(2):
FORT SIMPSON HEALTH CENTRE PLANNING
STUDY

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Speaker, a study for the Fort Simpson Health Centre was introduced in the 20-year needs assessment, targeted over the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016. On February 5, 2015 according to then Minister of Health and Social Services, the study was delayed so that the department can complete a plan study for the Norman Wells Health Centre replacement. Will the Minister confirm that the study for the Fort Simpson Health Centre will be completed by this fiscal year? Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the phase 1 planning study for the development of a health centre at Fort Simpson is currently underway and we anticipate that it'll be concluded during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Once it's done, phase 2 of the planning study, which is basically the schematic design and will take us to a Class E estimate, will be done. We're hoping too to bring that project forward for consideration in the capital, but the earliest that we anticipate that we'll see it in the capital plan would be 2018-2019. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. He kind of answered question number two already, so I'll move on to question number three here. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, 2015 the then Minister cautioned that the health centre project in Fort Simpson will have to compete against a number of other priorities coming from several territorial departments such as Transportation, schools and Public Works. Mr. Speaker, the then Minister quoted to CBC, it is based on needs, demands, programs, services, budgets and all these things. Again to address the concerns out there, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please explain why this project was delayed?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, there was a number of reasons that the project was delayed or rather the planning study was delayed. Part of that included our inability to obtain or secure a suitable parcel of land. Here was a significant amount of debate in the community about where the health centre should be and where it should not be, and it took us longer to get a set piece of land. That set piece of land was required before we could actually move forward with the planning study because the location helps us build the planning study. When the parcel of land was actually approved we had to do an archaeological assessment on the property. That was something we committed to doing based on some understanding or historic knowledge that suggested there might be some graves on that site. We needed to make absolute certainty that there were no graves on the site we were proposing to build. So we had some delays to get us to the point where we can actually fully acquire that land and develop a planning study. I will note, Mr. Speaker, that the Fort Simpson Health Centre is an aging facility. It was originally developed in 1973. But we have done a recent structural assessment on that property, which was completed in March 2016, which indicated that the facility is in stable condition. We need to modernize. Obviously there are new protocols, procedures in effect and control standards that we must meet. So we do need to move forward, but technically right now that building has a solid foundation, so it is a safe facility, which is a question that has been raised. I just wanted to address it while I had the opportunity.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his answer. Is there any work being done right now on the site that involves fencing off areas? Because I've heard there's a fenced-off area there. I apologize; it was just a question that I've just come up with right now. Is the Minister aware of that and, Mr. Speaker, can he answer if it's been there and what's going on with that site?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I was in Simpson I think about two weeks ago, and I don't recall seeing any activity on that site. However, I would not be the best person to ask. The best person to ask would be the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services who is ultimately responsible for the construction of the facility. Health and Social Services has put in a request, we need a building, Public Works and Services will be the contractor and the builder -- or the facilitator of the contracting and building.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Nahendeh.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank, again, the Minister for his answer. I will ask later on to the Minister of PW. Again, it seems to

got cleared who's responsible for who, so I'm learning as the time goes on. Is there any way that the Minister can commit to the people or the residents of the region that this needed facility will be actually potentially moved up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm committed to moving this initiative forward. The community of Fort Simpson does need an upgrade to their health centre. We need to bring it to current standards. We are moving the planning process forward. I'm happy to move this into the capital planning process at the earliest opportunity, but it does have to compete with a number of projects across the Northwest Territories, whether it's schools, health centres in different locations, other infrastructure that are being demanded by residents of the Northwest Territories. We're doing the work. We're doing the planning. We hope to get it in as quickly as possible. We also have the Tulita Health Centre; we have the Jean Marie Health Cabin; we have the Samba K'e Health Cabin and a number of other projects that we're currently looking at, on top of building the Stanton facility, which is badly needed by the people of the Northwest Territories, as well as the Fort Resolution Health Centre. There's a lot of work being done, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. Member for Hay River North.

QUESTION 308-18(2):
SAFETY CONCERNS IN LONG-TERM CARE
FACILITIES

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I spoke about an incident that occurred at the Woodland Manor in Hay River, and I have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services about that incident and, I guess, about violence at long-term care facilities in general. Has this incident spurred the department to look into how they can take safeguards to avoid these types of incidents in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is aware, as I know the Assembly is, that I can't talk about specific individual cases, so I'll talk in more general terms about the types of things we do when there is an incident. When an incident does occur within a long-term care facility, regardless of where it happens to be in the Northwest Territories, immediate measures are taken to ensure that

residents are safe and staff are safe. That's our first priority. The next process is to actually do an investigation. We do an investigation of all situations in long-term care facilities where a safety has been put in jeopardy. This is intended to help us learn from these incidents so that we can put in measures or safeguards to make sure that these types of things don't happen again. Our goal is to prevent future incidents. As a note, our new long-term care facilities are designed with cameras in the hallways and other safety measures, such as doors that can be locked down to lock off or isolate areas to keep individuals who might have a difference of opinion or some aggression towards each other separated. So there are things that exist in some of our more current facilities. But we try to learn from these incidents. We do investigations so that we can make appropriate changes to ensure that these types of things don't happen again across the Northwest Territories.

MR. SIMPSON: I understand that in the new facilities there are going to be some physical barriers, some cameras, measures like that. Are there options currently available to remove someone who might be violent from the facility they're in? Is there a secure location that they can be placed in? I know that residents aren't prisoners, but we do have to think about the safety of the other residents. So are there options to remove violent individuals and somewhere to put them?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, as somebody is admitted into a long-term care facility, there is a comprehensive functional assessment done of the individual to determine what their needs are. This information assessment is used to actually develop individual care plans which address the individual's mental health issues and other challenges. These are the things that we do to build individual case plans that will hopefully help us avoid violent incidents within our system. But it has happened. The Member is aware of, certainly, the incident that has recently happened, and we know from review across Canada and by listening to what's happening in other jurisdictions, violence is happening. So we certainly have to address that.

However, moving an individual can prove complicated. If there is a resident showing some violent tendencies or aggression, we have the ability to take them out of the facility and send them to a hospital where we can actually obtain a medical or a psychiatric assessment to determine if there are some underlying issues with the client that are leading to these aggressive or violent behaviours. Since residents are placed in a long-term care facility and have an individual care plan, those care plans can be amended and other resources can be brought to bear to help avoid future incidents. There has been suggestion that we need to look at the ability to move somebody out of

long-term care and into home care. Mr. Speaker, this isn't practical. If somebody is in long-term care, an assessment has been done to determine that they are unable to take care of themselves in a community setting where home care already exists; they need the additional supports of a long-term care facility. We will work with them. It might require moving to a different facility. It might require other opportunities. In really complex cases, Mr. Speaker, we may have to look at southern placement, where higher levels of support can be provided that we are currently unable to provide here, in the Northwest Territories. As I said previously, when incidents occur, every incident is investigated thoroughly, and we learn from those incident to make sure that we can put in mechanisms that can help us avoid these types of situations in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: I thank the Minister for his thorough answers. He's answered a couple of my questions, so this might be my last one. I know that cameras are going into new facilities. Has the department looked into installing cameras in existing facilities, particularly Woodland Manor, and does the department have a price on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Currently, all of our new long-term care facilities are designed with cameras in public spaces, not in individual rooms as that would be seen as a breach of individuals' privacy. There is no current plan to put cameras in existing facilities, but, if the facilities were to approach us and wish to do that, we're certainly supportive of finding a way to make that happen within some of our existing facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To follow up on what the Minister said, he said he would find ways to make it happen, I guess, basically, or to work with the authority to get cameras in facilities. Does that mean helping maybe with the payment or something like that, or is this just come out of the authority's budget as it is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the Member and the House are aware of, obviously, the fiscal challenges that we're facing, so we would have to be looking within. But it doesn't mean, Mr. Speaker, that we're not interested in doing this, but the way our current facilities are designed, some of them are more open concept, it may prove unnecessary to have cameras in some of our facilities. We need to look. We need to talk to the long-term care facilities that exist and get their ideas of where this might be appropriate and where it may be unnecessary. So it's certainly not all long-term care facilities, but we're absolutely open to discussion, and we will certainly have to find some room within to put cameras if that is ultimately

the desire of some of these long-term care facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 7, oral questions, Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 309-18(2):
MACKENZIE DELTA FERRY SERVICE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a follow-up to my Member's statement, some questions for the Minister of Transportation. As I mentioned in my Member's statement, Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents and people of the Beaufort Delta rely on the ferry services leading up to the opening of the ice road. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister is what is the government's backup plan to stabilize costs and maintain fuel supply if ferry service is suspended or reduced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Transportation.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has been looking at this very operation as a possible budget reduction, just because of the significant cost of it, and part of this conversation has been talking LNG and propane suppliers and the grocery suppliers of the Beaufort Delta region. From the conversations taking place at present, there is a significant chance that the closure of this ferry would not interrupt the services of either the LNG or propane delivery or the food delivery to the Beaufort Delta region. The department has had a number of conversations with these people, and we continue to talk to them, and there seems to be a reason that we can do this without significant challenges to the Beaufort Delta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, what led up to the ferry operating until the ice bridge was open was in fact, LNG in Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, there is worry that the community would run out of LNG. I haven't seen any infrastructure in the community that proves that they will be ready and have proper storage facilities in place, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to ask the Minister what is the estimated cost of building a bridge at the Peel River and Mackenzie River crossings and how does that compare to maintaining existing ferry services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: To address the bridge cost to start with, that would be a significant cost; I couldn't tell the Member exactly what that would be. We would have to take on a planning study and look into what the infrastructure would cost for that, and even if we did do that, that would be a significant amount of money as we know what the previous bridges in the Northwest Territories have cost. We'd have to go back to Infrastructure

Canada to assist with that, and under the fiscal pressures that this government is seeing it's probably something that would have to be rolled out in a 20-year study of our needs of infrastructure. Getting back to the increased storage capacity of the suppliers in the region, one of the things during the conversation that took place with a number of proponents up there was the Ikhil gas well has been used during these times as of recently, and this helps offset the need for LNG and propane at the same time. But that's why we're having this conversation early on, as this is proposed as a budget reduction coming up in the next budget cycle, is that we want the proponents to have the reserve appropriate in LNG as needed with what's needed with the short time that that ferry would be closed.

I guess the one other point that I'd want to make about it that during the operation of the winter ferry; that the Dempster has been closed 40 per cent of the time so it only leaves about 20 some days at the max that that operation has been open.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the department has kept track of all the closures on the highway, but you know I live right on the crossing at the Mackenzie River and the amount of vehicles that I see on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker, just doesn't line up. You know, we have truckers constantly on that highway and people coming from Fort McPherson to Inuvik travelling to Whitehorse, Mr. Speaker.

My next question I'd like to ask the Minister is: will the Minister ensure my constituents in the Beaufort Delta communities that ferry service will continue until the ice road is in operation?

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The one thing I can convey to the Member is that even though we are looking at doing this as a budget reduction for the next fiscal year, this year coming up that we will continue to have the winter ferry operation for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that wasn't so hard there, Minister. On behalf of my constituents I'd like to thank the department for following through on keeping the operations ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 310-18(2):
PUBLIC HOUSING SHORTAGE

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following on from my Member's statement, I'd like to talk a little bit more about housing availability, public housing availability, with some questions for the

Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. The length of the waiting list for public housing, both within Yellowknife and across the territory as a whole, has been constant for years, and I'm wondering if the Minister could tell us what she can do to make more public housing units available, especially to the single parents on the waiting list? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try to address that as concisely as I can although it's quite a loaded question. There is a huge waiting list for people for housing within the Northwest Territories, it's like 600 families at a minimum at this point, so it is a substantial number of people and it is a high priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories. What we're doing about it is federally we're meeting with the federal minister. There is actually going to be an FPT meeting at the end of this month. We have been advocating strongly. All three territories have advocated strongly. We've convinced them that when they do their national housing strategy that there has to be a northern component. So our advocacy, our lobbying for the federal government is working in that they are considering that the North is special and they will be actually having a northern component to that strategy. So that's important. The other thing that we're doing is we have the survey that's going out here at the end of this month. When I've travelled to the communities, as our Premier has talked about with his talking about transparency and being available to residents, the biggest thing I've heard from community members is that the GNWT needs to listen to them. They need to listen to the communities. They all are different, they all have their own opinions, and I have committed to doing that. There's quite a few policies and programs that I personally would like to take on and change immediately within the Housing Corporation, but I have made a commitment to the public of the Northwest Territories in saying that I will listen to them and I will take their words. So even though it's really difficult, because I do want change myself, I am honouring my commitment and waiting until the survey results come in. At that point, we will be looking at every single policy, every single program, to see if we can structure them better to accommodate people. In the community specifically of Yellowknife, though, I do want to say that there is market housing available. So sometimes people often think that public housing is the only answer, but it's not. People within Yellowknife market communities actually have more of a luxury than people in the communities in that they can go rent a place; they can qualify for income support if they can't afford it, and also the NWT Housing

Corporation has a Transitional Rent Supplement Program that will help people for two years if they need additional support to pay their rent. So there is actually more options within Yellowknife than there is in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I thank the Minister for her answer and for her efforts to address this issue. I appreciate that it is an enormous one. Affordability is a key problem in Yellowknife. I appreciate that the government will provide help to people on income assistance and through the Transitional Rent Supplement Program, but still affordability for low-income people is an issue. I want to just ask about the CMHC, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, funding. I know that organization funds operations and maintenance of public housing stock and that number has been in decline since 2003. Is the fact that this operations and maintenance money is going down one of the reasons the government can't build more units?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: For quite a few Legislative Assemblies actually there has been a stall on building new units, public housing units. I have not personally spoken to those Ministers so I cannot actually say what their reasoning was for that. My intuition, my gut is telling me, though, that they did put a hold on it because of the declining funding in the operating and maintenance for the CMHC which will dissolve in 2038. So as part of that, I am looking at strategies to address that so that we can actually increase our public housing stock. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: I appreciate the Minister looking at how to bridge that gap in declining O and M funding with the CMHC; it's obviously a critical piece of work. My last question, or potentially my last question, concerns the local housing authorities. Many of them have significant operational surpluses in excess of \$500,000, including the Yellowknife Housing Authority. Could the Yellowknife Housing Authority rent additional units using their surplus to provide at least short-term relief for families on the waiting list? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point I would say that that would not be a very good recommendation; my concern would be is that we set people up. If we were to put them in temporary residences and rent places, people then get accustomed. This is their home, they get very comfortable, and then when their surplus for the local housing organization runs out, then they're kicked out in the street. So I don't think that is a very viable solution.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that this would not be sustainable, but it might supply a short-term additional boost in housing. I mean,

people do move out of public housing. So those in temporary units could be moved on to more permanent units. It just seems to me that using those surpluses to create housing would be the best use of that money. So can the Minister commit to looking again at using the surplus for creating additional short-term housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: The direction that we have given the local housing organizations is that they are to come to us with their suggestions on how they are going to deal with the surpluses. So, again, out of respect for the process that we've already put it on the table and asked them to present to us, then I think at this point it would be inappropriate for me to go back on them and demand what we want to see. So I would be more than eager to see what they are going to present to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 311-18(2):
SAFETY CONCERNS IN LONG-TERM CARE
FACILITIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to talk about the long-term care in Hay River. I would like to ask the Minister if there are protocols in place when there is an incident, a protocol in place that staff have to follow?

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Health and Social Services.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated previously, when an incident does occur within any of our long-term care facilities, the immediate measures are taken to ensure the residents and staff are safe, such as separating the residents and removing other residents and staff from the area where the incident might be taking place, and doing what we can with the residents themselves to make sure that the altercation is ended as quickly as possible.

MR. BEAULIEU: I would like to ask the Minister if staff are trained to deal with reports. When there is an incident in a long-term care facility, what type of training do staff have in order to deal with it to ensure that they are dealing with the incident appropriately?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The training varies across the Northwest Territories depending on the type of training or support that individual authorities pre-transformation had established. We are looking to try to obviously standardize some training to make sure that all long-term care facilities have training that is both adequate, timely, and effective.

As an example, there is a three-day training that has been available in Fort Smith called P.I.E.C.E.S. P.I.E.C.E.S is an approach to a multidisciplinary team to understand enhanced care for individuals with physical and/or cognitive mental health issues that have behaviour changes, and how they can work together with the clients, with the facility, work together with their team members to ensure that, as they change, as they age, that the staff are on top of it and aware of incidents that may come up. So there is training that we're trying to standardize, trying to make sure that all of our staff have consistent training across the system.

MR. BEAULIEU: In the long-term care here in Yellowknife, there are two separate areas for individuals that have dementia and others that do not. I would like to ask the Minister if there is such a separation in Woodland Manor, where people with dementia are separated from people that do not have dementia?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We only have only one dementia facility in the Northwest Territories, and that is the facility in Yellowknife. Individuals with dementia have a higher need and a higher requirement for support than individuals in long-term care who may have early-onset Alzheimer's or some level of minor dementia but not extreme dementia. Individuals with dementia, we try to get into the long-term or the dementia facility here in Yellowknife, but as the Member knows, as all Members know, we have a shortage of beds in the Northwest Territories. We are trying to come up with a plan to increase the number of beds across the Northwest Territories for long-term care, including addressing some of the shortages we're going to experience in dementia care or beds moving forward.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if there is a way that individuals with dementia are separated from people without dementia? In incidents such as this, individuals with dementia are mixed in with individuals that do not have dementia. I would like to ask the Minister, if physically they cannot be separated, then is there some sort of plan or protocol, or whatever we wish to call it, in place that keeps people with dementia away from individuals that do not have dementia?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Individuals within our long-term care facilities have a wide range of different challenges. As I indicated previously, we do an assessment of each individual to identify their needs and their specific needs and develop personal care plans based on the individual's needs. Having said that, in our new facilities we have a lot more structures built into the buildings themselves so that we can isolate different areas and keep individuals, whether they have dementia

or not, separated from each other when there are issues, when there is a risk of violence. So our new facilities do have the ability to do exactly what the Member is discussing. As a note, we are currently moving forward with the construction of an expansion to Woodland Manor which will be a current and modern facility, with all the structures in place that exist within all of our current modern long-term care facilities. So that new expansion will have the ability to do exactly what the Member is discussing, as does our new facility in Behchoko, as does our new facility in Norman Wells, and more modern facilities such as the dementia centres that have been built over the years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 312-18(2):
MANAGED ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services indicate if this government is prepared to implement harm reduction programs such as managed alcohol programs? Has this issue been studied and would the department be prepared to implement them?

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services is developing a strategic framework for mental health and addictions recovery in the Northwest Territories, which is going to include, or rather will be built from that framework, an addictions recovery action plan. As part of that plan, we are focusing on a recovery-oriented system, which does include harm reduction.

So we are looking at what's being done in other jurisdictions by way of harm reduction, on how we might be able to implement some of those harm reduction initiatives here in the Northwest Territories. Recognizing that not all communities are the same, not all regions are the same, we may have to have a variety of programs, depending on what people are telling us they want and need to help them recover.

MR. TESTART: Thank you to the Minister for that response. So would the department then be in a position to look at the situation in Yellowknife, with the recent media reports supporting this kind of approach, and be willing to discuss developing a pilot with local government officials to start taking some action on this cost-effective action?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The answer is yes. The bottom line is we are working already with the

City of Yellowknife, the Department of Justice, the NWT Housing Corporation, the RCMP, to come up with some ways to address some of the issues that we're experiencing in our downtown core and the demands those are putting both on our ambulance services here in Yellowknife but also on our emergency room. A couple of things we're looking at is expanding our hours of service for our day shelters. We're looking at moving our day shelter to a more appropriate location. We're also looking at a sobering centre here in Yellowknife. Many people have been talking about a managed alcohol program. We feel that a managed alcohol program would be a nice fit within a sobering centre. Our first goal is to get a sobering centre in place, do the research on managed alcohol programs, and see if it will be a fit in the future. It is absolutely something we're open to, but we need to get the other work done, the sobering centre, the change in hours and the ride-along programs that the city is looking at implementing. There's a lot of work being done in this area, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Again, thank you to the Minister for that. I'm pleased to hear there's a lot of work being done in this area. When can we expect it to be done?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the city has already made a significant amount of progress on putting together the RIDE program. One of the challenges we face is, unfortunately, finding a location for the sobering centre, itself. We've also made a commitment to relocating the day shelter, which is also proving difficult. We have our staff currently out looking for appropriate locations in the community. If we're able to get a location, and we're hoping to find one soon, we need a bit of time to do some retrofitting to make it suitable and we need a bit of time to do some staffing in order to get appropriate staff that can actually manage things. I don't have a deadline because, bottom line, it really depends on whether or not we're able to find a location. That is our challenge right now. When we find a location, we intend to move quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TESTART: Could the Minister then commit to undertaking some study on the managed alcohol programs or harm reduction programs, such as INSITE in British Columbia and the successful managed alcohol program in Ottawa, and share those recommendations with Members of the Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, managed alcohol programs have existed in Canada for 20-plus years. The first one started operating in Toronto in 1997. But all these programs, they differ a little bit in how they operate. Some of them operate as part of day programs; others operate as part of supportive housing or shelters; and some

are non-residential drop-in programs. I have committed and I will commit again to the Member that part of the development of the Addictions Recovery Action Plan, building from our framework, the department will research all these established programs, identify emerging best practices for addictions treatment, which include this particular model, the managed alcohol program, and come with options for the delivery of a wide range of services for residents of the Northwest Territories as part of a recovery initiative. I will say, Mr. Speaker, we've heard from residents across the Northwest Territories. What they want is options. No one program fits all. We need to come with more options. In the last Assembly, we moved from basically one option to a far wider range of options, and we're looking at expanding on those options again in order to meet the variety of needs of residents across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 313-18(2):

GROUNDING BARGE NORTH OF TUKTOYAKTUK

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister for ENR, pertaining to the stranded barge on Toker Point north of Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Speaker, my first question to the Minister is: What is the Department of ENR doing to be more prepared in the future to minimize the environment impact of ships going aground in the Arctic Ocean? Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is going to be an issue that we're going to be faced with more of in the future as more traffic is travelling through the Northwest Passage, so I think it's good planning to have our governments ready to deal with any situations that might arise, and we're hoping that they don't.

Our staff from Inuvik and Yellowknife, we've been involved with the federal science tables, which the Government of Canada agencies with authority to respond to these types of incidents. We're not the lead in this, but we do provide, we will provide support to Canada Coast Guard, who is the lead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thanks for the response on that, and I do believe there will be more activity in the Northwest Passage and the Arctic Ocean in the next few years to come. Mr. Speaker, my second question is pertaining to the incident, since there

was such a long time for activity, to this incident. Can the department identify the process once a ship has run aground in the Beaufort Sea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, according to the NWT Nunavut Spills Working Agreement, all spills or potential spills must be reported in a timely fashion to the 24-hour spill line. In the case of a ship that runs aground, Canada Coast Guard, as I said before, is the lead agency for response component on behalf of the Government of Canada, and Transport Canada is responsible for the management and governance of Canada's marine oil spills preparedness. ENR will be involved in communicating critical aspects of the incident, and we can provide assistance when Canada's agencies request it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response from the Minister. My final question to the Minister of ENR is: will the Department of ENR work more closely with the federal government to ensure that the GNWT and communities are more prepared in the future in a case of a significant incident such as this in the Arctic Ocean? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, as I said before, because of the increased traffic or expected increased traffic, we will have to better plan for incidents like this, should they happen. I mean, I can assure the Member and the folks up in the coastal communities that we will work with the Government of Canada and see what kind of processes we can have in place, what our role as ENR can be in these processes, because it is very important that we start planning in the event that anything like this happens again, so we should be prepared for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 314-18(2):
FEDERAL TECHNICAL TEAM STUDYING
CARBON PRICING

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier some questions about his sessional statement that was delivered earlier today. In here, he mentions that there's going to be a technical team that will visit the Northwest Territories to study issues around carbon pricing. I'm wondering if the Premier can just tell us a little bit more about what this team is going to be doing. Are they going to be designing a carbon pricing system for us? Just if the Minister could just tell us a little bit more about what this team is going to be doing. Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the Member's question on the technical team, they're coming up in a couple of weeks. We're not quite sure the make-up of the team or what their schedule is at the moment. However, as we become aware of their schedule and who's part of the team, we will communicate that with the Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: I appreciate the response from the Minister. I'm just wondering when this technical team comes up, can the Minister commit to have the team meet with Regular MLAs through the standing committee if necessary? I think it would just be important that we understand a little bit more about what this technical team is going to be doing and that we're able to offer our perspective on some of these issues, as well. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I can't commit to meeting for the technical team. I can commit to working with the technical team or communicating with them that there is an interest to have some further discussion with them, and, if they come back with a positive, then we will let committee know. I do commit to working with the technical team and seeing what their availability is for further meetings with the Regular Members or others that may be interested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 315-18(2):
FORT SIMPSON HEALTH CENTRE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, I spoke about the planning study for the replacement of the Fort Simpson Health Centre. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services a few more questions about this project. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Department of Public Works and Services has already gone into the community in 2015 to discuss this project. Can the Minister please provide us with an update on this meeting? Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I think, at the time, that meeting was to discuss land location and a few other things to get, actually, a confirmed sense of where that building would be located. There was some talk about some of the specifics of the building. It is going to be a level B/C facility,

which is basically one of our larger health centres in the Northwest Territories, providing a larger range of services given the size and scope of the community that it's located in and the regional nature of that community. In a sense, the facility is going to be very similar to the one in Norman Wells. There was some conversation at that meeting about, you know, customizing and making it specific to represent the culture of the region and the area. When it comes to clinical rooms, those clinical rooms are very specific and have to meet certain health care standards, including infection protocols, but we've made a commitment to the community, we've made a commitment to all communities when we build health centres, that we're open to discussion on how to have some of the common areas designed and modified to meet the cultural needs or the cultural realities of the regions that these facilities happen to be located in.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. It clears up a little bit more. He talked about it being a C facility; it could be a B or a C. Could he elaborate a little further about the guidelines, the parameters or designs on this facility, what a B or a C or a combination of B and C facility is?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Given the region, the location of this particular health centre, this would be what we would consider a level B-C facility, which is kind of a combination of both B and C facilities, recognizing some of the unique realities that a regional centre has. This facility will be very similar to the facility in Norman Wells, which is much larger than the facility they have now. It has more space for clinic rooms, as well as an emergency room, but will be providing the same services that are currently being provided in the existing health centre in Fort Simpson, but it will meet our technical and infection control protocols and standards, and it will be larger as a result.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for the answer. This did clarify a few things a little bit better. So are they looking at additional services in there so we don't have to come to the major centre, or is there just going to be the status quo? We're going to continue to have to utilize the facility in Hay River and the one in Yellowknife?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As with all the facilities that we've built, including the ones that we're currently building, there is no addition of services being added to Fort Simpson. The facilities will provide us with the ability to provide services better, more effectively, safer, given the technology requirements of our health system as it stands today. So there will be no new or additional programs being added to Fort Simpson, which is consistent with the health centre in Norman Wells, which is consistent with the health centre in Fort

Res, and the one we would be building in Tulita. The one difference is the health centre in Norman Wells does have an adjoining capacity for long-term care, but there are already long-term care services in Simpson. We are looking at expanding those as well.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his answer. In regards to long-term care, can the Minister explain the existing facility? Are they looking at utilizing that as long-term care as well, because I know he keeps giving the numbers out there. It's over 200 at a certain - I think 225 or 226. Can the Minister please elaborate on that?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The current long-term care facility in Nahendeh is attached to the health centre in Fort Simpson. We do recognize that, by 2026, we will have a shortage in Fort Simpson for the region of 29 beds. I will verify that number for the Member, but I'm pretty confident that it's 29. So we have to include in our planning the ability to create 29 more beds. If we move forward with the health centre, there has been some discussion about expanding the long-term care facility on the existing site. It's quite frankly a really beautiful site. It's got a river view. It's already a strong part of the community. So there is some value in having those discussions. But before we can commit to that, we obviously have to make sure that we can utilize that spot, so we're certainly looking at that existing location. We would want to build a building, or rather have a building that has a long life to it, so we would have to look at whether or not the pilings in the existing building would give us that long life or whether we would have to rebuild, or whether there's an option to rebuild portions and save portions.

We're confident that the long-term care facility that's there now has a long life. It's whether or not we can use the existing health centre to add or whether that would need to be replaced. We have to explore all the options, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 7-18(2):
HEATING ISSUES RELATED TO THE JOE
GREENLAND CENTRE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by the Member for Mackenzie Delta on June 24, 2016, to the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation regarding heating issues related to the Joe Greenland Centre.

The Joe Greenland Centre is heated by an oil-fired hydronic boiler heating system. The total incremental cost of electricity due to the use of space heaters by elders in the Joe Greenland Centre from September 1, 2015, to June 1, 2016, was \$1,440. This was due to four units in service during this time frame, with an incremental cost of \$40 a month per unit.

Regarding the cost to install additional radiators in the facility, a contract has been awarded for \$77,000 to complete the repairs. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of October 2016. As the Joe Greenland Centre had an energy efficient heating system installed, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation did not undertake a feasibility study for biomass heating.

With an energy efficient heating system in place, the payback from a biomass heating system investment is expected to be much longer. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is open to considering a wood pellet heating system for this facility in the future, based on a sound business case and available funding.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 8-18(2):
CAPITAL CONTRACTS ON HIGHWAY NO. 1

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. Thompson on June 29, 2016, regarding Capital Contracts on Highway No. 1.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a document from the Department of Transportation indicating the annual budget for capital projects delivered on Highway No. 1 in the Nahendeh constituency, including the ice crossings, since 2011-2012.

The document will include a list of companies that were awarded capital contracts and a description of the Government of the Northwest Territories contract award process. It will also include the number of companies that requested and received negotiated contracts between November 2015 and June 2016.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 9-18(2):
2014-2015 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Ms. Green on June 29, 2016 regarding the 2014-2015 Public Accounts.

1. Can the Minister confirm that government spending on infrastructure exceeded the operating surplus, as per page 8 of the non-consolidated public accounts?

I can confirm that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) spending in 2014-2015 on

infrastructure did not exceed the infrastructure financing provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy (FRP). The government achieved sufficient cash from the operating surpluses during the 2014-2015 fiscal year to finance at least 50 per cent of capital expenditures. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table a document showing how the GNWT complied with the FRP.

2. What are the consequences for Government not adhering to its own fiscal responsibility policy by failing to finance infrastructure from 50 per cent of the operating surplus?

The FRP is focused on committing the GNWT to prudent borrowing to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability. If the GNWT did not achieve sufficient cash from operating surpluses to finance 50 per cent of infrastructure investments in a fiscal year, the GNWT would be required to adopt a fiscal strategy to ensure sufficient operating surpluses were achieved over the subsequent two fiscal periods to bring the GNWT back into compliance.

3. What is the cost of the additional borrowing required for infrastructure funding?

The GNWT would have had to borrow approximately \$56 million to fund infrastructure projects in 2014-2015. Given that the GNWT incurs short-term borrowing to have sufficient cash for operations and fund infrastructure investment, the actual cost of borrowing the \$56 million can only be estimated. Assuming that the \$56 million was borrowed in equal installments over the 12-month period, the estimated borrowing costs would be approximately \$325,000.

4. Can the Minister commit to make the reporting on adherence to the fiscal responsibility policy available in plain language within three months of the review of the public accounts?

A plain language report on the GNWT adherence to the FRP will be included in the Public Accounts.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 10-18(2):
HORIZONTAL FRACTURING EMISSIONS,
FLUIDS AND INSPECTIONS

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by Mr. O'Reilly of the Minister responsible for the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations on June 29, 2016 regarding horizontal fracturing emissions, fluids and inspections.

Mr. Speaker, as there is no ministerial portfolio known as Minister responsible for the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations, I am exercising my prerogative as Premier and taking it upon myself to provide a response to Mr. O'Reilly's questions.

For future reference, I would suggest that questions concerning the operations of the office of the regulator should be directed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment as the Minister responsible for the Oil and Gas Operations Act.

1. The quantity of greenhouse gas emissions due to flaring and for how many days flaring occurred?

The regulator is now able to supply the information requested. Section 67 of the Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations prohibits flaring unless it is authorized by the regulator, or necessary in an emergency situation. ConocoPhillips received authorization from the National Energy Board, the oil and gas regulator before devolution, to flare from the E-76 and P-20 wells, the two wells that were horizontally fractured.

Flaring can be necessary when there is no infrastructure to transport produced gases to market, including gases produced from the testing of a well. It also reduces the greenhouse gas potency of methane, which is up to twenty-five times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Dodo Canyon E-76:

Flaring occurred at the Dodo Canyon E-76 well from March 2, 2014 to March 20, 2014 (18 days). The total volume flared was 1,595 E³m³, which resulted in flaring direct CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) emissions of 4,074 tonnes.

Mirror Lake P-20:

Flaring occurred at the Mirror Lake P-20 well from March 17, 2014 to April 4, 2014 (18 days). The total volume flared was 1,628 E³m³, which resulted in flaring direct CO₂ emissions of 4,156 tonnes.

2. The total volume of fracking fluid used, fracking fluids recovered and fracking fluids left in the ground.

OROGO is a participant in fracfocus.ca, as was the National Energy Board at the time the E-76 and P-20 wells were drilled. The water volume and hydraulic fracture fluid composition for each well was reported to FracFocus.ca.

Dodo Canyon E-76:

The total load fluid (fluid injected into the well) for the Dodo Canyon E-76 well was 6,586 m³. The load fluid consisted of 15% HCl acid, fracture water (fracking fluid) and fresh water. 96.5% of the load fluid, or 6,355.5 m³, was fracking fluid. The total load fluid recovered was 1,780 m³. The fracturing occurred in the targeted petroleum producing zone at a depth of 1790m (about 5,873 feet) from the surface.

Mirror Lake P-20:

The total load fluid for the Mirror Lake P-20 well was 7,920 m³. The load fluid consisted of 15% HCl acid, fracture water (fracking fluid) and fresh water. 95.5% of the load fluid, or 7,563.6 m³, was fracking fluid. The total load fluid recovered was 1,857 m³. The fracturing occurred in the targeted petroleum producing zone at a depth of 2,019m (about 6624 feet) from the surface.

3. Activities carried out to monitor the condition of well casings including details and results of any plan for the continuous monitoring of well casing integrity and measures to detect leakage.

Mirror Lake P-20 and Dodo Canyon E-76 were drilled and completed under the regulation of the National Energy Board, prior to April 1, 2014. Section 39 of the Canada Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations then in effect for these wells, contain specific requirements for the design of well casings, including the requirement that they be "designed so that the anticipated conditions, forces and stresses that may be placed on them are withstood ... and that the integrity of... potable water zones, is protected."

Further, section 43 requires an operator to "ensure that the casing is pressure-tested to the value required to confirm its integrity for maximum anticipated operating pressure." The same requirements are mirrored in the territorial Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations.

When the wells came under the jurisdiction of the GNWT Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations on April 1, 2014, they were already shut in. Between January and March 2016, ConocoPhillips abandoned (permanently plugged and cut and capped) these two wells, along with two other petroleum wells and three groundwater monitoring wells regulated by the GNWT Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations.

These activities were authorized by the Chief Conservation Officer and were monitored and inspected by staff of the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO). During the approximately two months of abandonment operations and subsequent follow-up, OROGO conducted four inspections over a total of 8 days and one non-inspection site visit.

Section 57 of the Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations requires that operators monitor and inspect suspended wells. No such requirement is in place for wells that have been abandoned in accordance with the regulations. However, section 57 of the regulations puts an ongoing responsibility on an operator to ensure that a well is left in a condition that prevents leakage.

Likewise, there is no legislated mandate for the Regulator to continuously monitor or inspect wells

that have been abandoned in accordance with the regulations. However, OROGO has recently launched a voluntary program, Well Watch, which encourages local land users to contact OROGO directly if they notice any changes in the status of old abandoned wells. OROGO will follow up with the community, conduct any necessary inspections and identify the organization responsible for any repair work.

4. Any results from the annual surface and ground water monitoring, indicating changes to the ground water and surface water quality, as a result of the ConocoPhillips horizontal fracturing program.

The Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement gives the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) primary responsibility for regulating land and water use, and conserving land and water resources in the Sahtu Settlement Area.

ConocoPhillips' surface and ground water monitoring reports are submitted to the SLWB, as a condition of the water licence associated with the project. These annual reports are available on the SLWB's public registry at <http://mvlwb.com/mvlwb/resources/corporate-documents>

What monitoring and inspection takes place to verify the contents of the surface and ground water monitoring plan reports submitted annually by ConocoPhillips. Surface and groundwater monitoring reports are a requirement of the ConocoPhillips' water licence, issued by the SLWB. Monitoring and inspection activities are carried out by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Please be advised there is no ministerial portfolio known as Minister responsible for the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations and for future reference I would suggest that questions concerning the operation of that office be directed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, as the Minister responsible for the Oil and Gas Operations Act.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 11-18(2): SMALL BUSINESS TAXES

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by the Member for Kam Lake on June 29, 2016 to the Minister of Finance regarding small business taxes.

1. Over a 10-year average, how many small business are operating in the Northwest Territories and how many do not pay taxes based on GNWT tax regulations?

Response:

For NWT tax purposes, a small business is usually defined as a company owned by Canadians with capital investment of less than \$10 million and with shares of the company not traded on a stock exchange. A small business receives preferential tax treatment in that its business profit (taxable income) up to \$500,000 is subjected to a lower corporate income tax rate of 4 per cent instead of the general corporate income tax rate of 11.5 per cent.

The amount of the active business income limit for the small business corporate tax rate has changed three times since 2004 and therefore a ten year average would not compare the same data set of small businesses. The current business limit of \$500,000 is unchanged since 2009. Therefore, the response is restricted to the five year period from 2009 to 2013, which is the latest data available.

Using the 2009 to 2013 average, the NWT has 1,853 small businesses including those operating as not for profit organizations. About 1,009, or 54 per cent, of these businesses do not pay NWT corporate income tax.

2. Can the Minister provide details of the policies, legislation and any additional regulations that permit small businesses in the Northwest Territories not to pay taxes?

Response:

There are no policies, legislation or regulations that permit small businesses to not pay taxes when they are profitable. Businesses in the NWT are subject to the federal Income Tax Act and the NWT Income Tax Act and both provide preferential income tax treatment to small businesses.

NWT legislation provides preferential income tax treatment to small businesses, where the first \$500,000 of active business income earned by these small businesses is subject to the 4 per cent small business tax rate. Income over this threshold is subject to the 11.5 per cent general corporate income tax rate.

If a small business is not paying taxes it is because it is not generating taxable income. This is the case if its revenue generated for the year is fully offset by allowable business deductions and credits.

Further, when the business incurs a loss for the year, it is allowed to use the loss to reduce tax paid back three years or carry the loss forward and apply it against future profits for up to 20 years.

3. What is the projected impact on government revenue over a ten-year average of a reduction of one per cent to the lower corporate income tax rate?

Response:

The small business tax revenue yield is fairly stable. Reducing the small business tax rate from four per cent to three per cent would generate a potential average annual GNWT revenue loss of \$700,000.

4. What is the projected impact on government revenue over a ten-year average of a reduction of two per cent to the lower corporate income tax rate?

Response:

Reducing the small business tax rate from 4 per cent to 2 per cent would generate a potential average annual GNWT revenue loss of \$1.4 million.

5. What is the projected impact on government revenue over a ten-year average of a reduction of one per cent to the higher corporate income tax rate?

Response:

Reducing the general corporate income tax rate from 11.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent would generate a potential average annual GNWT revenue loss of \$5.3 million based on a ten-year average; however, corporate income can fluctuate significantly and the potential losses over the ten year period (2005 to 2014) from a one percentage point reduction in the general corporate rate would have ranged from \$3 million to \$9 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 100-18(2):
GNWT RESPONSE TO MOTION 19-18(2):
ADDRESSING CORE HOUSING NEEDS IN THE
NWT

TABLED DOCUMENT 101-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 17-
18(2): ARCTIC WINTER GAMES APPLICATION
PROCESS

TABLED DOCUMENT 102-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 179-
18(2): HIGHWAY RESCUE SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 103-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 181-
18(2): 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 104-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 183-
18(2): HAMLET OF FORT MCPHERSON
FINANCIAL STATUS

TABLED DOCUMENT 105-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 199-
18(2): ALLOCATION OF LOTTERY PROCEEDS

TABLED DOCUMENT 106-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 209-
18(2): PROFILE AND VOICE OF THE
COMMUNITY OF ENTERPRISE

TABLED DOCUMENT 107-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 252-
18(2): IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH NORTHERN
TRANSPORTATION COMPANY LIMITED

TABLED DOCUMENT 108-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 261-
18(2): NWT YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

TABLED DOCUMENT 109-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 283-
18(2): YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND
LEADERSHIP TOURS

TABLED DOCUMENT 110-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 294-
18(2): FINANCIAL ISSUES IN FORT
MCPHERSON

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following 11 documents entitled "GNWT Response to Motion 19-18(2): Addressing Core Housing Needs in the NWT," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 17-18(2): Arctic Winter Games Application Process," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 179-18(2): Highway Rescue Services," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 181-18(2): 911 Emergency Telephone Services," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 183-18(2): Hamlet of Fort McPherson Financial Status," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 199-18(2): Allocation of Lottery Proceeds," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 209-18(2): Profile and Voice of the Community of Enterprise," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 252-18(2): Impacts Associated with Northern Transportation Company Limited," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 261-18(2): NWT Youth Ambassador Program," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 283-18(2): Youth Development and Leadership Tours," and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 294-18(2): Financial Issues in Fort McPherson."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 111-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 200-
18(2): LICENSES PRACTICAL NURSING
PROGRAM IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

TABLED DOCUMENT 112-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 216-
18(2) AND ORAL QUESTION 225-18(2): MEDICAL
TRAVEL CHALLENGES

TABLED DOCUMENT 113-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 224-
18(2): SERVICES TO SUPPORT SENIORS
AGING IN PLACE

TABLED DOCUMENT 114-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 246-
18(2): CONTRACT MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN
YELLOWKNIFE

TABLED DOCUMENT 115-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 250-
18(2): GNWT CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE FAMILY
VIOLENCE

TABLED DOCUMENT 116-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 277-
18(2): IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL
WELLNESS COUNCILS'

TABLED DOCUMENT 117-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 302-
18(2): SUMMER REDUCTION TO NURSING
SERVICES IN AKLAVIK

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the following seven documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 200-18(2): Licenses Practical Nursing Program in Tsiigehtchic," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 216-18(2) and Oral Question 225-18(2): Medical Travel Challenges," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 224-18(2): Services to Support Seniors Aging in Place," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 246-18(2): Contract Midwifery Services in Yellowknife," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 250-18(2): GNWT Campaign to Eliminate Family Violence," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 277-18(2): Implementation of Regional Wellness Councils," as well as "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 302-18(2): Summer Reduction to Nursing Services in Aklavik." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Human Resources.

TABLED DOCUMENT 118-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 142-
18(2): STATUS OF REGIONAL RECRUITMENT
PROGRAM

TABLED DOCUMENT 119-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 143-
18(2): IMPACTS OF GNWT JOB LOSSES

TABLED DOCUMENT 120-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 158-
18(2): ABORIGINAL REPRESENTATION ON THE
GNWT PUBLIC SERVICE

TABLED DOCUMENT 121-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 270-
18(2): REFORM OF THE CANADA PENSION
PLAN

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following four documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 142-18(2): Status of Regional Recruitment Program," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 143-18(2): Impacts of GNWT Job Losses," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 158-18(2): Aboriginal Representation on the GNWT Public Service," and "Follow-up letter to Oral Question 270-18(2): Reform of the Canada Pension Plan."

TABLED DOCUMENT 122-18(2):
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY
CALCULATIONS

Also, Mr. Speaker, further to my return to written question 9-18(2), I wish to table the following document entitled "Fiscal Responsibility Policy Calculations." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. The Honourable House Leader.

TABLED DOCUMENT 123-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 15-
18(2): YELLOWKNIFE RCMP STAFF HOUSING

TABLED DOCUMENT 124-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 160-
18(2): COLVILLE LAKE SOLAR POWER PILOT
PROJECT

TABLED DOCUMENT 125-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 221-
18(2): GNWT LIABILITIES FOR CANTUNG MINE
SITE REMEDIATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 126-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 239-
18(2): ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION SITES
ALONG GREAT BEAR LAKE

TABLED DOCUMENT 127-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 279-
18(2): ASSESSMENT OF "A NEW DAY" MEN'S
HEALING PROGRAM

TABLED DOCUMENT 128-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 284-
18(2): EVOLUTION OF LAND USE AND
SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

TABLED DOCUMENT 129-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 297-
18(2): SUPPORT FOR PEACE OFFICERS IN THE
NWT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Minister Sebert, I wish to table the following seven documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 15-18(2): Yellowknife RCMP Staff Housing," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 160-18(2): Colville Lake Solar Power Pilot Project," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 221-18(2): GNWT Liabilities for Cantung Mine Site Remediation," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 239-18(2): Environmental Remediation Sites Along Great Bear Lake," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 279-18(2): Assessment of "A New Day" Men's Healing Program," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 284-18(2): Evolution of Land Use and Sustainability Framework" and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 297-18(2): Support For Peace Officers in the NWT." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Transportation.

TABLED DOCUMENT 130-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 109-
18(2): HIGHWAY NO. 1 MAINTENANCE

TABLED DOCUMENT 131-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 15-
18(2): BUILDING CANADA PLAN BUNDLE NO. 2

TABLED DOCUMENT 132-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 132-
18(2) HOUSE OF OPERATION FOR FORT
SIMPSON FERRY SERVICE

TABLED DOCUMENT 133-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 244-
18(2): INFORMATION ON FORT SIMPSON
FERRY SERVICE

TABLED DOCUMENT 134-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 269-
18(2): INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY

TABLED DOCUMENT 135-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 279-
18(2): ASSESSMENT OF "A NEW DAY" MEN'S
HEALING PROGRAM

TABLED DOCUMENT 135-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 292-
18(2): HIGHWAY NO. 7 RESURFACING
CONTRACT

TABLED DOCUMENT 136-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 293-
18(2): SUPPORT FOR THE NWT FILM INDUSTRY

TABLED DOCUMENT 137-18(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER TO ORAL QUESTION 295-
18(2): CONTRACTING PROCEDURES AND
POLICY

HON. WALLY SCHUMANN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following eight documents entitled "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 109-18(2): Highway No. 1 Maintenance," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 131-18(2): Building Canada Plan Bundle No. 2," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 132-18(2): Hours of Operations for Fort Simpson Ferry Service," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 244-18(2): Information on the Fort Simpson Ferry Service," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 269-18(2): Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 292-18(2): Highway No. 7 Resurfacing Contract," "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 293-18(2): Support for the NWT Film Industry," and "Follow-up Letter to Oral Question 295-18(2): Contracting Procedures and Policy."

TABLED DOCUMENT 138-18(2):
NWT HIGHWAY NO. 1 CONTRACT APRIL 2011
TO MAY 31, 2016

Also, Mr. Speaker, further to my Return to Written Question 8-18(2), I wish to table the following document entitled "NWT Highway No. 1 Capital Contracts April 2011 to May 31, 2016." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

TABLED DOCUMENT 139-18(2):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 1-18(2): 2016 GNWT
BUDGET

TABLED DOCUMENT 140-18(2):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 2-18(2): EXTENDED
OPERATING HOURS FOR THE MV LAFFERTY
FERRY

TABLED DOCUMENT 141-18(2):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 3-18(2): CLOSURE OF
MM DE WEERDT LAW LIBRARY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a Response to Petition 1-18(2) provided by the Minister of Finance in response to a petition tabled by the Member for Yellowknife Centre on June 2, 2016. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a Response to Petition 2-18(2) provided by the Minister of Transportation in response to a petition tabled by the Member for Nahendeh on June 29, 2016. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Response to Petition 3-18(2) provided by the Minister of Justice in response to a petition tabled by the Member for Frame Lake on June 29, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 142-18(2):
STATUTORY DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE
RESIDENCE OF MR. HERB NAKIMAYAK,
MEMBER FOR NUNAKPUT, DATED OCTOBER
12, 2016

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents pursuant to Section 14 of the Indemnities, Allowances, and Expense Regulations of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I hereby table the Statutory Declaration of Principal Residence of the Member for Nunakput, dated October 12, 2016. Masi.

Tabling of documents. Item 15, notice of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Item 21, report of committee of the whole. Item 22, 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 Friday, October 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.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
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 Friday, October 14, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:47 pm.