



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

Pages 1067 – 1108

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Monfwi)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, October 19, 2016****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, Members. Ministers' statements. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 85-18(2):  
IMPORTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESS

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, this is Small Business Week in Canada. Over 90 per cent of the NWT's business is being defined as small businesses. This important sector provides employment opportunities for our people, the economic diversity to balance the ups and down of the resource economy and makes our communities great places to live. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment helps create the economic environment NWT entrepreneurs and small business owners need to invest, take risks and prosper. We do so with targeted policies, programs and funding initiatives, and in partnership with organizations such as the Business Development and Investment Corporation and Community Futures Organizations. As individual entrepreneurs and businesses succeed locally, they contribute to regional economic growth and the sustainability of the NWT's economy overall. Mr. Speaker, our government invests daily into small businesses in the NWT. During this session, I will be tabling a number of documents that will highlight the different ways we support economic growth and diversification through local and regional businesses and programs.

Among these are the grants and contributions delivered every year through a variety of programs to individuals, entrepreneurs, businesses, governments and groups with an economic interest across the NWT. This investment in our economy

totalled \$18.7 million last year. It includes initiatives like the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development, or SEED Program that assists

businesses looking to expand their offerings, build their knowledge base, and fill niches within the NWT economy.

With challenges from sparse population to high shipping costs, our small businesses are often reliant on our support to respond to the market with a new product, build new skills at a tradeshow, or purchase needed equipment. This is the kind of support that is provided by the SEED Program. I will also be tabling an annual report and a corporate plan of the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation. Last year, the BDIC distributed \$7 million in financing to 58 northern business enterprises, and also 80 per cent of which were outside of Yellowknife.

BDIC's subsidies saw 16 per cent growth in employment and a 21 per cent increase in sales in 2015 and 2016. They directly employed more than 16 full-time equivalent positions and generated \$843,000 in sales of made-in-the-NWT products. Through them NWT products are available for sale in retail outlets across Canada and parts of the United States. The Community Futures Program also plays an important role in advancing grassroots support for up-and-coming businesses in our territory. I will also be tabling an annual report detailing the performance of the independent Community Future Development Corporations that deliver this program in each of our 33 communities.

The GNWT supports NWT business through its Manufactured Products and Business Incentive Policies, which are designed to support the creation and the growth of competitive local businesses by guiding government purchasing to NWT operators, which provide investment into small business and the manufacturing sectors. During this session, I will be tabling the annual report of government contracts over \$5,000. It will highlight a further investment of almost \$216 million in NWT businesses.

As a businessman myself, I want to thank the entrepreneurs and small businesses, economic development practitioners, and business advocates that support our territory's business community. I addressed the Northern Business Development Practitioners conference last week. These people work hard to support business development in communities around the NWT with their ideas,

energy, and ingenuity. We will continue to contribute to their work in line with our mandate to support community economic development and diversity, and as our government continues to move forward with the suite of economic development initiatives, small businesses will continue to be at the forefront of our approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 86-18(2):  
NEW MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE- ENROLMENT  
OF STUDENTS IN FRENCH FIRST LANGUAGE  
PROGRAMS

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I committed to reviewing the 2008 Ministerial Directive, Enrolment of Students in French First Language Programs. In conducting our review, we undertook a comprehensive engagement process targeting the rights holder population in the North. A total of 140 people responded either to our survey, attended a session in Hay River, or attended a session in Yellowknife. We reviewed legislation, current GNWT policies, and the responses from the stakeholder engagements and survey and conducted a jurisdictional scan. The objective of the review was to have a directive in place by the start of the 2016-2017 school year to avoid a protracted process and enable the Commission scolaire francophone to utilize a new directive without delay. During stakeholder engagement, two overlapping views were expressed by stakeholders. The first was a strict interpretation, focusing on exclusive admission of Section 23 Charter rights holders, and the second was a broader perspective, focusing on the open admission of non-rights holders. I feel the balance established by the new directive addresses the issues raised from each perspective and continues to help grow and sustain the culture of the schools and community. The directive allows all non-right holders eligible under the directive to be admitted until the physical capacity of the school reaches 85 per cent. This translates into opportunity for population growth in the NWT's French first language schools where each of the two schools is below capacity and ensures space for future rights-holders, as required by law.

The new Ministerial Directive, Enrolment of Students in French First Language Programs came into effect in August 2016, with three streams of admission for eligible non-rights holder parents:

- Reacquisition: the parent would have been a rights holder but for his or her lack of opportunity to attend a French first language school or his or her parents' lack of opportunity to attend a French first language school;

- Non-citizen francophone: the parent meets the criteria of Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms except for the fact that he or she is not a Canadian citizen; and.
- New Immigrant: the parent is an immigrant to Canada, whose child upon arrival, does not speak English or French and is enrolling in a Canadian school for the first time.

The first three requests for admission have been reviewed, resulting in approval of all three applications under the Reacquisition Stream of the directive. The new NWT directive has been compared with the recently renewed directive in the Yukon. The eligibility criteria established in the NWT and Yukon are very similar. The Yukon policy identifies two types of admission: Admission by Right and Admission by Permission. The Admission by Right categories are all established by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and include First Language, Primary Schools Instruction, and Family Continuity. There are seven admission streams under the Yukon policy, all but one are closely aligned with the renewed NWT directive. The one stream that does not exist under the NWT directive is the Yukon category for Anglophone. The Commission scolaire francophone Territoires du Nord-Ouest continues to have the authority, as delegated by me, to grant immediate admission to students who are rights-holders under Section 23 of the Charter. I have retained administrative control over the three streams of admission outside the criteria defined by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Mr. Speaker, the francophone community is a significant and distinctive part of the cultural fabric of the NWT. Northern francophones have a vibrant and rich culture which certainly begins in the home, but is enhanced by the education they receive in environments dedicated to preserving and celebrating their language and culture. We want to ensure they have the ability and the capacity to do that. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

### Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ENROLMENT IN FRENCH FIRST LANGUAGE  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**MR. O'REILLY:** [Translation] Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On August 11, 2016, the Minister of Education published a new directive on education in French as a first language. The directive was as a result of what was supposed to have been a collaborative process. Unfortunately, the association in Yellowknife, which launched the lawsuit, and the Francophone School Board of the

Northwest Territories were not directly consulted regarding the directive and they do not support the changes.

Almost at the same moment the Yukon was able to manage legal undertakings, which were quite similar, regarding education and French as a first language but with very different results. The Government of the Yukon adopted an approach to those based on consultation and negotiations regarding admission to the francophone school system. All the parties agreed on the result and nobody had any unpleasant surprises. This is not the case where we were concerned.

The Government of the Yukon used a regulation pursuant to its Education Act, followed by written delegation of authority. The policy allowed to officially delegate the issue of admission to Francophone schools concerning the school board which wants to demonstrate transparency in the context of its annual report. In the Northwest Territories the Minister is still responsible for admission and there is no delegation of authority. Of the 28 francophone school boards outside of Quebec ours is the only one to not enjoy such a delegation. Why?

We should note, the Yukon is limited to 5 per cent the number of non-rights holders Anglophones who are immigrants who do not speak French nor English. There's no limit for any other category of non-rights holders. In the Northwest Territories a limit has been imposed on all non-rights holders when the admissions reach 85 per cent of the school capacity. So the attendance at both francophone schools is approaching that threshold, especially with the addition of pre-kindergarten in 2017. A directive will have an effect to limit seriously and artificially the growth. This is going to lead to more lawsuits. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for additional time to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my opinion, if we had adopted a more cooperative approach we could have had the same satisfactory conclusion for everybody. I will have questions to ask the Minister of Education later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Translation ends.]

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister for ITI alluded to earlier this is Small Business Week and I commend him for his statement earlier. Mr. Speaker, today I want to

speak about support for entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs are people inspired by an idea, investing in possibility; people with a passion for their new concept who are creative, want to share ideas and have a willingness to take risks; people who believe in something new and groundbreaking; something that, while successful for them, can also make our community better and stronger. So this week, Small Business Week, is the time to look at how we support entrepreneurs. If I have an idea for a new business, where do I go to get help? Who can offer me experienced advice? Where can I get some start-up money? If I'm new to business, how do I know I won't get totally drowned and blocked by rules and redundancy at every step?

Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, there are some good options out there for people with new ideas, and the Minister alluded to some of them earlier. The NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation is a Crown corporation that exists directly for the purpose of developing new business in the NWT. Similarly, the Akaitcho Business Development Corporation works to build partnerships and business skills development as well as access to business capital. Futurpreneur Canada is another business support initiative through which I have the privilege of being a business mentor to a young entrepreneur currently.

Futurpreneur is an excellent program which includes connecting an experienced business owner with young entrepreneurs, conducts business boot camps, assists with business planning and provides other support mechanisms for new start-ups. The Bizpal System started by the GNWT and just launched by the City of Yellowknife and now available in 16 NWT communities will support fledgling businesses by reducing the time and effort it takes for permitting and licensing.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of what we can do to support the emergence of small business community with. Offering business counselling, easing of red tape and providing start-up funding are all ways to support entrepreneurs, to encourage innovation and to build wealth and capacity in our communities and across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you colleagues. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I believe that private enterprise entrepreneurship and diversification are the keys to our territory's economic success. I strongly encourage our government to foster an environment which facilitates economic investment, reduces red tape and encourages creativity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN  
SMALL COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about employment in small communities. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has two programs that I will speak of. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, is the Income Support Program. This program is designed to provide income to families mostly in areas where there are very few jobs. This program is needed but should not be a way of life.

The second program I wish to speak of is a Small Community Employment Support Program. The budget for this program is limited but should be increased by transferring some income support dollars into it and put people to work. Mr. Speaker, the Small Community Employment Support Program can be used for short-term employment so that people have a purpose for getting up in the morning and sending their kids to school and then going to work. Mr. Speaker, only if it is totally necessary should a family rely on income support.

Mr. Speaker, I've spoken to many people who have told me that a lack of employment is causing many problems in our communities, including disagreements over who is getting the few jobs available in the communities. The Minister of Education knows the importance of children attending school and the best way for children to attend school is giving their parents employment. I don't have to go into the positive long-term impacts of increasing attendance in our small communities, but the obvious one is increasing graduation rates.

Mr. Speaker, just one statistic I will mention is a person with grade 12 has a 25 per cent better chance of getting a job than a person with less than grade 12. Mr. Speaker, just that statistic is not all of the other benefits are associated with a healthier working society. This should be enough to make the Minister with his department to take a closer look at the Small Community Employment Support Program.

Mr. Speaker, the solution is to transfer \$1 million from the Income Support Program to the Small Community Employment Support Program. This will increase employment rates in small communities by 3 to 4 per cent based on having about four to six months' worth of employment per year. The rest of the year perhaps they could draw Employment Insurance bringing thousands of federal dollars into the communities. Mr. Speaker, this is just one

initiative that can grow the economy in our small communities. There are many government programs that can be targeted to increasing employment in small communities which will improve the lives of all Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
KAM LAKE ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL  
BUSINESS OPERATORS

**MR. TESTART:** Merci, Monsieur le president. Mr. Speaker, it's Small Business Week, a time when we take a moment to appreciate the efforts of our entrepreneurs and growing economy and creating jobs and providing solutions to many Northern challenges. Can't imagine talking any further about business without talking about my riding of Kam Lake.

Mr. Speaker, often when we think of Kam Lake it's about big lots, industrial aesthetic and the sound of sled dogs. These are just a few examples of what Northerners would say if asked that question, but if you delve deeper you will find the heart of Yellowknife's entrepreneurial spirit. For over 40 years Kam Lake has been the commercial hub of our capital and home to some of the North's most successful businesses. Sometimes these entrepreneurs start out in a Quonset hut or a gravel pit, but through hard work and determination they evolve into a multimillion dollar business employing dozens of Northerners.

Since its humble beginnings and continuing into the present day, small businesses have found a home in Kam Lake from Starvin Marvin Bistro food truck serving quality meals to Paul Bros. Nextreme providing steel and services throughout the North. The variety of small businesses is incomparable to anywhere in the NWT.

At the recent Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce 70<sup>th</sup> Awards Business Gala the businesses of Kam Lake were well-represented. Ron's Auto, Weatherby Trucking, Best Movers and Basset Petroleum were all nominated for awards celebrating the dedication and hard work of these great entrepreneurs. It's wonderful to see the Yellowknife Chamber celebrate the success of our business community, and I want to commend them for keeping these awards going for 70 years and for their tireless efforts at advocating for our businesses, small and large.

I'm proud to serve and represent a constituency brimming with so many entrepreneurs and potential for growth and opportunity. These are individuals and businesses that are the backbone of our

economy how are not just serving the North, they are committed to it, and I am committed to assuring their voices are heard in this House and by this government.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank all Northern entrepreneurs and I wish them well and continued success over the years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
FORT SIMPSON PAPAL SITE TEEPEE  
REPLACEMENT

**MR. THOMPSON:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to speak about an amazing event that happened in Fort Simpson this past summer. For people who had the opportunity to see the Pope in Fort Simpson almost 29 years ago, on the Papal site you will notice that the teepee and the stage has been moved last year, and it is now replaced with a much larger teepee.

Mr. Speaker, it took five days for a company from BC to replace the empty site and turn it into what may be the tallest wooden teepee in the world. From what I understand, the teepee's structure is between 15 to 17 metres in height, the teepee is built from yellow cedar logs. According to the Deh Cho Drum, one of the logs is from a tree that is almost 750 years old.

Mr. Speaker, the Liidlii Kue First Nations Chief, Gerry Antoine, spoke about wanting to repair this site and had the support from the community. He has been heard numerous times saying that it is an important element to rebuild the community and its spirit.

Mr. Speaker this teepee is an important part of the community and we had the privilege of hosting the Pope in the community in the past. It is a historical moment and it is a historical gathering site as well for the people of the Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to say two people who are on band council are behind and supported this project. I'd like to say thank you to Kele Antoine and William Michaud, they helped bring in Timber Kings, a company based out of Williams Lake, BC, to construct this structure.

Mr. Speaker some of my colleagues may have heard about them or even seen them on TV, this company has been in business for 43 years and is filming the fourth season of its reality TV show. This project will be part of the fourth season. I understand that the yellow cedar being used is resistant to rot, insects, and could be around for

hundreds and hundreds of years. I've been told that they worked 12 hours a day to make sure the teepee was done on time.

Mr. Speaker, I would have been advised that this teepee marks the first of its kind for Timber Kings; they never built one before. The owner of the company was very impressed with the community's support and helpfulness. Mr. Speaker, the community knows that this project was going to have some challenges, and brought a trailer full of equipment, including special fasteners and tools that were not available locally. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement please.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues for giving me this extra time. Mr. Speaker, the week of construction had a positive impact on the community and people commented on the positive energy throughout the community and region. Mr. Speaker, on September 15<sup>th</sup> the elementary school and the high school attended a fire-feeding ceremony and drum dance where the community celebrated the construction. During this ceremony they brought in an elder from Wrigley, Angus Ekenale, who sang a special song to honour the ancient spirit of the 750-year-old tree. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize this great event and the organizers for bringing this special structure to the community, region, and the NWT. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
VALUE OF START-UP SMALL BUSINESS  
PROGRAMS

**MS GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Today I offer my congratulations to everyone who operates a small business in the NWT during this Small Business Week. Last year in Yellowknife the city licensed 146 new businesses, most of them small businesses, and it's clear that small business is a major driver in our economy, creating jobs, spending and tax revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I have some insight into the effort involved in developing an idea for a small business into a money-making proposition. I was self-employed before I was elected, but the experience I want to reflect on today is the development of our family business. First, the idea: a couple of evenings a week my partner would check the funeral home websites in her hometown, that casual interest moved her to recognize that Yellowknife didn't have a funeral home and from there into thinking about whether she wanted to

become a funeral director. She spent a year doing online courses to become a funeral director while continuing her day job as a social worker. Second, the plan: near the end of her training she spent a couple of months working in a large funeral home in Edmonton. She loved working with the families, and made a decision to go into business.

She began working out of Stanton offering funeral services in 2008. A family friend housed the caskets and hearse in her garage and the office for the business was in our laundry room. There were many sleepless nights at this point about giving up the certainty of a government cheque, benefits and pension in order to start a business. She had never run a business before and she worried about whether people would use her services. Government provided critical support by providing employment insurance while the business got rolling, alleviating some of the concern about cash flow.

Third, the expansion from funeral services to funeral home. We were referred to Akaitcho Business Development Corp. for mentoring. Together we developed a business plan. The bank agreed to finance the purchase of a building and renovations. We held our breath while acquiring hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt, but believed community would support this business. At this point, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment provided support by offering a year of interest payments on the commercial loan. McKenna Funeral Home opened November 1, 2010. This summer, with almost eight years of business, experience under our belts, we expanded the funeral home to include a garage and casket storage. The business has one full-time employee and three part-timers. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS GREEN:** Mahsi, colleagues. Masi, Mr. Speaker. We are grateful for various kinds of support provided by the federal, territorial and city governments as well as family and friends. The government programming I've mentioned, the employment insurance supplement, BDIC mentoring, and ITI commercial loan interest payment support was targeted very effectively and showed that these organizations know what kind of help small businesses need in the early start-up period. Kudos to them. Our biggest thanks go to the people of Yellowknife and beyond who buy our products and services and have enabled us to turn an idea into a viable business. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, October is fire prevention month. It is a good time to remind everyone to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms, make sure the fire exits in their houses are clear of obstruction and talk to family members about an escape plan if fire breaks out. It is also an opportunity to pay tribute to those individuals in small communities who give their time, put their lives on the line and serve the communities as volunteer fire fighters.

Mr. Speaker, volunteer fire fighters provide an essential service; one that is critical to the safety and wellbeing of the community and its residents. It takes a special person to serve as a volunteer fire fighter. People who do this work give their time without being paid. They undertake the training necessary to do the job properly and safely and they contribute to the maintenance and upkeep of the community's fire-fighting equipment. They are called to work long hours at any time of the day or night and often in the worst northern weather conditions. In addition to fighting fires, volunteer fire fighters in the Dehcho communities, such as Enterprise and Fort Providence, also serve as first responders to emergencies on the highway. Above all, these volunteers have the courage to put their own safety aside to help others in need.

Small communities need volunteers to keep our communities alive and to provide vital services such as firefighting. Firefighting is not easy work. It demands courage, commitment and personal sacrifice. In small communities, it is especially challenging to find people with the right qualities who are willing to do this work. For this reason, I want to give a special shout-out to the Enterprise Fire Department. Just last year, Enterprise was down to four or five volunteers, making it difficult to find a crew large enough to take out the fire truck and making the community rely on Hay River, almost 40 kilometres away for firefighting support.

Now, Fire Chief Blair Porter and the 11 residents that are currently signed up as volunteer fire fighters are back to a full crew. As a government, we must do everything in our power to assist community fire departments and the volunteers who make them run. We need to provide financial support to the municipalities to make sure volunteers have safe and operable equipment. We need to support communities to provide firefighting training.

We also need to make sure that the Fire Prevention Act is up to date in providing the right legislative framework for support in community fire departments. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue my statement. Masi.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and mahsi, colleagues, for giving me some more time. Later today, I will have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs about the work her department is doing to support community fire departments. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
RECOGNITION OF LANITA THRASHER,  
INUVALUIT PILOT

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to give a shout-out to a youth from Nunakput, Ms. Lanita Thrasher. Mr. Speaker, Lanita is an Inuvialuit from Paulatuk who went to flight school in Red Deer and Lethbridge. Lanita spent some years in Paulatuk working at the health center as a Community Health Representative to save money for flight school, and decided to go back into aviation. As the saying goes, "once you have tasted flight you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward".

Mr. Speaker, Lanita now works for Kenn Borek Air, Aklak Air's partner. She decided that she would eventually fly twin otters in Antarctica; she is currently taking twin otter ground school in preparation for this. Lanita said she chose Kenn Borek Air because it operates from the North Pole to the South Pole, and everywhere in between and it brings her back home often. Off duty, you'll likely find Lanita trying to catch that monster lake trout that got away four years ago at Billy Lake near Paulatuk.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to encourage the youth of the NWT, across Canada and abroad who are working towards higher education well during their studies and work placements. Inspiration comes from hard work. It's people like Lanita Thrasher from the small communities of the NWT who dedicate their time and effort to inspire others to put their best foot forward. Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
REPLACEMENT OF THE LOUIS CARDINAL  
FERRY

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during Committee of the Whole I talked about the importance of planning ahead when it comes to our transportation infrastructure. When the Inuvik-Tuk Highway is finished next year,

Mr. Speaker, we can look forward to increased traffic and more visitors; people new to the Northwest Territories who are interested in work, tourism attractions, or even moving themselves and their families North.

Mr. Speaker, that traffic won't just be concentrated on the Inuvik-Tuk Highway. Let me go back to the example I gave yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Louis Cardinal Ferry at Tsiigehtchic. Already, I've heard and seen line-ups at the ferry stretching back a couple hundred metres. What will the line-ups look like when visitor traffic increases? We need to plan for a larger ferry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what about repairs, mechanical problems, and other issues that come with an aging ferry? The average lifespan of a modern vessel is 25 to 30 years. The Louis Cardinal was built in 1972, 44 years ago, and began operations in 1978, 38 years ago. In the past, it's been discussed that the Louis Cardinal could be replaced with the retired Merv Hardie Ferry, once used at the Mackenzie River crossing near Fort Providence. But Mr. Speaker, the Merv Hardie is even older, it sailed its first voyage in 1972, before the Louis Cardinal even hit the water. For a practical investment that serves the needs of the Northwest Territories residents as well as the territorial tourism economy, we must consider replacing the Louis Cardinal Ferry altogether. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues. Earning your driver's licence is a milestone for young people and a stepping stone to many skilled jobs, but highways, Mr. Speaker, are not the only way to get around. Strong and comprehensive transportation capacity liberates and empowers communities and individuals. For example:

- operating four-wheelers and snowmobiles helps us access the land and our traditional practices;
- barges bring essential supplies into our communities;
- ferries like the Louis Cardinal, which makes stops at three landing sites, connect communities to each other for supplies, and to opportunities for growth, and provide employment opportunities for local people.

We know that capital planning is a slow process. With that in mind, it's time to start planning for the necessary replacement of this vessel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'll have questions for the Minister later today.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
TSA TUE INTERNATIONAL BIOSPHERE  
RESERVE

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my Member's statement is the Deline Biosphere Reserve. Mr. Speaker, on August 11, 2016, I had the privilege to join the community of Deline in celebrating the Tsa Tue International Biosphere Reserve, an ecologically important area covering 93,313 square kilometres in central NWT including Great Bear Lake and a portion of its watershed, was added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's best known as UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves on March 19, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the UNESCO designation is a first for the NWT, the first in Canada North of 60, and the first led entirely by Indigenous communities. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Sahtu Region, I would like to congratulate the people of Deline and other Sahtu communities in ensuring our waters in the Sahtu are well cared for. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
NORTHLAND UTILITIES

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Northland Utilities has been maintaining a high profile lately to combat what they claim is an expropriation of their assets by the GNWT. That language is a little strong for my liking; however, I understand where they're coming from. After seeing what happened in Hay River, with the town accepting a proposal from the NWT Power Corporation over Northland Utilities, it's no wonder they would think that the Yellowknife franchise might be next on NTPC's list. If it goes the same way as Hay River that's essentially game over for Northland Utilities in the Territory. I'm aware that it was the Town of Hay River's decision to accept the Power Corp's proposal. Everyone is tired of the power rates we pay in the NWT and the town can't be blamed for taking what the market offered, but I'm sure the Power Corp's proposal wouldn't have been put forward without political support.

I often wonder why the government chose to take this confrontational approach to dealing with NUL instead of seeking ways to cooperate. Northland Utilities is an ATCO company. ATCO is a global corporation based in Canada with \$19 billion in assets. ATCO Electrical owns almost 90,000 kilometres of transmission lines in Alberta, and last year completed and energized the longest

transmission line in Alberta's history. That's just one of their successful mega projects. In addition, they know the North; NUL has been here for over 60 years. There's no question when it comes to the company's electrical experience and expertise.

Further, I can attest that Northland Utilities, in Hay River at least, has always been an upstanding corporate citizen. Their employees are active volunteers in the community and NUL is always a prominent sponsor of local events. Despite all this, Northland says that this government won't respond to their emails or return their calls. The government recently announced the creation of another NWT Energy Plan. I assume that part of this plan, as is part of every other plan that's been put forward, will include major upgrades to our hydro-generation and transmissions systems. Despite these recurring aspirations, there's been virtually no major hydro development in decades. Mega projects, hydro and otherwise, are always discussed by the GNWT but rarely come to fruition.

Why, when we have a company like NUL with access to the assets and experience of ATCO, why don't we strive for more cooperation? I'm not advocating a merger between Power Corp and Northland Utilities, but why haven't we engaged in talks with them to see if we can tap into some of ATCO's capital and expertise. I'll have questions for the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Merci, Monsieur le Président. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize members of the francophone School Board: Ms. Chartuard, president; President of the National Francophone School Boards of Ontario, Mr. Mario Pelletier; Mr. Bernard Lesage, Monsieur Kevin Bell, Alberta; Monsieur Marc-Andre Ouellette, British Columbia; Monsieur Edgar Galant, P.E.I.; Monsieur Layonar Lefore, Nova Scotia; Monsieur Luc Brisebois, Nunavut; Monsieur Jean Lemay, Ontario; Monsieur Alpha Barry, Saskatchewan; Monsieur Ali Chiasson, Newfoundland and Labrador; Monsieur Simon Cloutier, Northwest Territories; Monsieur Jean-Sebastien Blay, Yukon; and Monsieur Roger Paul, Executive Director of la Federation National des conseil-scolaire francophones and of the regroupement national direction general de l' education.

Also present, Monsieur Alain Laberge, President Regroupement National direction generale de l'education and Superintendent of the Division Scolaire Franco-Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to

welcome Madam Yvonne Careen, Superintendent of la Commission Scolaire Francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, and some of their colleagues from l'association des direction generale de l'education de l'ouest et du Nord ADEON. Also, Jean de Dieu Tuyishime, Executive Director of la Federation Franco-tenoise.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give a warm welcome to students and staff from Ecole Allain St-Cyr in Yellowknife and the francophone community members. Merci. Welcome. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome and recognize the Aurora College fourth year nursing students and their instructor Jodi Brennan, and the second year social work students and their instructor Susan Fitzky to our proceedings today, and everybody that's joining us. It's nice to have a full gallery during our proceedings. Welcome. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Well done.

---Laughter

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

**MR. TESTART:** Merci, Monsieur le President [Translation] I would like to also welcome representatives today, the Francophone National School Boards; particularly I want to welcome Mr. Allain Laberge and Madam Yvonne Careen, General Director of the Francophone School Board. Thank you for being with us today. [Translation ends.]

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President, my wife, she's sitting in the gallery today; it doesn't happen very often, but I certainly appreciate her presence today. I'd also [Translation] I'd like to say welcome to all the students from the Allain St-Cyr School and all the teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Translation ends]

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. In the public gallery today is my constituent Josee Clermont. Madame Clermont is the directrice generale of college nordique here in Yellowknife and I welcome her and all our guests to the Assembly today. I'd also like to recognize Steve Budgell, my friend and neighbour who is in the fourth year of the nursing program at Aurora College. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize two pages from Detah: Joseph Charlo-Lafferty and Brianna Nitsiza. Also, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also recognize Mary Rose Sundberg, also from Detah, that's our interpreter today. Marci cho.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome everybody to the gallery today but in particular I want to take this opportunity to recognize, because it is Small Business Week, small business owner and resident of Yellowknife North Mr. Etienne Croteau, a small business owner for a company named Flavour Trader. Welcome to the House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery, welcome to the Chamber. It's always good to have an audience. Masi for participating. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

### Oral Questions

QUESTION 353-18(2):

#### MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE ON ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN FRENCH FIRST LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

**MR. O'REILLY:** [Translation] Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Education today, but I want to speak English. [Translation ends.] I do this in English, and I did want to give the Minister a fair heads up as well. Earlier today I spoke today about the Francophone community's lack of support for the new ministerial directive on student enrolment in French first language schools. Can the Minister of Education explain why he did not collaborate more closely with CSFTNO and APADY and share a draft of the ministerial directive with these organizations before it was finalized and released? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the consultation period we heard from many stakeholders. We had public engagements here in Yellowknife as well as Hay River. The information that we received, our jurisdictional scan, as well as looking at our policies we thought we were moving ahead; that the ministerial directive was good in the way it was presented. It is better than the 2008 ministerial directive. There is improvements and we did get consultation and engagements with community groups here in Yellowknife as well as

Hay River. Moving forward, we thought that was a good process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I do appreciate the response from the Minister and his work on this issue. Unfortunately, in the Yukon their directive was released just less than a couple of weeks later and headed that territory off in a much different direction, and a more collaborative one. So we had received communications from CSFTNO, a letter dated September 6, 2016 with comments on the directive and requesting changes to it. So will the Minister commit to reopen those discussions with CSFTNO and APADY and find a more workable directive?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** CSFTNO were part of the consultation processes, the engagements. As I mentioned in my Minister's Statement earlier, we did get three applications that under the new directive they were allowed into the school under the acquisition portion and, as I mentioned as well, that both schools are both French first language schools are under the utilization rates, and actually we're building on the one here in Yellowknife that will address the enrolments and the utilization rate there. We actually went above and beyond in terms of putting two classrooms on top of that to address the enrolment rate should more admissions go into the ESC in future years.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I appreciate the efforts of the Minister, as I said before, but I don't think he actually answered my question. There's been communications now from CSFTNO, specifically about the ministerial directive with corrections to the jurisdictional scan that was prepared and raising comments and concerns around the directive. Does the Minister actually intend to respond to that communication and has he opened up further discussions to improve and set that directive off in the right direction again?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, and I apologize to the Member. I just gave the information in terms of why we're not going to revisit the ministerial directive, because the enrolment rates were low, a lot of engagements and consultations went on already. In terms of the continued work forward and the letter, we did have to translate all the jurisdictional scan information, we got that done, and we will be responding to CSFTNO and APADY with our response as well.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that the Minister does intend to respond to the letter from CSFTNO. But if I heard him correct, I think he said that he's not willing to reopen the

directive. That would be extremely unfortunate, Mr. Speaker.

So I just wonder then, how does the Minister propose to develop a better working relationship with APADY and CSFTNO for French first language education in the NWT so we don't end up back in the courts? That's what we all want to avoid. So I think the community's pleading for some flexibility to get us more towards what they have in the Yukon. Can the Minister provide some assurance to this House and the public that he's willing to re-examine the directive and get us off in a better direction? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** That's where we don't want to end up again, in the court house and then have a court order against the government. We did get that court order, we appealed it, CSFTNO appealed it, we're going with what was in the court order to provide what was needed. As I mentioned, we are going above and beyond to add those two new school rooms. A lot of engagement was done. I do believe that we're building a stronger relationship with the French community throughout the Northwest Territories to address some of their concerns.

I committed, when I took this position, to review the ministerial directive, I did that. I think it's better than what it was when we first started this government. When we get to those utilization rates and to prevent us from going to the court room, as I said, they're below utilization right now, then perhaps we can look at revisiting it then.

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

QUESTION 354-18(2):  
FUNDING FOR ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR  
EXPANSION PROJECT

**MR. TESTART:** Merci, Monsieur le President. [Translation] Today I have a question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and this question will be in French. The construction project of the Allain St-Cyr School is going forward and the Minister is negotiating with the Minister of Heritage Canada to get more funding. The Minister of Education is only asking for additional funding, twinning funds to expand the size of the gymnasium from 404 square metres to 456 square metres. The Minister of Education says that the rest of the construction can wait and can be built in another phase. The francophones have been waiting for over 10 years almost for the second phase of the construction at the Allain St-Cyr School. My question, wouldn't it be wiser to ask for additional funding from Heritage Canada to meet the needs of the francophone community

during the same construction project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Translation ends]

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has been consistent in ensuring that our obligations under our capital standards are being met across the Northwest Territories and that any construction over and above these standards must be met with 100 per cent third-party funding. We have 49 schools in the Northwest Territories, we've got to make sure that we're providing education to all students, all 8,300 students across the Northwest Territories.

The Member is right, we did put in a proposal to Heritage Canada. They haven't even done a callout, we're ahead of the game, we're asking them, looking at what we can get provided moving forward. But anything above and beyond what our standards are for building capital in the NWT has to be 100 per cent funded from a third party and we are following what the court order has said that we had to build. As I mentioned, we're putting two new classrooms on top of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** [Translation] Given that Heritage Canada could pay up to 50 per cent of costs for shared spaces like a gymnasium, home economics, and given that Heritage Canada can pay up to 100 per cent of community spaces, such as the pre-kindergarten, daycare and offices for organizations, why does the Minister of Education not take advantage of this opportunity and to ask for additional funding right away, so to finally meet the needs of the Francophone community? [Translation ends]

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned, we did put in a proposal going forward to Heritage Canada. They responded to our staff, we're in dialogue right now, and we're looking at ways that -- they're asking for clarity on some of the questions that were provided. What we're going forward with is a schematic design that's built on our standards for capital projects from the government side. Any further developments I think needs to come from CSFTNO, and if the CSFTNO want to look at building more onto the school, then I'd encourage them to continue working with our department to find ways so we can support them to get to that next level. But right now, we are meeting our obligations under GNWT, under our policies to meet the regulations under capital infrastructure investments.

**MR. TESTART:** [Translation] When will the Minister of Education make its application to the Minister of Heritage Canada for the complete construction project? [Translation ends]

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we've already submitted a proposal, it's ahead of the game. Heritage Canada hasn't asked for callout for proposals. We're hoping to hear something by January or February where those discussions have taken place. Any further opportunities that myself and my department can have in engaging and discussing these matters with the Minister of Heritage Canada to come to a solution that's happy, that'll make everyone happy, I think. We'll take those opportunities as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. TESTART:** [Translation] Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister of Education can share those application letters with the francophone community and with the other Members here before January-February. If we can see those applications, that is can everybody here and up there see those applications? [Translation ends].

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure we can share with the APADY and CFSTNO, and even though we did put in one proposal to see if we can offset some of these costs, it doesn't mean that we couldn't put in another application when they do that call out afterwards. But what we did put in, in discussions with CFSTNO, in some of our initial meetings, we want to see what results come back to us in January-February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 355-18(2):  
ENHANCING SMALL COMMUNITIES  
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Education questions on my Member's statement. I would like to ask the Minister if he is willing to review the Income Support Program in small communities, Employment Support Program, to look at the feasibility of transferring budgets to make the Small Communities Employment Support Program more substantial. Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I know when we went through the business planning process for main estimates for 2017-2018 we had some really good discussions on some ways and unique ways that we can get people back into the workforce through our Income Assistance Program, and the Member brought a very

interesting concept forward and it's something that the department can look into. Obviously, you don't want to have people relying on income assistance rather than finding ways to get them into the workforce, into training and skill development and becoming a more active member of society. So we are looking at those and looking at other options, and we have some decisions to come forward with we will bring it forward to committee and Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, some programs that are being delivered sometimes comes with some pre-requisites that individuals would at the end of the training have to have full-time jobs, and in our small communities there's no full-time jobs available for the most part. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could review the Small Communities Employment Support Program to remove any barriers that may prevent the program from being easily accessed.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** We're always looking at reviewing our programs to make them more efficient and more effective for the residents of Northwest Territories. The CSCCS Program wasn't fully utilized over the last few years. I believe we had over 300 people who took part in it last year and got trained and skill developments. Myself, I just recently went to a labour market FPT meeting down at Quebec City where we're looking at getting more incremental dollars that might be able to offset some of those costs, but we can review it. The dollars have been fully utilized. Maybe we can do a better job of promoting it and getting information to the Members to share with their constituents, but that is a goal is to get residents in our small communities trained in skill development, and that's where our Skills 4 Success Action Plan and Strategic Plan is very critical moving forward in this area.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, many of the job and employment opportunities I speak of would be projects at the community level, various projects that the community could carry out as part of employment. I'd like to ask the Minister if it would be possible for the Minister to work with his department to direct the client service officers to work with the communities to look at all possibilities of employment in small communities.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** CSO is a very integral part of our department when it comes to income assistance and programs. They do a great job in providing information to our clients, as well as our Career Development Officers, and we're just finishing up a one-year pilot program with Employment Transition Officers that actually go into the communities. Some of our Current Development Officers also go into the communities to provide education, training, information on resume writings, skill development and other areas

in terms of literacy and numeracy to help people find jobs who apply for training workshops and finding those kind of things. So, yes, our staff is already kind of doing those things.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister work with other Ministers in Cabinet to utilize other government programs. I spoke of other government programs that can, I guess, create employment in the small communities. So can the Minister commit to the House to working with other Ministers in order to look at all the employment possibilities at the small communities? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I will commit to doing that. I chair one of the education training and youth committees, and I want to make sure that it's on the agenda and that it is a priority especially for the small communities where it's needed most and finding the unique and innovative ways to get our residents educated, trained and also into the workforce.

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

QUESTION 356-18(2):  
NORTHERN PARTICIPATION IN HIGHWAY  
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, with the construction season for highways coming to an end, as we heard in the House yesterday, Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, can the Minister of Transportation explain how the department maximizes its involvement of northern businesses?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation uses every opportunity to maximize northern involvement in residents and delivering programs and services to upgrade and maintain all the highways in the Northwest Territories including the Liard Highway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I again thank the Minister for his answer. It was a little bit short and it could have been more elaborate, but we'll work on that. Mr. Speaker, last session I spoke about how the department was able to guarantee that companies' commitment was upheld for northern involvement. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister please explain to this House what mechanisms are used to ensure Northern involvement are in these contracts?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, there's various mechanisms in place to ensure the Northern involvement in our contracts. This

includes assigning a project officer to the project to monitor the subcontractor's involvement during the construction of the project. In addition, the contractor submits an employment record to the department each month with the progress of payments' request, and these reports are tracked to the employment records, so that confirms northern involvement of these individuals on the project.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. This past summer, the contract was awarded to a southern company for Highway No. 7. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain how much local workforce was used for this project?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** With respect to this northern contractor and the employment of residents in Fort Liard on this contract, I'm glad to report to the House that almost 31 per cent of the workforce in June was from the community, 40 per cent in July and 43 per cent in August, and that includes some residents from Nahanni Butte as well.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his answer. I was actually really impressed with those numbers considering I heard numbers lower than that before, so I'm very happy to hear that. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister provide us with what other work went to local companies, small businesses, in that area for this contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The contractor has also hired a gravel truck from Beaver Enterprises for resurfacing work and has used a local hotel for accommodation, but the contractor is also negotiating right now with Beaver Enterprises for the project cleanup of this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 357-18(2):  
SUPPORT FOR DAY HOMES AND DAY CARES  
IN THE SAHTU REGION

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question here today is directed to the Minister of ECE following up from the June 7<sup>th</sup> Hansard here on the issues of day homes and day cares. If the Minister could elaborate on what has been in place here going back to the question that I brought up at the time here that there would be those facilities rolled out in October. So if I can get a status reply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all the communities we do have some communities that have early childhood programs, some that don't. We also have funding allocated to some of these communities. For instance, in Deline pre-school we have 15 pre-school spaces. We fund just over \$37,000 for that. We have funding for the Behdzi Ahda First Nation still there's no licensed program but we do have the funding there. There's funding that's allocated to Norman Wells to do some work; nothing has come to date yet; we're still trying to find an organization or group to work with. In Tulita we do have 20 pre-school spaces and we currently fund them over \$40,000. Mr. Speaker, I might add with start-up costs, we do have a very good incentive package for organizations, even individuals that own their own home that might want to start up a daycare or a day home and we can provide that information to the Member that he can provide to his communities as well. Thank you.

**MR. MCNEELY:** It's very good to hear that the programs are there to help the working parents that are having their children attend school, and the ones that are not are looking at opportunities such as the program funding available to initiate a day home. Can the Minister elaborate on any facilities in the day home category in the five Sahtu communities?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Currently, I don't think there's any day homes that are licensed right now in the Sahtu communities. I can go and do a scan and see if there are any and also develop some packages that we could hand out to people who own their own homes and who might want to start up a day home. Like I said, we have a very good incentive package, but I can get that information and get it to the Member.

**MR. MCNEELY:** I'm glad to hear that the programs and services and criteria and guidelines are there as well as the money is there. Would the Minister commit to having these opportunities for funding to support the day home through a briefing presentation to the community by community leadership in the five communities?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Since I've been in the position, I've been to about 20 of the 33 communities in the NWT speaking on all the initiatives through the Department of ECE, and listening to the concerns of the people. I am looking forward to doing a tour of the Sahtu, not only bringing information on early childhood programming, the day homes, the daycares, but also all information that we take control of in the Department of Education, Culture and Employment,

and we'll work with the Member to get that tour set up at some point.

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

QUESTION 358-18(2):  
ADDRESSING CORE HOUSING NEEDS

**MS. GREEN:** Masi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the sitting in June, Members on this side of the House moved a housing motion in which we requested that the Minister take action on the level of core need, which is at 20 per cent for the NWT, including investing, coming up with a fully costed comprehensive plan and so on. We received her response last week and it doesn't address the questions we asked. So my first question is: how is the NWT Housing Corporation going to reduce core housing need? Thank you.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion that was put forward was that I would provide a comprehensive response to the motion and then a comprehensive and fully costed strategic plan at the earliest opportunity. So it's a little bit early to give a fully costed comprehensive plan at this point. We're in the process of negotiations with the federal government. We've made some serious progress within that. The federal government has agreed to look at a northern component to the national housing strategy, and they've also -- the three areas of the core need, the federal core need, have always been suitability, adequacy and affordability. The last meeting that I went down I really stressed the lack of housing within the Northwest Territories and the reliance of many communities as the GNWT being the major and sometimes only housing provider. So the federal government has also agreed to incorporate accessibility within the core needs, which is a huge issue for us and I think that we will actually hopefully see some revenue coming forward with that. The other thing that we're doing is part of that, so that is one piece we're doing.

The other major thing we're doing is our engagement survey which we're putting out to every single user of Housing services, hopefully within this next coming up month, and then we'll be doing a cost analysis based on what people say. I've been hearing in the communities that home ownership is a big need within the communities, and so while we're in the process of looking at cost analysis between home ownership and public housing. So once we've done the engagement process, we've gotten some kind of contribution, we find out what the federal government is doing within a national strategy at that point then we'll be able to

provide a cost analysis and a comprehensive plan. Thank you.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you to you, Minister, for that response. In the response to the motion the government writes: "The GNWT has made affordable, adequate and suitable housing one of its highest priorities, spending approximately 8 per cent of its budget on social and affordable housing compared to a national average of 1 per cent." Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me whether she thinks that's an adequate amount of spending for the condition and availability of housing in the territory?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I do recognize that the Government of the Northwest Territories is spending eight times the amount of funding that is provided across the other jurisdictions. So I think that we have to recognize that we are spending a lot more than other jurisdictions. We also have to recognize that we have a small population base and our federal funding is really limited. So the fact that the GNWT is spending that amount on housing shows our commitment that we do care about housing within the Northwest Territories and it is a priority for our government.

**MS. GREEN:** Again, thank you to the Minister for that. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that 8 per cent is not making a difference to the core housing need in the territory, and the availability of housing especially here in Yellowknife where the waiting list is about 180, across the whole NWT about 600. So I would like to hear from the Minister whether there is a plan to increase the amount of spending on social housing.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** At this point, like I had said previously, we are in the process of just rolling out our engagement strategy. After that is all received back, we will be doing a cross-analysis, so it's a little bit premature of me to actually approach my colleagues and ask for additional monies when I don't know if we're using the monies that we are providing at the moment appropriately.

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

**MS GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally today, a couple of timing questions. The first is, when does the Minister expect to conclude the negotiations with the federal government for more money? The second is, when does she expect to report to the House on the information she's collected from stakeholders? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. There's two questions, but it's up to the Minister if she wants to answer one or two questions.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try to attempt both. So the federal negotiations is not up to me actually, it is a federal government ruling, and so we are advocating very strongly and, as soon as the federal government lets us know when they've developed their strategy, at that point I will know what the timing is. I'm not sure that they know at this point either.

The engagement survey that we're putting out, we are allowing two months to people within the communities to actually provide their feedback because we do want as many people to answer the survey as possible. So we are recognizing that we need to need to provide them a little bit of time. Once the survey results are compiled, we will provide an interim report to the MLAs and we will continue to provide reports to the MLAs on the progress of that engagement survey process.

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

QUESTION 359-18(2):  
UPDATING THE FIRE PROTECTION ACT

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Under the GNWT's mandate, MACA has a responsibility to update the Fire Prevention Act to better protect public and private property from fire. Can the Minister advise the House on the progress of this work? What changes to the act has been considered? Mahsi.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA's in the process, we've done some research over the years, we're actually just in the process of determining the stakeholder engagement process that we're expecting that'll roll out over the summer of 2016. Once it's finished, then we'll be looking at various things within the act. The act hasn't been updated since the 1950s, very small thing, so it's a lot of work and we'll be looking at a full review of the act in total. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** Usually in a legislative process the way that I think we understand it on this side of the House is that there's an issue and the department begins research, as the Minister has stated, that then there's a legislative proposal that comes to the House, then goes through readings, then it's perhaps brought to the committee, then there's a level of public consultation. What is the timing for this legislation to be introduced in the Legislative Assembly?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Again, it's really hard to put a definite timeline on that. We do need to do the public engagement strategy, it will go to MLAs, it depends on their timeline, recognizing that they are very busy within their committees and they have a lot of things to put forward. I'm not sure if the MLAs would like to do a public engagement of their own on that, so it is dependent on the process of government. But we are committed; we are trying to get this act passed within this legislative term.

**MR. NADLI:** The Minister had stated that the old piece of legislation is from the 1950s. I think then, you know, fire alarms along telephone poles were kind of the usual practice then. Then most recently what we have been confronted with is the question of liabilities, at the same time hazardous materials in fire situations. Is the department proposing any initiatives designed to support communities and their volunteer fire departments?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** The department has actually done quite a bit to support firefighters. We recognize the importance of firefighters and we really value the services. It is a huge honour to be able to represent the firefighters within the Northwest Territories. It's a huge honourable field that they go into, and so we're cognitive of that.

We've done quite a bit of things. We've released our volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention toolkit for the community governments, that's done. We've established a web-based community fire protection page for community governments and fire departments to access information and resources, that's completed.

We've developed the decision-making tools for communities to help identify and allocate adequate resources for community fire protection, that's completed. We've implemented a community fire service presentation to help educate elected officials on the roles and responsibilities and success factors, completed.

We've also done the development of an annual fire prevention program, that's also completed. So we do value our firefighters within the Northwest Territories and we take seriously the work that they do within the communities and we're doing whatever we can to support them.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Minister for her reply and outlining the legislative process and the level of consultation that might occur. She seems to be suggesting that this side of the House would kind of determine the timeline and how fast perhaps the

turnaround of the draft legislation could be prepared.

But, you know, if we had this way on this side of the House, one of the initiatives that has been outstanding is the progress in terms of dealing with highway emergency. Would this department, in terms of engaging stakeholders, including fire departments and citizens of the North, would the Minister perhaps consider and state to this House whether a movement towards highway rescue services will be also considered in the draft legislation? Mahsi.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** We are working across the departments to find our way forward with the ground ambulance services and the highway rescue, and we are hoping that we can actually address that act as well within this legislation.

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

QUESTION 360-18(2)  
REPLACEMENT OF THE LOUIS CARDINAL  
FERRY

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, follow-up to my Member's Statement. I have a few questions for the Minister of Transportation. I'd like to ask the Minister, what criteria does the department use to determine when the ferry vessel must be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is continually working to improve the transportation system. Available resources rely on asset management tools which we use continually on an ongoing basis to make strategic operational decisions around all our assets. But moving forward, we have to maximize what we have with the limited funding we have, and that makes choices pretty tough sometimes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, what is the average estimated cost of a ferry vessel replacement?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Upgrading the Louis Cardinal to a larger vessel wouldn't be cost effective at this time we believe. But to answer the question directly, it's approximately \$10 million to replace that ferry.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, I know that may sound like a lot, but actually for a vessel that size I think that's a very good deal myself. You know, with the infrastructure that we are spending, you know, \$100 million, \$200 million here, \$450 million over here, I

mean I think that's a small price to pay here. But moving forward, will the department start examining ways to address this cost and meet this challenge? For example, undertaking the planning study?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, the department data indicates that the Louis Cardinal is sufficient and it meets the adequate needs of the capacity of the region right now, and we continue to track that with the data received on the volume of traffic on the Louis Cardinal.

The other thing we do, and the Member stated, we're throwing money around with capital investments. We just replaced the bottom of the Louis Cardinal in the last cycle year, in the last season, and we're about to rebuild the engines on the Louis Cardinal this coming winter.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know with the overhaul of the hull, the engines, all the work that has been done to the engines, I believe it's up for replacement myself; it has over 25,000 hours as I've been told. That's almost \$2 million there that could have been put towards a new vessel.

We have to start planning out how our spending or maintaining our equipment rather than replacing. I know a lot of that work has been done to a lot of our buildings, but, you know, we have to start planning properly here. Will the Minister ensure that a planning study has been taken on the Louis Cardinal?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I've stated, we use management tools to make strategic operational decisions on our equipment and our assets and we will continue to use that, and moving forward, I will update the Member where this is at in the queue. But, as I've said, we have very limited funds moving forward and we need to stretch these out across the whole Northwest Territories.

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

QUESTION 361-18(2):  
ENGAGEMENT WITH NORTHLAND UTILITIES  
LTD.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about Northland Utilities and opportunities for partnering with them or at least a development of our upcoming energy strategy. I was just on the Public Works website, there's a plethora of energy strategies, energy discussion papers, energy information papers. It seems like maybe this time we should be doing

something different. If Northland is -- if their claims are true and this government won't return their phone calls or return an email, how are we going to engage them in this energy strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to the Minister of Public Works. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I believe there's two questions; I'll answer both of them. First of all, the returning of phone calls to NUL. The first phone call I believe to the Premier was based on the Hay River franchise, and that's in arbitration right now, and I wouldn't be doing anyone any good to engage in a conversation when that process is going on. My other recollection is that ATCO phoned the Premier about getting out of their franchise agreement for ATCO gas in Inuvik. So that's the two phone calls; first part of his question.

The second part, NUL is free to any time submit material to the Government of the Northwest Territories towards a hydro strategy in the NWT. The department is going to be introducing and developing an energy strategy, a long-term vision for the NWT, and NUL has been invited to participate in the Yellowknife closed meeting on that for stakeholders. But, as well, we're also planning on an electricity stakeholder workshop for regulators and utilities, and ATCO and NUL will also be invited to participate in that sector in specific conversations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Nine months ago there was no arbitration going on in Hay River and that's the first phone call that the Minister is referring to. Doesn't the Minister see the value in having a corporation that's been here for over 60 years supplying power to the two largest communities in the territory; isn't there value in maybe a greater engagement? Maybe reaching out a little more, being a little more proactive. I'm not saying giving them favour but recognizing the fact that they have a lot more skin in the game; they have a lot more knowledge than pretty much every other stakeholder in the territory.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I just had to clarify in my head what your whole question was. ATCO is a big outfit and they do have a lot of money, but the problem moving forward for this government is that - it's not the money it's our borrowing capacity moving forward. We need to have engagement with the federal government. If we decide to expand the Taltson Project, we need to have a buyer at the end of the day. This government is engaged in consultation or conversations with other end users who will purchase this power and to do that at the end of the day we believe that the Taltson project is going to require a subsidy and that's why we need to have federal engagement moving forward. ATCO

has capital but that doesn't fix our borrowing limit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SIMPSON:** ATCO has capital and they're also used to doing things economically. They've done very well for themselves by completing projects; they're very cost-effective. The Minister stated that we need a buyer for Taltson. I can understand that if you're talking about sending power down to somewhere like Saskatchewan, but we're talking about building a road to the Slave Geological Province.

I don't know, who's the buyer up there that we're building this road for? We're building it in the hopes, you know, if you build it they will come. We know there's minerals up there. We know that if we build it people will probably come to explore up there. The same thing with hydro, that's a place where we can expand hydro to or we can look into. I'm going to find a question here. I don't want to just make a statement, but - I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I think I just went on a little rant. He answered all my questions, so thank you to the Minister.

---Laughter

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

QUESTION 362-18(2):  
NAHENDEH MINISTERIAL TOUR

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I was asking the Minister of Transportation a question and we didn't seem to get an answer, so I'm going to try something a little bit different this time and hopefully I'll get a yes out of him. Will the Minister with the street portfolios be able to come to a constituency tour, including Wrigley, Trout Lake, Jean Marie, Nahanni Butte, Fort Liard and Fort Simpson? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Yes. Yes.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has asked me a couple of times previously to do a constituency tour and in all fairness to him I was booked up solid. As long as I have enough lead time I have no problem doing a tour in his region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for his answer, and I understand he has a busy schedule so I appreciate that. Will he be able to make a commitment to potentially do this tour, work permitted, do it in January?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, I will have a look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

QUESTION 363-18(2):  
PLANNING FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE LOUIS  
CARDINAL FERRY

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a little follow-up to my questions I asked earlier. You know, as I mentioned the Louis Cardinal, it's pretty clear that the vessel has had its time in the waters; it's time to replace this unit, you know, before we have any incidents. We always have to try to avoid these. Always prepare and make sure we have the proper infrastructure. Will the Minister at least commit to doing a planning study to be prepared in case we do have to replace the unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I've said, we use the management tools to have a look at all our assets and stuff moving forward. As far as a planning study goes, the only thing we've been doing so far on there to -- we know where we are for maintenance and where the vessel is at and how much life is left in the vessel. What we continue to do on an ongoing basis to make sure we have adequate capacity for the volumes of traffic that are on that river system, and we continue to say that the data that's coming in that we meet these criteria to service the region, and I don't believe that at this time that I can commit to doing a planning study to replace the Louis Cardinal as we've invested tons of money into it for an ongoing basis and we will continue to monitor it going forward as there's Coast Guard regulations that we have to abide by to service the public, and public safety is our number one concern.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister: what is the plan for the department if this vessel didn't meet the criteria for the Coast Guard?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** If we were to get into a situation where the Louis be serviced in the region, we do have the backup area that the Member alluded to in his Member's statement that we could probably put in the water and bring into service to meet the emergency needs of that, and then in the long-term, if that was the case, if something drastically happened to the boat, we'd have to look at the long-term plans of how we're going to replace one of these units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister just said that the Merv Hardie is the backup plan, yet to get it ready to operate, it'll cost \$1.5 million. Why would

we spend that \$1.5 million rather than investing that into a new vessel?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As the Member knows, we have limited funds. We would spend the \$1.5 million versus the \$10 million it would cost to replace that ferry, and plus in the short time you just don't go buy a ferry off the shelf. They just don't have them sitting there at the store to buy. We would have to order this thing. It would probably take a couple of number of years to put into service. So the short-term fix would be to reactivate the Merv Hardie.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, that's why I'm asking to do the planning study now, rather than wait till, you know, when we're panicking here. But, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister and the department, you know, start planning ahead and put this into the next bundle for the Building Canada Fund.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I cannot commit to putting it into Bundle 3. As this Legislative Assembly know, our infrastructure needs across the territory are huge, and I'll say the same thing here I've said at FPT table. We could take every dollar the federal government has put into infrastructure, all three bundles that the government has proposed and this country could spend every dime of it just on upgrading the road system into Canada. So the limited amount of funds the Northwest Territories gets, we have to spread it across the complete territory to meet the needs of all residents.

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

QUESTION 364-18(2):  
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR HEALTH SERVICES  
AND PROGRAMS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's good to see the Minister of Health with us today. I was wondering if he could provide this House an update on the federal health transfer and what progress has been made on bringing more crucial health dollars into the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I just got back from the FTP meeting earlier today. The meeting went well on many fronts. We talked about many of the areas where the federal and provincial and territorial governments are working together, like pharmaceutical prices across this country. Working together we've brought the price of pharmaceuticals down by over \$700 million annually and with the

new partnership with the federal government, we look like we might be able to bring it down by \$1.2 billion annually. So a lot of good work on that front. When it came to the health accord, we did make a significant amount of progress.

We talked about shared priorities. I think all the federal government, the provincial government, the territorial government agree that we need to work together to put some more priority on homecare, aging in place, as well as mental health and addictions. Unfortunately, we're not prepared to move forward on that until we can straighten out the issue around the Canada Health Transfer. The federal government has reduced the amount that the Canada Health transfer increases on an annual basis by 3 per cent. So instead of 6 per cent increase, it's now a 3 per cent increase.

For us, in the Northwest Territories, that equates to about \$1.5 million, \$1.25 million in reduced funding available to fund healthcare here in the Northwest Territories. That doesn't sound like a lot of money, but in other jurisdictions it's upwards of half a billion dollars reduced funding. The federal government had indicated they have no intention at this point of raising back to their levels at 6 per cent, and we have now escalated as Health Ministers this issue back to the council or federation who has written a letter to the Prime Minister indicating that this is something that needs to be worked out before we can have any conversation about a health accord.

What the federal government is proposing and they have really only talked about some of the homecare funding is \$3.9 split over all the provinces and territories over a number of years. We feel right now based on previous calculations, this might work out to \$600,000, \$800,000 a year for the Northwest Territories, but we're losing \$1.3 million. So we're going to ask for, you know, \$800,000 but it'll cost us \$1.3 million. We need to figure out the CHT and that has been escalated to the Premiers and the Prime Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you to the Minister for providing that update. What is our plan going forward now that there's an awareness that there'll be a shortfall for health funding? Is there a chance we can turn this around before we move into our next budget cycle or is this going to be reflected in the next budget? When will this reduction impact the Northwest Territories?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day we have to provide healthcare services. Because there's less money coming from the feds, we don't get to say, no, you're sick; we won't treat you, or you need dialysis, we won't provide you with dialysis. We will. We're going to continue to provide those services. What it means is we have less federal dollars going to it which

means it's going to have to be made up in some capacity through our other revenues. But we're committed to providing comprehensive healthcare services here in the Northwest Territories. There's absolutely areas we need to do better. There's absolutely areas that we need improvement as clearly articulated in the mandate that we're working on together to try to improve those services. But we will continue to provide services.

I'm optimistic that the Premiers will be able to come to some sort of resolution with the Prime Minister of Canada and get that funding levels back up to a 6 per cent annual increase. Until such a time, all the provinces and territories are at 25 per cent funding from Ottawa, 75 per cent funding from the provinces and territories. Currently in the Northwest Territories, CHT covers about 10.6 per cent. In most provinces and territories, CHT covers about 20 per cent, so in the provinces there's about a 5 per cent shortfall. Here it's slightly larger.

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Speaker, the federal government provides Community Wellness Funding as an on-reserve fund to assist with addictions and mental health issues. Currently, the City of Yellowknife has one of the -- I think it's perhaps the largest population of Indigenous people and the city can't access that funding. Has the Minister brought this issue to his federal counterparts and provincial counterparts and looked for some resolution to see if the City of Yellowknife can start accessing this so we can get safer streets and increase and enhance our preventative treatment programs for people who are suffering and in need in the City of Yellowknife?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, the fund that the Member is referring to is actually money for the community wellness for the Northwest Territories targeted specifically for Aboriginal people and communities. We are a funnel for those dollars and we work with the communities to flow those dollars on behalf of the federal government directly to those communities. In Yellowknife, it was agreed that, given that Yellowknife in itself with the community is not an Aboriginal-run community, the dollars for Yellowknife actually flow through the Yellowknife's Dene here in Yellowknife. They get the component that would address all the other Aboriginal people who happen to be living in Yellowknife. So they're proportion, compared to the Yellowknife's proportion, is quite a bit larger in Yellowknife.

I have encouraged the mayor and others to have a conversation with the Yellowknife Dene to see if there's any opportunity for partnership so that they can build upon those funds to benefit the Aboriginal people who happen to live in Yellowknife.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that there is funding that goes to Yellowknife's Dene, and they of course in close proximity, but they still have their own community and it's constituted its community. It's the City of Yellowknife that doesn't receive this funding, and the City of Yellowknife that increasingly has the needs of Northerners pressed upon it.

People come here for the services and there's always a constant and rising demand for services. So is there any way that the Minister can communicate that message to Ottawa for a direct partnership from the City of Yellowknife to Ottawa? A special agreement as we see a lot of this funding doesn't flow to the Northwest Territories because we do not have reserves. That's a constant issue. Is there any way we can start having that conversation then that we have specific northern needs? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, at a larger level, the Premier has been talking with individuals like Minister Bennett and the Prime Minister about funding for Aboriginal people in many different ways. Wellness happens to be one of the ways. The Wellness Fund is specific for Aboriginal people. There have been other communities who have tried to work and have been successful in working with the Aboriginal organizations and governments that happen to be in their communities to be partners on the delivery of the wellness funding initiatives.

In Yellowknife, the money was allocated to the Yellowknife Dene in hopes that they would work with the Aboriginal people throughout Yellowknife. Their wellness plan actually includes activities that are supposed to happen in Yellowknife and I believe, in many cases, do to benefit all the people in Yellowknife. Whether you're Inuit or Inuvialuit or Dehcho or Tlicho, those dollars are used for services here for people who happen to live in Yellowknife outside of their other regions.

I have had conversations with the federal Minister expressing our desire to work with the Aboriginal communities and find ways to make sure that as many people as possible are benefitting from these funds. But at the end of the day, these dollars are very specific funds for Aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories. Right now the City of Yellowknife isn't an Aboriginal government or organization. The residents of Yellowknife can get benefits and are receiving benefits for the services that the Yellowknife Dene are providing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, reports of standing and special committee. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committee on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 160-18(2):  
INUVIALUIT WATER BOARD BUDGET 2016-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 161-18(2):  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION  
TRUST FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2016

TABLED DOCUMENT 162-18(2):  
NWT CUMULATIVE IMPACT MONITORING  
PROGRAM 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents entitled "Inuvialuit Water Board Budget 2016-2017," "Natural Resources Conservation Trust Fund Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2016" and the "NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program 2015-2016 Annual Report." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018 with the Member for Hay River North in the chair. Before we do that, I'd just like to recognize Ms. Green, her birthday today as a Member. I'd just like to wish her a happy birthday.

---Applause

### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I'll now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to continue consideration of Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018. We would like to consider the Departments of Justice, Education, Culture and Employment, and Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** We will continue with the consideration of the document after a brief recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Committee has agreed to consider Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018, starting with the Department of Justice. Does the Minister of Justice wish to begin bringing witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I would like to bring witnesses in.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes. To my right is Martin Goldney, deputy minister, and to my left is Kim Schofield, acting assistant deputy minister.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Okay. We will proceed to page 50, Justice, deferring departmental total until after consideration of the activity summary. Total estimate, capital estimate \$16,683,000. We will proceed to activity detail on pages 52-53. On page 52, infrastructure investments, total \$16,527,000, going into detail on 53. Any questions? Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to the capital plan, I see that Fort Smith corrections, for the ladies is in the capital plan, and it's talking about a 23-bed facility, but presently we're only having an eight to 10, so currently, females that are using the facility. So can the Minister please provide a rationale why such a large facility is being built? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Minister Sebert.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes. Thank you for the question. Yes, so, though the facility might be slightly larger than what we need currently, what we have to be cognizant of is peaks and valleys. Looking over the last few years, there have been peaks as low as three or four and highs as high as 18, so we wanted to build a facility that was big enough to accommodate the highs as well as the lows, obviously. Thank you.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess my concern is we talked about lows of three and 18,

and we're talking about rehabilitation as a priority and focusing on that.

I'm a bit concerned that we're going to spend a lot of money and it's going to become like the youth corrections here, in Yellowknife. So did the department look at that facility that was being built for the one that was built already and look at using that as the correction and then making a smaller young offenders home in Fort Smith? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Ms. Schofield could answer that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Schofield.

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm assuming you're talking about the young offender facility here, in Yellowknife, and whether we looked at putting our female offenders in that facility. Yes, we have looked at that. In a youth facility, we have to have both open and secure custody designations, and they have to be held separate.

So, in developing a youth facility, we would have to build it similar to the size it is now, maybe slightly smaller. It was felt that a similar cost would result in building another youth facility as building a female facility. The female facility in Fort Smith is integrated into the community; It's very supportive. We have great staff that work in the facility, that support the programs, and it was felt that leaving the female facility in Fort Smith made the most logical sense for the programs and the clients that we're serving. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank Ms. Schofield for that answer. Can the Minister please explain to us what kind of work has been done up to this date on this facility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, thank you. Of course, there's a considerable amount of planning that did go into the facility, and, as I understand it, there were some changes in the structure or the plans for the structure. I can advise that actual construction had started when I was last in Fort Smith, which was a couple of weeks ago. They were starting some of the basic construction, pouring cement while the weather was still decent. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. What cost has the department or the government paid to date for this facility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I understand that \$1.2 million has been expended so far, but we are bound by contractual obligations, of course. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is that satisfactory? Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Yes, it does. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple questions here on the probation office security tenant improvement to Fort McPherson. You know, it's good to see we're doing upgrades to a new lease area of the probation officer, but I know the community is looking into possibly building a new facility. If the community was to do that, would the department be flexible to upgrade to that unit? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Ms. Schofield could best answer that, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Ms. Schofield.

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The money that's allotted here is for tenant improvements for a leased space. We are currently in an overhold position with the existing lease in anticipation, waiting for the community, on their plans for developing a new building. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** So I take it the department would be flexible to just upgrade to the new facility if the community was -- I know the actual concern right now is just finding the proper place to put the facility, and hopefully we get all that straightened out, too, shortly. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** That is the plan as I understand it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have some questions about the NSCC security infrastructure renewal. Could the Minister provide a bit of detail on the upgrading of the electronic security infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Perhaps Ms. Schofield could also assist on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Schofield.

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The current security infrastructure equipment in the facility is ending its useful life, and this is a plan to add new software into the facility to make it easier to manage and more user friendly, as well as provide updated technology on our security systems. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The perimeter fence and security equipment, this is new fencing, as I understand it, apart from what's already completed, to separate the facility from the residential neighbourhood. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, that is correct. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The security cameras that will be part of this expenditure; are they for internal security purposes or external security purposes? I appreciate that's a rather detailed or specific question, but I'm wondering just if they're for people on the outside of the fence or people inside the fence, if it's for the inmates or if it's for people approaching the fence? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I understand that it could be a combination of both, both inside the fence and outside. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Well, I'll take the Minister at his word, which was "could," but have the residents in that subdivision, are they aware that there will be potentially cameras observing them, or is that not within the scope of this project? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I don't think the cameras will be placed in a place where they'll be observing the normal residents in their houses, no.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** I hope what the Minister thinks is in fact correct. I'm thinking if they're going to be putting cameras on poles so they have a wider radius, you know, those type of features, but perhaps I'll follow up in more detail. The other question I had pertains to the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre in Smith. These upgrades, do they satisfy the recommendations of the Auditor General in the recent report on corrections? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, thank you. We're not talking about upgrades; we're talking about a totally new building, and I do understand that the new facility will satisfy the concerns of the Auditor General in the report. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Just to speak to my colleague's comments on the rationale for building a rather large facility based on our female inmate population. Was their policy rationale in developing this facility based on those reports or was there something else at work that saw the construction of the brand new facility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, the requirement for the building is obvious for anybody that's been in Fort Smith. The current women's facility was, I think, built in the 1960s, so I think that the examination as to whether it was needed was done some time ago even before the Auditor General's report. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are two transfer vans on the capital plan as well for

corrections' personnel. Is this the extent of the fleet, shall we say, for corrections in regards to prisoner transport after these two come into place and the previous two used are retired? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, I understand that that is correct, that the two new transfer vans will replace two older ones.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Nothing further, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question relates to the proposed initiative in terms of improvements to the probation office security tenant improvement on the Hay River Reserve. I'm just trying to get an understanding in terms of the timeline of the work that could be completed. I just wanted to see if the Minister could clarify that indeed the project is slated for completion in 2018 and perhaps the Minister could provide some details in terms of the scope of the renovations that could take place on the leased area. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, I understand that the plan is that it will be completed in 2018-2019. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I just wanted to clarify that we're talking about the K'atloodchee Reserve. I understand the Department of Justice has leased space there and they're looking at renovating to provide more security for both clients and the officers, that's what presupposed. My second question is: would there be staff working out of Hay River or staff resident on the reserve? In terms of the probation officer. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Just to expand on my previous answer. I understand that the space will be approximately 60 metres square. I understand also that the plan is that there's a retirement coming up and this will be staffed by someone who will be on the reserve. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to thank the Minister for clarifying that. Just in terms of long-term, I just wanted to come to an understanding: what is the plan of the Department of Justice in terms of working to ensure that this probation officer working on the K'atloodèche Reserve in the future plans in terms of long-term; whether indeed a fully staffed person could be resident from the reserve and for the reserve? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I think the only thing we can say at this point that it will be a full-time position. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Full-time employed or a full-time/part-time? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Full-time employed. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Yes. So, I mean, the reply that the Minister provided and given us a sure indication that the project in terms of the lease space perhaps was six metres by six metres or so for a probation officer, and that is supposed to be completed by 2017, is that also indicating that the position will run until 2017 or 2018? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** This is just the capital cost for the space. The space is 60 metres squared, which could be 10 metres by six metres, so it's a little bigger than the Member was contemplating. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the question I was asking is: I understand the lease is going to be completed in terms of making it more secure for the probation officer to work on the reserve with perhaps a client, and it's going to be completed by 2017-2018. Now the position of the probation officer, I'm really presupposing that person would be working out of the Hay River district office and would that position run till 2017 or

2018? If not, is there a long-term plan in terms of working out of the K'atloodèche Reserve in terms of the probation officer? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Perhaps Ms. Schofield could answer that question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Schofield.

**MS. SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, the K'atloodèche is serviced by a probation officer out of Hay River. That position, or the incumbent in that position, will be retiring in 2018, at which time the position will be filled as a full-time position in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No further questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Anything further? Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to go back to the Territorial Female Correction Centre. Can the department share with us what the current incarceration numbers are for the current women's detention centre in Fort Smith? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand the capacity to be 21, and the current numbers are 14. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could maybe the department share a little bit more information in terms of giving us their best estimation, if they don't have actuals, on what the five-year average would be for incarceration in the current women's correctional facility? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Perhaps I could give the last four or five years, Mr. Chair. The highs, lows and average starting in 2012-2013, the highest monthly average was 11, the lowest monthly average was 5, the peak high and low for that year was three and 14. That was 2012-2013. In 2013-2014, highest monthly average 12, lowest monthly average, four. Peak low and high three and 13. In

2014-2015, highest monthly average 12, lowest monthly average three, peak low and high three and 14. In 2015-2016, highest monthly average 15, lowest monthly average five, peak low and high four and 18. So those are the stats over the last five years. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the department sharing those accurate numbers. Although I appreciate that there are peak times and it's seemingly in the numbers that were shared, at no peak time did we go past 15. The average seems to be somewhere in or around seven or eight-ish. So I think the point that a lot of the Members are trying to raise here as it relates to this facility is that building a 23-bed facility, even with the potential for growth as a Territory, population-wise, it seems fairly excessive.

The reason why I think that the Members are concerned is not just because of the size of this piece of infrastructure but that, as a government, we are trying to work toward restorative justice. We are trying to take on preventative-type measures, and the fear here is, and I hate to use this term, if you build it, they will come. That means that it would be simple for the justice system, whatever that is, to just start filling the empty space, knowing that it's available.

That's a concern. You know, we are taking a lot of steps and measures through our programs and services to try to minimize acts that would require someone to be incarcerated. Based on that, we would hope that these numbers are not numbers that are trending up, but are trending down. If that is the case, and if that's what we're investing in, and if that's the direction we're heading, then that's also another reason why this number of beds is concerning.

So this is more a point for comment for the record, because I appreciate that the facility itself is under contractual obligation and that there is not much we can do as it relates changing its size or specifications, but I wanted to be on the record, Mr. Chair, with sharing concerns, as my colleagues have, about building excessively in this case a correctional centre.

We've had these kinds of projects before in the past, in fact ones relative to corrections, that somehow were planned with good meaning or good intention and then, in some instances, completely have gone off the rails and haven't even been used. So I just want to bring that to the department's attention. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Minister, it's not a question. Do you wish to provide feedback on the comment?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, I would. Clearly we share the concerns expressed by the Member, where we are hoping to move to a system where there might be fewer. But I do notice, looking at the highs and lows over the last five years, that the numbers seem to be going up. Now, one of the reasons for that might be, and this is a problem across Canada which I heard a good deal about when I was in the FPT in Halifax, is that there are more and more people being in custody who are on remand. So that might be one of the reasons for the increase in numbers. But the peak high in the last year is 18, which is not that many less than the number of beds we are contemplating in the new facility. Also too, if there was a sudden jump in numbers, I don't think we would want to be sending people south. Also, and I'm not absolutely certain of this, but it would seem to me that the current facility was so not like a real, proper facility in that it was more like a group home, that there may have been inmates that couldn't be housed there and had to be housed somewhere else.

So although it is quite correct, we have not yet in the last five years hit the 23-bed number, we still think that the size of the facility is appropriate and would accommodate possible future growth in numbers. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything further? You have time, Mr. Vanthuyne. None? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm kind of discouraged with the last comment that we're building it assuming that there might be some growth, but, I guess, can someone from the department tell me is there not some sort of clause in the contract that says that it's all subject to approval of funds in the capital budget by this Legislature? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, perhaps Deputy Minister Goldney could best answer that question.

**MR. GOLDNEY:** Unfortunately, I can't confirm with certainty that that provision is -- oh, sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Goldney.

**MR. GOLDNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Unfortunately I can't confirm with 100 per cent certainty that the Member's question about the term in the contract, whether it is there. The difficulty, of course, in multi-year capital projects, we often have

to enter into these contracts with some expectations provided to the bidders and the contractors, and some assurance is made contractually. To my knowledge, I don't know if we've ever had the circumstance where we've had to rely on a provision like that in a contract. The contract does, though, have provisions respecting penalties that would be payable in the event of a termination, and that would include a provision to make whole the bidder for the monies that they've spent up to that date, plus a 10 per cent fee on top of that, and of course the very real likelihood that we would also be liable to make the contractor whole for any potential lost profits that they would have incurred for not being able to pursue other economic opportunities.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Goldney. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess we don't seem to have a very good track record for building correctional facilities in the Northwest Territories. We have a youth facility here that's not used, the one in Inuvik was closed. I'm just wondering what sort of assurance the department can give to me and the public that we're doing the right thing with this facility and it's been designed for the right capacity of folks and that we're heading in the right direction. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, I understand that the Auditor General's report did advocate or propose this type of facility, so in line with that, that's why we're building the facility. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I remain concerned about this item in the Capital Budget and do want to go on record as having concerns about this. I wonder whether the money that's going to be spent on building a facility that's too large might have been better spent on healing and prevention. I guess the Department's going to go ahead with this. What sort of reporting is the Minister prepared to make in terms of the construction of facilities that are going forward and rates of usage in the facility once it is constructed? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I'm not entirely sure, Mr. Chair, whether I understood the question. As I say, the present facility was totally inadequate and that's why it was necessary to build the new facility. We do appreciate and understand the concerns expressed by Members.

It is a little larger than the maximum we have had over the last five years, but not much larger. We remain concerned about issues of rehabilitation of course because that's an important element of corrections. The very name is an indication of that. I'm not sure I'm answering the Member's question, but thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could Members be mindful that we're talking about the same building but from a different Member's approach. Anything further? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So, yes, I guess I'm looking for a clear commitment from the Minister that he's going to provide to Regular MLAs utilization rates of the facility so that we can understand whether it was overbuilt or not as it goes into use. So could he commit to some sort of at least annual reporting of utilization rate of the facility once it starts to be used? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, I understand as a matter of security we don't provide day to day numbers of those incarcerated. I have of course provided some of that information, the highs and lows and the average over the last five years, and I think I'd be prepared to do that going forward as long as you're not asking for or I'm not asked for numbers on specific days, because that could lead to security issues. But certainly the highs and lows and the average I would undertake to provide.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's exactly what I was looking for. So I look forward to it. I thank the Minister for the commitment. I still believe that this is maybe not the best approach and I'll go on record as that. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. That was more of a comment. Any further comments? Seeing none, I will call this page again. Page 52, total figure, \$6,527,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Moving on. Committee, please turn to page 54, court services, \$91,000, detail on 55. Comments, questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering if the Minister can tell us whether this funding is for the legendary law resource centre that the department was building? Is that what this money is for?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** No, this money is for tenant improvement on the fourth floor. The library was on the first floor. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So there's nothing in the capital budget then about the resource centre that's supposed to replace the law library? There's nothing in the capital budget for Justice to do that transition? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Perhaps I could have Ms. Schofield respond? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Schofield.

**MS SCHOFIELD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The plan for the renovations for the library and the renovations of the resource centre is included in the 2016-2017 infrastructure plan, so that budget is in this current fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Schofield. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can I just get a commitment then out of the Minister to provide that figure to me for what the resource centre renovations are going to cost? Can he just provide that to me? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand that the total cost for the courthouse common lobby retrofit would be \$402,000, so the funds for the new resource centre would be included in that amount.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly, anything further?

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So \$402,000 for some general renovations I guess to the first floor of the courthouse. Is that broken down into any separate amounts then so we would know what the resource centre is going to cost? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** No, I don't believe we have a breakdown of the cost for the new resource

centre out of the \$402,000, but I think we could undertake to provide you with that information.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is that sufficient? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I would really look forward to that information along with the transition plan that the Minister's promised so we could see what this new resource centre is actually going to look like and what it's going to do in relation to what was there. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, I think we are or have been consulting with the department and also will be consulting with the Bar Association about the new resource centre. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering if the Minister can give me some idea about when he's going to be in a position to provide that plan and the numbers to me? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister on transitional plan requested?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I'm told that we can provide those figures next month.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. It's going to be provided. Does that answer your question? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I really look forward to getting this plan and the figures from the Minister. I appreciate the work of the department to put that together. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Anything further? Mr. Thompson, have you got a question?

**MR. THOMPSON:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. With this plan, the protocol, the process, will this plan actually be sent to us or do we have to wait till we receive it in February when we're sitting again? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, I believe we could share the plans with committee next month. So we wouldn't have to wait till February. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that commitment and look forward to seeing it in committee. So thank you very much, that will be all my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Further questions? Seeing none. We shall proceed on calling Justice, court services on page 54, \$91,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Agreed. Moving on to page 57, services to public, infrastructure investments, \$65,000. Detail on 58. Questions to detail? Go ahead, Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, is this a carryover from a prior year, the purchase of the coroner's van? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I understand it is not a carryover from the previous year. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister say when this van was last replaced? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Chair, I understand that it's been 12 years since the van was replaced. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Those are all my questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Anything further? We shall return to page 57, Justice, services to the public, infrastructure investment, \$65,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Agreed. We shall return to page 50, Justice Department, total capital investment estimate, \$16,683,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** We shall go back. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I just initially couldn't hear so now I'm able to hear with my microphone. But I wanted to raise the questions regarding the community justice and policing. I'm quite disappointed in terms of the preamble that outlines the infrastructure and the budgets for 2016-17 make references to 2017-18. It doesn't make mention of the New Day Program, so I wanted to ask the Minister if he could give us a status of the New Day Program and where it's at and where it's going? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister, if you want to answer that question.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, the New Day Program is not a capital project. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister for that clarification. Okay, that's not a capital purchase. I'll repeat again. Total capital estimate for the Department of Justice \$16,683,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Agreed. Thank you, Minister Sebert. I see that we are concluded with Justice. We can carry on. Thanks to the witnesses for attending. Can the Sergeant-at-Arms escort the witnesses?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** We will consider the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Does the Minister Moses wish to bring in witnesses?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I do.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right I have deputy minister Sylvia Haener and my assistant deputy minister on my left, Olin Lovely.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you. We shall start on page 9, Education, Culture and Employment. We will defer total until after consideration of activity summaries starting on page number 10. Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture, infrastructure investment, \$14,454,000. Detail is on page 11. Questions? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to talk about what's not here

today on the Capital Plan listed on page 11, and that is the Capital Plan to construct a gymnasium and a couple of classes for the K'alemi Dene School in Ndilo. Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the numbers at which the school becomes eligible for its own gymnasium is 125 students. I see that there's been some departure from that in the past, but I didn't know what the full capacity of some of these schools were at the time the gymnasiums were built.

The bottom line is that K'alemi Dene there is currently 117 students and the school has a full capacity of 121. Mr. Chairman, that is third highest percentage of all schools in the Northwest Territories, and projections indicate that the K'alemi Dene School will soon have 140 students within the next five years, so I want to ask the Minister what the plans are for expanding the school so that it sits within the correct enrolment percentages or capacity that's application to all schools across the territory, and if there is any contemplation by this department to build a gymnasium in Ndilo along with two additional classrooms that can accommodate the students in K'alemi Dene School. Marci cho, Mr. Speaker.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and just in addition to what I had mentioned earlier during question period that the department is consistent in assuring that our obligation under our capital standards are being met across the Northwest Territories, that we have 49 schools, that we understand and foresee the utilization rates in K'alemi Dene School increasing over the years. Due to our capital standards, schools with an enrolment from 50 to 150 students require a certain size gymnasium and that's what they have down in Ndilo right now. However, there's a planning study that's going to be performed by our department along with Public Works to determine the program design requirements, and a class C cost estimate for the 2017-2018 FMB submission which is expected to include additional instructional space and potentially a gymnasium. So that work is going to be going on very, very soon, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the Minister could give me a little more detail on the timing of what he had spoke about. Maybe the timing as to when we can expect to see this being contemplated through the Capital Planning Process or if it's already been contemplated through the Capital Planning

Process. I don't know. So just a little more detail on the timing. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister, timing and schedule?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and in the New Year we'll be starting to look at the planning study working with the Department of Public Works and Services. Coming out of that planning study, we're hoping to have something in the Capital Planning Budget for 2018-2019.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I have nothing further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like my colleague, I want to talk about what's not on this list. It's my understanding that JH Sissons School on 51A is the oldest school in the NWT. I wonder if the Minister could tell me when we can expect to see a renovation at that school? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned, we do have 49 schools in various conditions and states across the Northwest Territories. In the previous government, there was a planning study within the budget; however, that money was moved to address the fixing of the roof at William McDonald, and as all Capital Planning Processes it has to go through the planning process and that's based on priority getting it onto the budget. So it's going to have to meet the requirements that are listed that will get them on the planning study. Thank you, Mr. Chair. So right now there's no definite time. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wonder if the Minister could just review for us the requirement for a midlife retrofit of the school?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and with all Capital Planning Processes, there's primary criteria for ranking capital projects, five of them. There's protection of the people, protection of assets, protection of the environments, financial investment and program needs or requirements. They're all taken into consideration when we're

going through the Capital Planning Process. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, it's clear that Sissons School along with many others in the NWT needs significant investment from this government. What efforts is the Minister making to grow the pot of money available for our school retrofits? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just as I mentioned, all projects have to go through a capital planning process and there is a budget within the capital infrastructure budget here, and it's not only schools. We've got roads. We've got health centres, we've got hospitals. There's a lot of things that are taken into consideration. We've got housing that are all in the budget that we need to look at, and as I said it's all the priorities that are in the planning process. We also have some other criteria that we look at when addressing the needs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green, anything further on page 11?

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you. I would just like to have one more go at my question, and my question was not about competing priorities but growing the budget for addressing this priority of retrofitting schools. Can the Minister tell us what efforts, if any, he's making to grow that pot of money? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. All schools that are on the list have gone through the Capital Planning Process. The efforts to get some retrofits, some additional space on schools that have changed from let's say a kindergarten to grade nine to a junior kindergarten to grade 12 and needed to be set as a priority for spacing issues. We are under a fiscal situation here in the Northwest Territories as are all other jurisdictions across Canada, and whatever dollars that we can get out of the budget, they want to use and put them in the areas that we see that meets the needs of the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you. Mr. Minister. Ms. Green, if we can focus on the capital projects on page 11.

**MS. GREEN:** I have no further questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see that Ecole Allain St-Cyr is listed on page 11, and is it safe to assume then that the funds that are listed on the previous page, that doesn't include any additional funding that the department has applied to Heritage Canada for. Is that the case, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** That's the total cost of the project for that year, and as I mentioned there is a proposal that they go to the federal government, so, yes, no, that is total cost of project. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you. Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So can the Minister tell me when that proposal is submitted to Heritage Canada? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, we submitted it in September. I'll have to get the exact dates, and as mentioned we should hopefully be hearing something back in January or February. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So, if the proposal was submitted in September, has a copy of that proposal been provided to APADY and CSFTNO? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The CSFTNO were working collaboratively with the departments when that proposal was submitted and in terms of the schematic designs that did meet our capital standards were put into the designs that were presented to APADY as well as to CSFTNO. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't think the Minister actually answered my question. Has a copy of the proposal that was submitted to Heritage Canada, has that been provided to APADY and CSFTNO, yes or no? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister, yes or no?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We did share a letter with them. As mentioned in the questions earlier today that we can share that proposal with the interested parties. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Is that sufficient, Mr. O'Reilly, yes or no? You want the proposal?

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So, as I understand it then, a copy of the proposal was not shared with APADY or CSFTNO and still hasn't today. So I'm just wondering why there seems to be some systemic problem with this department working collaboratively with CSFTNO and APADY. I don't understand why the department cannot work collaboratively with these two organizations in something as simple as putting together a proposal that would go to Heritage Canada. That would actually save us money so that we wouldn't have to put all the money into the expansion ourselves. So what is the problem with the department working collaboratively with APADY and CSFTNO? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and, as I mentioned earlier today, that we are meeting our court ordered obligations. Anything that goes above the court order has to come through a third party funding, and so, and as I mentioned, if CSFTNO wants to go bigger and better that they've got to come up with a schematic design.

As I mentioned to the Minister or the Member earlier, that our staff would be willing to work with their staff and provide some support so that they can work on developing that design, and then we can go back. But our proposal was government to government, based on the court order that we had, had to meet our obligations based on our capital standards throughout the Northwest Territories, and we met what our requirements were supposed to meet. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly, being mindful of our fiscal situation and the court order requirements.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I hear what the Minister is saying, and I'm not prepared to accept that quite yet. You know, look, I'm trying to understand why it wouldn't be better to work with these two organizations and submit a proposal that would include letters of support from the two organizations, including one that's actually taken us to court over this stuff.

So why couldn't we work collaboratively with them to get letters of support? These two organizations also have contacts in Ottawa, connections in Ottawa, that might help ensure that this money is actually approved. What is the problem in working collaboratively with these organizations? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know that CSFTNO has done some good groundwork, has done some good advocating. We also have been meeting with Heritage Canada, as I said. They did get back to us to clarify some questions. We're hoping to find a solution or an answer, a more definite answer, in January or February, but you can't put dollars on the table without having the schematic design in front of you. The design that we developed, based on our standards, the GNWT standards that we make sure that are consistent across the Northwest Territories with every school of the size and the nature, we're following our requirements.

There's not a schematic design out there right now that shows the added, the expansions of Ecole Allain St-Cyr, so, once we have that, then we can start working on getting those letters of support and working together. We don't have that right now, and, as I mentioned, our staff would be willing to work with the staff at CSFTNO to work on getting the supports needed to develop that design and go to the federal government with.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I don't want to drag this out any longer than I have to, but I have one other point that I want to pursue. As I understand it, the court order required the new gymnasium and two special needs spaces. It's the GNWT that's actually decided to work collaboratively with the francophone community to add two additional classrooms that are above and beyond the court order.

So I think I heard the Minister say that we're going to just do the basics. That's not true. What I know is that this has actually gone above and beyond what's in the court order. Going to Heritage Canada can bring in some additional money to help do all of this at one time, and we could actually save ourselves some money. So can the Minister confirm that GNWT is actually prepared now to go above and beyond the court order with the expansion of the school? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. In meeting with the CSFTNO on the expansion of the school currently, we did see the enrolment rates going up and the utilization rates increasing. These are educational requirements. We know that they're expanding and the enrolments are coming up. We're meeting our educational requirements. There's not a cultural requirement to that. That's what they're asking for. The two extra classrooms are educational requirements because we want to make sure that, when the school enrolment and the utilization rate increases, that they do have the extra two classrooms that meet their educational needs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm glad that the Minister has been able to confirm that the GNWT is already going above and beyond the basic court ordered requirements. What I'm trying to do is make sure that we can stay out of court. I don't understand why this department cannot work more collaboratively with these two organizations, that the proposal for the expansion that's been submitted to Heritage Canada hasn't even been shared with these two organizations, there are no letters of support that went in with it. Can the Minister amend this application now and work collaboratively with these two organizations to make sure that we can actually save some money at the end of the day? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I mentioned earlier today, Heritage Canada hasn't even put a call out for these proposals, and, I mean, we went ahead of the game, working collaboratively with the groups to talk about making that connection in discussions with Heritage Canada. But, as I mentioned, you can't ask for money when you don't know what the plan is, and, in order to get that plan, I offered the Member to speak with staff from the CSFTNO to work with our department, our staff, to look at what kind of supports we can give to look at developing that possible design. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Okay. Recognizing the time, Mr. Minister and Mr. O'Reilly, I shall move on to Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My questions relate to the junior kindergarten upgrades that are slated to be delivered in terms of key communities. This is a one-time budget item for 2017-2018, and I wanted to understand just how it is that this initiative will be delivered. So could the Minister

provide some details in terms of how this initiative will be rolled out? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In working with some of our communities that have implemented junior kindergarten right now as a pilot, we did ask them what resources were needed and what kinds of adaptations or things needed to be done to the school. In terms of details we did fund Fort McPherson \$110,000, I believe, and that's to construct two additional washrooms to accommodate the extra 14 students.

In Tuktoyaktuk, where the junior kindergarten program is working very well, to accommodate them we've invested \$142,500. The Hay River Reserve, the additional students there was an estimated \$57,500 and in Behchoko, an estimated \$90,000 for about 42 additional students. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It seems very obvious by the update that this has been rolled out already and funds committed, and the Minister did state that these were pilot initiatives in terms of trying to prepare communities for the eventual implementation of junior kindergarten. Was this scheduled for all communities? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently we've already been engaging the communities, the schools that have been implementing the junior kindergarten program, and we've been doing a survey of all schools and seeing what schools will need to implement the junior kindergarten moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just trying to understand how this initiative was rolled out and how it was implemented. I understand there is a need to work with communities, so I'm just trying to understand, and maybe the Minister could answer this question. In terms of providing resources for communities to undertake minor upgrades and perhaps in preparation for junior kindergarten to be implemented in their communities, was it contingent upon them to support JK? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** In terms of implementing JK, the ones that I mentioned here earlier were based on need. Not all schools right now can accommodate additional students. For example in Tuktoyaktuk, where the school was made for kindergarten to grade nine, the school decided to go to grade twelve, but they also implemented junior kindergarten, so it's a JK to twelve school now.

You'll see that we needed to construct additional space moving forward to address that. It's based on need, and as I mentioned, we are surveying the schools to see what resources are needed in the communities. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I have an understanding with \$400,000, in terms of its limited capacity, to try to make improvements on a minor scale to communities that could probably receive the junior kindergarten initiative. Has the Minister contemplated the requirement for further needs in terms of further resources that they could commit in terms of ensuring that JK is properly implemented at the community level, for all communities? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's why we're doing the survey, and this isn't the first time that we've given funding to communities and schools to make the necessary changes for the junior kindergarten program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Moving on. Mr. Nakimayak.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My colleague here had asked a couple of questions that I'd had earlier, but just going back to the Mangilaluk School renovation and addition, the midlife retrofit and an addition of 1,000 square metres of space, just a question to the plans and how many additional classrooms will that 1,000 square metres offer for junior kindergarten to high school students? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Nakimayak. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is right, it is 1,000 square metres. I believe it includes high school instruction areas, a community library space, additional administration area, additional storage and improving viewing for the gymnasium. As I mentioned, the addition is based on our capital standards and criteria and school maximum capacity of 330 students. So

there's quite a bit that's gone into there, including a specialized instruction space to deliver career and technology courses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nakimayak.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** No further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to go back to the things that are not in the capital plan but not anticipated to be in the capital plan. At this point, I'm just trying to get a schedule for it. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if they are looking at the 20-year needs assessment, which is, I guess, the first step to developing a five-year capital plan. In the 20-year needs assessment, in 2018-2019, it indicates that the Detah School is scheduled for replacement. I'm wondering if I can get the Minister to give me a capital update on that Detah School? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you. In terms of the Detah School, it has just been identified so we're going to work at getting into that needs assessment in the capital planning process. So it has just been identified and, as we get further updates, we'll let the Member know.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same lines, in the 20-year assessment there is a capital item, the community learning centre. There's a 2018-2019 in the 20-year assessment within the next five-year capital plan time. In Ndilo there is a community learning centre scheduled in the 20-year assessment for 2018-2019. I was wondering if the Minister could give me a schedule update on the community learning centre for Ndilo.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When you look at the 20-year needs assessment, you can see there are a lot of projects going on right across the Territory. When the needs are recognized, it's also based on priority. As I mentioned, we only have so many infrastructure dollars to go around to all the departments and to go around in our department as well, whether it's a learning centre or a school. With the schools, in terms of replacing schools or adding any additions, it is based on that utilization rate of 85 per cent. So even though it is on a needs assessment, it would

have to meet a priority to get into the capital planning, five-year capital planning.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staying with the community learning centres, there is also one contemplated in the capital needs assessment at 2020-2021 for Fort Resolution. They have a very old building used as a community learning centre. So I would like to well, no, make more comments before I ask the Minister a question.

In approximately 2009 or 2010, there was money set aside in the capital plan to leverage federal dollars to build community learning centres. I know that the Member from Mackenzie Delta and myself were able to take advantage of the federal funding and were able to get one new community learning centre built in Lutselk'e and Tsiigehtchic. I was wondering if the Minister could tell us if that money that was available from the federal government would still be available for the GNWT to leverage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I think that funding was only available around that time. I think moving forward plus, like I say, we're in a financial situation to try to leverage more dollars. We have to have those conversations with the federal government. But right at this time, we don't have those dollars to leverage those projects. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could commit to having that discussion with the federal government. On the community learning centres, as we know, and in the small communities, the community learning centre, it's an active place, many people benefit from that. There is, as I've always indicated, low employment in the communities and it would be nice to be able to support adult students that are trying to upgrade their skills to make themselves more employable. I would ask the Minister if he could commit to having that discussion with the federal government to see if that money would be possibly available again and, if not, having a serious look at this as a regular capital planning item?

Both of these learning centres, Mr. Chairman, the one in Fort Resolution is scheduled for like 2021, as I indicated, and Ndilo scheduled at 2018-2019. I'd just like to see if I can get that commitment from the Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Definitely any way we can increase our connection to Ottawa and build those relationships to look at how we can get extra funding to assist with our infrastructure shortages, the aging of our infrastructure in the NWT when it comes to educational institutions. I think it's something that we want to work on and I will commit to trying to have those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the response from the Minister. I think that there is certainly a lot of discussion at the federal level about wanting to develop a system, like a homecare system that will support individuals in the long run. I think these projects educating our adults and so on are something that is going to be positive. It would be programs that could be run out of there that could assist the communities.

It could defer costs in the future, social costs in the future to our government. I appreciate the Minister's willingness to have those discussions. If the federal government just doesn't have the money to do it, I'd still encourage or urge the Minister to really look at these community learning centres as they're scheduled in the 20-year needs assessment for possible placement into the five-year capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I didn't really hear a question. But do you want to add to that, Mr. Minister? Go ahead.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the comments and the remarks. As mentioned earlier today, I've been to about 20 of the 33 communities in the Northwest Territories since being in the position of Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. A lot of those communities have gone into the learning centres, and I've done tours of the schools and there is a need out there. We only can stretch our dollars so far, that any federal support that we can get is going to be greatly appreciated and I know that the communities will want to see some extra dollars there as well. So I appreciate the support and the comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognizing the time, we'll move on. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple questions here for the Minister. As he mentioned with the JK funding, I'm not sure if the Minister had

an opportunity yet to visit the school in Tsiigehtchic, but you know at times we have junior kindergarten, kindergarten, grade one and two in the same classroom, so that just tells you the need that's in the community.

It's very difficult, as you can imagine, to teach four grades in one classroom. At times there is a partition there but it just goes to show the added stress that this puts on the teachers. I'm not sure if Tsiigehtchic is one of those communities slated for addition there, but it would be nice if it is. That's my first question, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Currently, Tsiigehtchic isn't on the list but, as I mentioned, we are continuing to do that survey and it is based on needs of the community. If the Member is saying that there is a need in the school, we'll reach out to them and see what kind of resources they have in the school for the junior kindergarten. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Sounds good. Just on my next question, I know it's not in the plans until next year but, the department has done a good job replacing both Chief Paul Niditchie School and Chief Julius School but now it's time to replace Moose Kerr School. I know I did ask the question to the Minister to begin a planning study. I know it is in the works for the next couple years here, and I'm just hoping the department has begun that work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Over the past years there has been funding given to the community to upgrade the facility. Some was roof replacements, foundation remediation. We did tour that school as well. The foundation is good. Utilization rate of Moose Kerr School I think is 41 per cent.

As I mentioned, when the utilization rate gets to 85 per cent then that's when we look at replacing the school or retrofitting or adding onto it. As I mentioned, it has been identified for renovations or replacement in approximately 2019, but we'll continue to work with all our schools moving forward just to see what condition they are and continue to monitor the utilization rates in each of the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My next question is on learning centres, similar to Mr. Beaulieu. You know, in Fort McPherson, a good example. Our learning centre is in the same school as our high school, junior high and, you know, even JK. You know, I think that as adults it should be in a separate facility; it's like that in many other communities, a separate place from high school and that. Hopefully, the department can look at having a different facility in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Minister, you want to add to that?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand the concern that the Member has, having adults in the schools with high school students as well. As we're preparing our Education Renewal and Innovation Action Plan it all ties in really well with our pathways to graduation, for one thing it's kind of similar to incorporating some of the daycare classrooms, the junior kindergarten to the school setting as well. It just adds an easier transition. When we do build in the communities, we try to look at how can do the best in terms of building to incorporate all services moving forward, such as having those kind of opportunities. But I do understand the concern that the Member has. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** That's all for questions right now. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Mr. Testart is out, is in.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to follow up on some of the comments raised by my colleague, Mr. O'Reilly, on the Ecole Allain St-Cyr issues. The Minister spoke about new designs for expansions and things of that nature above and beyond and finding new resources for the school. How many schools in the Northwest Territories are eligible to receive funding from Heritage Canada for infrastructure improvements? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Actually, that funding from the Heritage Canada is only for French schools, so there's, I believe, Ecole Boreal as well as EASC. So no other schools are able to get that money.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Given that reality, it would appear that our francophone

schools have a unique opportunity to leverage a separate stream of federal funding that our other infrastructure needs do not benefit from. So does the Minister recognize that there's an opportunity to develop a very strong partnership with the francophone community and its constituent organizations, like the commission scolaire and APADY? Does the department in addition to the Minister, recognize that opportunity and willing to actually work on building a partnership that looks at how to grow the school moving forward? Not just the needs of the core agreement or the needs of our educational requirements, but looks at this unique opportunity as a way to leverage funds and can only be done with a very strong partnership. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe that since being in this position, we've been really working with the francophone community to strengthen partnerships on many levels, and we consistently meet with them. The staff of the department has been meeting with them and I agree it's a great opportunity to access federal funding dollars moving forward.

In terms of the expansions and the cultural areas moving forward, we need to have that schematic design to go to the federal government to access those dollars. As I mentioned, our staff would be willing to work with the staff at CSFT I know and provide the supports that are needed to look at developing that design. I think that is the next step moving forward and whether or not the departments can work together, but we're willing to do that. Maybe a little bit further comments, I'll ask my deputy minister, Ms. Haener, to add a few more comments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Haener.

**MS. HAENER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to echo the Minister's words, meetings are taking place in a very collaborative manner. In fact, one occurred last week to review the plans for the current expansion and to make sure that there's understanding and appreciation of what that space will look like.

We are, as the Minister referenced earlier, fully aware of understanding the desires around additional space above and beyond the initial space that we're going forward with right now, and want to ensure that in our planning and our collaboration we are keeping options there to ensure that the site is capable of allowing for additional construction, and, obviously, we do want to take advantage of funding that's available to us from other sources, including federal sources.

The Minister mentioned earlier, and we are highly appreciative of the fact that staff from the commission have engaged Heritage Canada and laid some very solid groundwork in terms of an understanding of what the needs and desires are there and want to build from that in order to advance those requests. We do, as we've said, need to proceed in kind of a staged manner, however, in order to not miss the coming construction season, and hence, kind of chunking things up, and trying to continue that collaboration in a way that allows us to access the additional funding and pursue the additional wants and needs that are present there. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Haener. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that ground is well trod. I do think that partnership is a really unique opportunity given the role that Heritage Canada can play in this kind of funding, and I encourage the department to continue to collaborate with the francophone community for this, and to perhaps to look towards opportunities for other heritage sites, such as museums or cultural centres or services and infrastructure that could be useful to the francophone community.

My next errata question on this page was around the junior kindergarten upgrades. Are these upgrades tied to the announcement that the Minister made prior to this sitting about rolling out junior kindergarten by next year in all communities, or are these upgrades tied to existing junior kindergarten programs? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the rocky road that junior kindergarten has taken since its first implementation days, however, it wasn't rocky in some of the communities. There were some concerns out of that report that we tabled earlier this year.

One of the recommendations was to continue our engagements with the communities to see what the needs were. So these are with the existing junior kindergarten programs that are currently operating in the Northwest Territories at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Nothing further, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So it's my understanding that JK is now operating in 19 communities. Could the Minister just confirm that to start with? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, Mr. Chair, that's correct, and I believe in the New Year we're going to have the community of Sachs Harbour, that's going to be implementing a junior kindergarten, so it'll be up to 20. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So it's my understanding there are 49 schools in the NWT and so upgrades have been completed in some schools or are contemplated for some schools. So does the Minister have any information about how many schools will need upgrading or what the total cost of those upgrades will be? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not at this time. We're still doing the survey to get that information. We're contacting the schools to see what is needed in the community. If you look at the list as well of some of our schools the utilization rates are pretty low, so there's space that is already available. So right now we don't know the total costs in terms of upgrades that may be needed. Some might. Some need it; some don't, so that's why we're doing the survey to get that information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Minister read out a number of figures for the renovations being completed in Fort McPherson, Tuktoyaktuk, and on the K'atlodeeche First Nation, and so based on those figures, it seems that millions of dollars will be required to make the necessary improvements. Where is that money going to come from? That's my question for the Minister, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's just an assumption. I mean, we won't know until we go out and get that information. Some schools it was expensive, some wasn't, but it's just an assumption. We won't know until we continue to do those engagements with the school. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and could the Minister just say or say again when he expects to have that information in hand about the number of schools that require upgrades and the timing for implementing them. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you. Mr. Chair. As it was a recommendation that came out of the reports on junior kindergarten, we should have that information by the end of the calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking forward to the Minister sharing that information with us. Those are all my questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the schedule it talks about Charles Tetcho School in addition there. Could the Minister please provide us with an update on the second phase of this project?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the question and the concern for Charles Tetcho School. I know that we did have some back and forths in the House on this one. I believe the next discussion and talks will be happening in November. The department will go in and work on that schematic design with the community, and then moving forward from there, so they'll have a community consultation sometime in November. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. How is the department looking at this capital project for the disruption of it? So how are they going to look at modular units coming into teach the classes or are they going to be teaching the classes during this time when school is in? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and what we want to do is provide a safe, healthy environment for the students to learn in, so when

there's renovations going on one part of the school that we'll be having the children doing the work in another safe part of the school, and then in the second phase there would be students on the other side.

I believe when we're looking at the building and the retrofit of Charles Tetcho School that we're going to try to get it at the end of spring, right at the end of the school year so a lot of this work can be done in the summertime, and there'll be less disruption to classroom times so a lot of it will be done over the summer. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. Could he elaborate a little bit on the addition of the 390 square metres on this space that's going to be used to redevelop besides the retrofit? I understand that part, but there's an extra 390 square metres that are being renovated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and just in addition to my last comments that when we go in in November we'll be trying to get that information and some of the concerns that community might have in terms of when the construction happens, but the project will provide additional instructional, as well as research and support space for the students and staff population, and also includes an additional classroom and a language and culture classroom that'll add approximately 1,300 square feet of additional space. If the Member wants me to get him the list of what it's going to include in it. But that'll be presented in November at the community meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister. I'll look for the commitment or the update after you give it to the community. I don't want to be disrespectful to the community and work with them, so after that meeting they can maybe share it with me.

Now, I guess I'm going onto a bit of a wish list or what is not in this, but when we're talking about learning centres and that, and one doesn't fit all, so some of my smaller communities are looking at utilizing the school to use a learning centre. So part of this question there that that Minister is talking about has this been part of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll leave it at that.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The survey that I was mentioning and talking about earlier just in reference to junior kindergarten, but I think moving forward I think with learning centres and using the shared space is something that needs to be looked at moving further in terms of constructing schools or adding additions as well, especially in our small communities. We've got to be able to utilize the space the best we can.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister and again I apologize and I realize we're talking about 2017-2018, but I'm hoping that when you guys start doing this junior kindergarten because I realize we're utilizing that presently in my region, so if when you're talking about the survey you can start talking to them about learning centre. So I guess it's just about it's just a bit of a comment, and I thank the Minister for his answers. That'll be all, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've been listening carefully to what the Minister and his staff have said about getting federal support for schools, and that's important, and collaboration and so on. But I want to continue to try to engage him on Ecole Allain St-Cyr expansion. This schools in my riding. I'm getting an enormous amount of complaints about the inability to work with the department in a collaborative fashion. People are stopping me in the streets, I'm getting phone calls, e-mails. Most recently I had somebody stop me on the ice while I'm playing hockey to complain about this. So something is wrong here, and I don't know exactly what it is.

I'm wondering can I get the Minister to commit to meet with APADY, CFSTNO and the interested Yellowknife MLAs to talk about this proposal that's going into Heritage Canada and how to make sure that this goes in in a collaborative manner that meets everybody's needs. This has a potential to be a win-win for everybody and could save us money. So is the Minister committed to work and have a meeting with all of these parties soon to try to sort this out? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and we can't look at a meeting on that subject and that proposal; however, the proposal that's going in is what meets our criteria for our standards in building

schools for the population and the enrolment rates of that school. I mean, if the Member wants to talk about putting in a glamorous proposal, working together, we still don't have that schematic design, and we need that design if we want to work to get more funding from Heritage Canada. That's the next step before we can start seeing how we can look at getting access in the federal funding.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think I'm getting closer here. Is the Minister prepared to have this kind of a meeting where we sit down, everybody can understand better what this Heritage Canada funding program is all about, what's already been submitted, whether there's the ability to change this, whether there's the ability to get letters of support in, and how we can work together on this to get the best possible proposal in and maybe even save us some money. Is the Minister prepared to have that kind of a meeting? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I have committed to sharing that proposal with the parties, and as mentioned in the House earlier, but we've got to get to work too, you know. We've got that court order to build a gymnasium, to build the two classrooms, and then we looked at the two additional classrooms, because we saw the enrolment rates going up, but we can't not miss a building in a construction season. So we've got to get to work at the same time, meeting our court order, our obligations. But we will share that proposal with the francophone community. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm glad to hear that the proposal will finally be shared with the folks that took us to court. Look, I don't want to delay construction of this, nobody wants to delay construction of this, but we have an opportunity to get more money to do it right from the beginning, I mean maybe even save us some money. All I'm asking is the Minister willing to meet? My colleague had the same discussion on the floor of the House earlier and I'm prepared to go that route, but is the Minister prepared to commit to have a meeting like that soon so that everybody's on the same page in terms of moving forward with this proposal to Heritage Canada? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We can meet but I mean, as I mentioned, that we're meeting our standards for construction of capital projects and the court order. In terms of the proposal going forward, as I mentioned, if you want to add the cultural side of things and add things, which is unique because it's only the French schools that can access that funding, we need to ensure what those additions are, and we can't get the specifics until we have that schematic design. I am willing to sit down with the Member a little bit later and give him some ideas on what we can do in terms of next steps as well.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So I've got can meet, meet with me. I'm just asking if the other folks could be in the room at the same time? Is he prepared to go that far? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** We could meet all together, but I was going to talk to the Member aside and just give him a little bit of other updates on some other things that was happening behind the scenes in terms of some of the work that our department has been doing to move forward on the process. If we have that meeting, we're just going to be talking about what we proposed in terms of our court obligations as well as what we're developing in terms of our standards.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. In the interest of moving this forward, I'll meet with the Minister. I'm prepared to meet with him anytime. But I continue to get communications from constituents. We got a letter most recently from APADY dated October 12<sup>th</sup> complaining about how they're not involved in the submission that's already gone in. I'm happy to meet with the Minister, but clearly this is not going in the collaborative fashion that our government should be moving forward on. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thanks, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Minister, I see a commitment to meet together, not really a question but go ahead, Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our staff did meet with APADY on October 7<sup>th</sup> and we did share with them our schematic design. As I mentioned and as my deputy minister, Ms. Haener has also mentioned, there's been a lot of meetings that have been happening as well. So we did give that design, in terms of what we're going to be doing with our court order, to APADY. Any

feedback that they did have, we're still awaiting that feedback as well. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, colleagues. Going back, page 10, Education, Culture and Employment, education and culture, infrastructure investments, \$14,454,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Moving on. Page 12, Education, Culture and Employment, labour development and standards, infrastructure investments, \$9,157,000. Looking at detail on page 13. Questions? Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm interested to know more about the heavy equipment operator facility for Aurora College. We've been told that Aurora College is developing its strategic plan and that, you know, the repurposing of this to a vocational school, which is why it's housed in Labour Development and Standards, is the intended course. But the strategic plan is not yet completed.

So are we developing capital for the college under the old strategic plan, under the old purpose or are we waiting to invest in whatever we want the school to become? It just seems odd to invest major capital into a program that may in fact change as that strategic plan is developed. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** There was a lot of things that aligned in terms of this project coming to fruition. The Post-Secondary Institute Strategic Investment Fund, they put out a call for the amount of I think \$3 billion, and we took the opportunity to see if we could access that funding. On this specific project, it is a 60/40 split, we're covering off 60 per cent of the program. In terms of the heavy equipment project itself in Fort Smith, they already run a program. This funding will help upgrade the garage for both practical work as well as in-classroom instruction.

Also with our Skills 4 Success Action Plan, when you look at the jobs that are outlined in that as well as our labour market needs assessment, that a lot of it is heavy equipment operating. So that's the investment that we made. We took an opportunity when we saw the federal dollars that had come out and we were very lucky to be successful in getting those dollars from the federal government. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that comment and that is in line with what my expectations are for some of the strategic decisions we're making around Aurora College. There are more than one post-secondary education institutions or programs in the Northwest Territories however.

My understanding is that Dechinta University has been in discussions with federal officials and federal ministers about investing quite a substantial amount into a facility for their purposes. Does the Minister know of their funding proposal? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, we were aware that they did put a proposal in at the same time that this Institution Strategic Investment Fund came out, and we were aware that they did put a proposal in as well.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'm allowing one more there, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will yield the balance of my time until tomorrow. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Recognizing the time, noting the clock, committee members, I will now rise and report progress. Thank you, Minister Moses and Ms. Haener and Mr. Lovely. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

**MR. SPEAKER:** May I have the report, Member for Sahtu.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. MCNEELY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has considered Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates, 2017-2018, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Hay River South. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried. Masi.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**Orders of the Day**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, There will be a meeting of the social development committee at adjournment today. Orders of the day for Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to the 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 the First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
  - Motion 24-18(2), Extended Adjournment of the House to October 25, 2016
  - Motion 25-18(2), Mid-Term Review Process
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 143-18(2), Capital Estimates 2017-2018
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.

**---ADJOURNMENT**

The House adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

