



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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

**HANSARD**

**Thursday, February 16, 2017**

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**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**  
(Monfwi)

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**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)  
*Government House Leader*  
*Minister of Health and Social Services*  
*Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*  
*Minister Responsible for Seniors*  
*Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities*  
*Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board*

**Mr. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh)

**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

**Hon. Caroline Cochrane**

(Range Lake)  
*Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs*  
*Minister Responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation*  
*Minister Responsible for the Status of Women*  
*Lead Responsibility for Addressing Homelessness*

**Ms. Julie Green**

(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. Bob McLeod**

(Yellowknife South)  
*Premier*  
*Minister of Executive*  
*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations*

**Hon. Robert McLeod**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)  
*Deputy Premier*  
*Minister of Finance*  
*Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*  
*Minister of Human Resources*  
*Lead Responsibility for Infrastructure*

**Mr. Daniel McNeely**

(Sahtu)

**Hon. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)  
*Minister of Education, Culture and Employment*  
*Minister Responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Mr. Herbert Nakimayak**

(Nunakput)

**Mr. Kevin O'Reilly**

(Frame Lake)

**Hon. Wally Schumann**

(Hay River South)  
*Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment*  
*Minister of Public Works and Services*  
*Minister of Transportation*

**Hon. Louis Sebert**

(Thebacha)  
*Minister of Justice*  
*Minister of Lands*  
*Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation*  
*Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency*

**Mr. R.J. Simpson**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Kieron Testart**

(Kam Lake)

**Mr. Shane Thompson**

(Nahendeh)

**Mr. Cory Vanthuyne**

(Yellowknife North)

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Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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

<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Thursday, February 16, 2017

### Members Present

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

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### Prayer

---Prayer

**DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. R.J. Simpson):** Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Health and Social Services.

### Ministers' Statements

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 134-18(2): ANTI-POVERTY

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made a commitment in its mandate to work collaboratively to reduce poverty in the Northwest Territories by working with our partners to advance the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, funding community-based partners, supporting community priorities for wellness, and developing additional options for action.

Poverty is a complex issue and there is no single solution. The lack of a commonly accepted, shared definition on poverty makes it difficult to have a focused discussion among stakeholders. Because poverty and the factors that influence poverty are so all-encompassing, it makes it difficult to set parameters or put a box around the appropriate scope for a poverty reduction strategy.

However, our work in this area is guided by a territorial framework that was developed by the Government of the Northwest Territories in partnership with other stakeholders, including non-government organizations, Aboriginal governments, and business. The framework outlines five areas where we need to take action, including supporting children and families, promoting healthy living, ensuring safe and affordable housing, making our communities sustainable, and providing an integrated continuum of services to our residents.

The framework is supported by a Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, which was also developed in collaboration with our stakeholders. This plan is rooted in the fundamental premise that the reduction and elimination of poverty requires a

sustained effort by all levels of government and civil society. The Government of the Northwest Territories has a leadership role, but we can't do it alone.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, we can't do it without our communities. We've learned that, with our limited resources, the most effective approach is to follow the lead of local champions and provide resources to support local initiatives. As Minister, I have been impressed by the amazing proposals with tangible, achievable results generated in our smallest and most remote communities, and am pleased to support them.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that holding annual Anti-Poverty Roundtables alone will not eliminate poverty in the Northwest Territories, but these roundtables provide an excellent opportunity for partners to discuss challenges and successes in each region, to share best practices, and to advise our government on priority areas for action. In a similar vein, the Anti-Poverty Fund is not designed to solve poverty in the Northwest Territories on its own. Rather, it is intended to support local initiatives, tailored to respond to locally identified needs and priorities and hopefully to assist communities and non-government organizations to leverage other funding for these important initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, to get the complete picture on how much our government is spending to fight poverty, one needs to step back and take a broader look at the investments we are making in the NWT's people. The GNWT is proposing to spend nearly \$1.7 billion in its 2017-18 budget, Mr. Speaker, with a billion of that, 63 per cent, intended for departments in the social envelope. We talk a lot about new investments at budget time, but we shouldn't forget the ongoing spending those new investments are being added to. Some of the ongoing spending includes:

- \$151 million for schools, including \$25 million for inclusive schooling;
- \$48.8 million for income security, including \$33.9 million for income assistance and \$14.7 million for student financial assistance;

- \$158 million for community health programs, including \$68 million for community clinics and health services, \$16.5 million for mental health and addictions, and almost \$8 million for homecare;
- \$27.5 million for community social programs intended to protect and support children and encourage strong, healthy families;
- \$33.5 million for supplementary health programs, including \$23 million for medical travel;
- \$56 million for community housing services that support the operation of subsidized public and affordable housing units; and
- \$7 million in homeowner programs like PATH, CARE and SAFE.

New investments in the proposed main estimates which will have a significant impact on poverty in our communities include:

- \$750,000 to provide services to homeless people in Yellowknife;
- a commitment to fully fund junior kindergarten, which will reduce child care costs for many parents;
- \$3 million to enhance the Small Community Employment Support program;
- \$750,000 to extend the NWT Child Benefit; and
- \$500,000 to provide a home repair program to low-income seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories has a unique leadership role in reducing and eliminating poverty because it provides health, social services, education, housing, and economic development to all NWT residents. However, to effectively reduce and eliminate poverty, we must continue to have a multi-faceted approach and a sustained effort provided by all levels of government from federal to municipal and community partners. We will continue to work with our partners to advance the action plan and support communities' priorities for wellness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Ministers' statements. Minister of the Department of Transportation.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 135-18(2):  
AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation is committed to working with our public sector partners to maintain

a safe and effective multi-modal transportation system.

The Northwest Territories' 27 community airports are critical to the economic and social well-being of our residents. In fact, four of our communities have no road access whatsoever and are completely reliant on a combination of marine and air services. In addition to enhancing safety operations, improvements to airport infrastructure help to better connect families, provide increased tourism opportunities, enhance reliable delivery of essential goods to remote communities, and support emergency medevac and response capabilities. All airports in the NWT are federally regulated. Improvements to air services and airport infrastructure are mutually beneficial to both the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. The federal government plays an important role in funding northern aviation infrastructure.

A number of federal infrastructure funding programs have supported upgrades to NWT airports in the past. The Airport Capital Assistance Program was developed in 1995 to help regional airports across Canada, by paying for up to 100 per cent of the costs of projects related to safety, such as airside surfaces and lighting, emergency response equipment, and mobile heavy equipment for airside operations. Currently, 20 of the Department of Transportation's 27 airports qualify for ACAP assistance.

Since 1995, a total of \$24 million has been invested in airports across the Northwest Territories under the ACAP program. This includes the purchase of a new snow blower in Hay River; the rehabilitation of airfield lighting in Norman Wells, Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk; and runway surface rehabilitation in Sachs Harbour, Tulita, Inuvik, Yellowknife, and Norman Wells. This year, roughly \$805,000 is being provided to purchase an aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle for the Yellowknife Airport. The vehicle is expected to arrive in March and will help improve our emergency response capacity at the territory's gateway air hub.

The GNWT is also able to access other federal funding programs to assist in the improvements at NWT airports. New airports were built in Trout Lake in 2016 and Colville Lake in 2012 under the provisions of the Building Canada Plan. This increased the safety and capacity of air travel in both communities.

A series of air terminal building replacements were undertaken in 2011 in Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, and Tuktoyaktuk under Canada's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. This program has also funded the replacement of a combined services building in Yellowknife. These projects provided resilient

infrastructure with improved efficiency for community use. We have also been recently undertaking work to prepare for replacing the Inuvik Air Terminal Building.

Mr. Speaker, while federal investment in our transportation system cannot be underestimated, we cannot depend solely on Canada for necessary improvements at NWT airports. Federal funding is limited and there is no certainty that the Government of the Northwest Territories will receive approval for critical infrastructure improvement projects under the federal programs. These programs do not always allow us to invest in projects we know are required.

The Department of Transportation will continue to lobby the federal government for increased funding, but at the end of the day, essential capital investments in safety and security need to be made in a timely manner.

As Members know, the Department of Infrastructure has proposed a new approach to funding the Yellowknife Airport, the North's biggest and busiest airport. In other parts of Canada, airports of this size are usually able to pay for themselves without requiring substantial subsidies from government. Those airports do this by charging tenants and their users a fair and competitive price for services they receive from the airport. This is not currently the case in Yellowknife.

In Yellowknife, the government continues to contribute substantially to the airport, requiring the Government of the Northwest Territories to allocate money from within its operating budget. Money to fund capital improvements, while partially coming from Canada at times, also comes from the GNWT's limited capital budget, which also has to fund the construction of schools, health centres, and public housing.

Our studies show that the Yellowknife Airport substantially undercharges compared to Canadian airports of the same size. Landing fees are currently only 25 per cent of those at comparable airports in southern Canada. The Government of the Northwest Territories has to make up that difference, requiring us to divert resources from other programs and projects. We think it would be better for businesses and the people who directly benefit from use of the Yellowknife Airport to pay their fair share of those costs rather than requiring government money better suited for other programs and uses that would benefit all residents. We understand no one likes to hear that their expenses are going to go up, Mr. Speaker, but the fact is that these fees are a normal cost of doing business at airports across Canada and around the world. It does not make sense for the government to subsidize these same services. The proposed fee

increase will bring the charges at Yellowknife Airport in line with the rates charges at similar-sized airports in southern Canada.

To address this, the government is proposing a revolving fund for the Yellowknife Airport that will allow for the airport to become financially self-sufficient. The Yellowknife Airport has sufficiently robust volumes that could support a user-pay system. Revenues collected at the Yellowknife Airport would go directly into this fund and be used to finance its operations and infrastructure investments. This model works at most similar-sized airports in Canada, providing freedom to finance infrastructure improvements and take advantage of economic opportunities without using taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, building capacity at NWT airports to support safe and effective travel and enhance business opportunities is critical to the future development of our economy and ensures self-sustainable communities. We will continue to work with our federal partners to make improvements to our air transportation system while investigating new ways to make strategic investments in our infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

## Members' Statements

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INUVIK-AKLAVIK SEASONAL WINTER ROAD

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, this will be the last season for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk ice road. People across the Mackenzie Delta are looking forward to the grand opening of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway. Canada will be connected from coast to coast to coast.

Mr. Speaker, ice roads will continue to be an important part of the region. The community of Aklavik would like to take on the contract for the ice road between Aklavik and Inuvik. The 120 kilometre winter road is open between December and April every year. It will continue to be a vital link for the community of Aklavik, connecting people, goods, and services to the region.

A local contractor already maintains roughly 80 per cent of the road. It makes sense for a business in Aklavik to take on the full job, leaving the more significant maintenance contract for the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway to other businesses from Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, economic activity is very low in the region. Communities look to government contracts to give residents jobs and maintain some level of activity. Winter roads and all-season roads alike are an important consideration for all types of industry. Mr. Speaker, residents of Aklavik feel strongly that the maintenance contract for their road should be awarded locally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions for the Minister later today.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, monsieur le President. GNWT has negotiated socio-economic agreements for the following projects:

- Ekati Mine, 1996;
- Diavik Mine, 1999;
- Snap Lake Mine, 2004;
- Mackenzie Gas Project, 2007;
- Prairie Creek Mine, 2011; and
- Gahcho Ku'e Mine, 2013.

We all know that at least two of these projects announced the closure of their offices in the Northwest Territories and moved to Calgary. The most recent announcement by Dominion Diamond Corporation was met with silence by our government. Constituents contacted me about the loss of jobs and businesses for Yellowknife. I could only tell them that our government had negotiated a socio-economic agreement that did not contain any enforceable requirements for offices in the Northwest Territories.

Having reviewed the agreements again, I can see that Dominion is not required to have an office in the Northwest Territories. Diavik is to have an office in the Northwest Territories, and others are to have human resources offices only. Altogether, these agreements seem to be best-efforts arrangements, without any real targets or requirements with specified penalties or sanctions.

Our socio-economic agreements pale against the Voisey's Bay Development Agreement negotiated in September 2002. That arrangement contained the following:

- \$10 million from Inco for an endowment to Memorial University;
- another \$10 million from Inco for an innovation centre at Memorial University;

- \$130 million in research and development commitments, including a site to process concentrates in Newfoundland and Labrador;
- \$95 million in underground exploration and development to prolong the life of the mine;
- experts panels that can independently review the plans for the mine; and
- one or more offices for the development and operation of the mine, including engineering services and information centres to be located in three communities.

Here, we seem to live in fear that any terms and conditions will drive away development. In Newfoundland and Labrador, they imposed robust conditions and have 15 years of benefits to show for it. With our new authority under devolution, surely to goodness we can negotiate better agreements with resource developers to ensure more of the benefits are retained here.

I will have questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHWEST TERRITORIES OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARDS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, on February 10, 2017, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs announced an annual notice of nomination deadline for the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards, with a focus about recognizing and celebrating remarkable contributions of volunteers from across the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, last year Ms. Leona Berreault from Fort Liard was the 2016 Outstanding Volunteer in the youth category. I have had the pleasure of knowing and witnessing Leona volunteer and do the work in her community. For those who do not know Leona, she is a student at the Echo Dene School in Fort Liard, where she has contributed over a hundred hours of volunteer work for the school and her community.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very impressive amount of time when you need to consider she still has all her schoolwork to do, and don't forget her involvement in sports! I have witnessed her work hard in school, and she is always asking questions to better understand concepts. Like other youth, Leona has faced challenges in her young life, but she has never given up on her goals and keeps a positive attitude. To top things off, Leona is a constant

support for her little sister, babysits whenever she is needed, and finds a way to manage her busy schedule around this priority. To make things even more interesting for Leona, she has been working with her classmates for the past three years as they fundraise for a trip to Spain this spring. She is regularly in charge of running Saturday night movie for Fort Liard students.

Mr. Speaker, Leona has developed into a positive role model for others and can often be heard explaining the difference between paid work and volunteering to younger students she interacts with. Leona understands the value of volunteering and she is a wonderful representative of community minded spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what is in the water, but she is one of many youth in the community who steps up. The past couple years, I've witnessed Chase Berrault -- yes, her brother -- and Mikala Mcleod run the after-school program for the youth and coach the younger youth in soccer. They both give thankless hours for others.

Mr. Speaker, there are other volunteers out there who continue to contribute for the betterment of their community but have not been recognized. I would strongly encourage Northerners to nominate an elder, youth, individual, or group volunteer in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REDUCING THE COST OF LIVING FOR NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESIDENTS

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would you pay \$18 for a cabbage, \$55 for a whole chicken, or \$80 for 12 litres of water? That's not the cost of a meal at some high-end restaurant, Mr. Speaker; that's the price of some basic foods at NWT grocery stores.

The cost of living is the biggest challenge facing Northerners. We know this, and that's why we stated as a priority in our mandate that we would lower the cost of living.

Many people who love the North but have left will tell you they just couldn't afford to stay. Wages are good for those who are working, but wage increases aren't keeping up with rising costs. The dollars slowly dwindle away year after year, not to mention that in many communities 65 per cent of the population can't find work.

We know that more people living here will increase our federal funding. The last Assembly made a pledge to grow the population, but this government

has hardly mentioned it. Our population is starting to trend downward, and we are contributing to the decline by trying to meet fiscal targets.

At the same time, as we heard earlier from the Minister of Transportation, this government is considering a new airport user fee. For Yellowknifers, they face six consecutive years of power rate increases. We already feel the impact of Alberta's carbon tax at our pumps and in the stores and, like it or not, we will soon be paying a carbon tax of our own. Do you see what I mean about the dollars dwindling away?

Mr. Speaker, it's time to get serious about reducing the cost of living. It's time for real, concrete steps. We need to create more affordable housing and negotiate a new public housing plan with the federal government. That should have already started. We need to encourage more local food production and traditional harvesting. The Agricultural Strategy can't come fast enough. We must invest in alternative energy, renewable energy sources, and energy infrastructure. We must reduce our dependence on expensive diesel.

Like it or not, we must invest in critical transportation infrastructure that will drive down costs in our smaller communities while bringing jobs and opportunity for economic development. Mr. Speaker we've made this commitment. It's not re-inventing the wheel. We know what needs to be done. We must tackle the cost of living in concrete, specific ways.

It's a mandate commitment we made a year ago, Mr. Speaker, and it's time we put some of these ideas into action now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mahsi. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LAND RIGHTS AGREEMENTS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think one of the most important things that we can do for future generations is invest in the foundations of a strong and stable economy that can withstand the often tumultuous boom-and-bust cycle that our resource-driven industries so often leave us in. We want to diversify our economy. We want to reinvest in mining so we can use the benefits of that to fuel that diversification, to build a knowledge economy, to fund critical infrastructure. The one thing holding all of these objectives back, Mr. Speaker, are land claims or, as they should be known, land rights agreements.

The outdated language of colonial-based policies needs to stop. We need to start framing these as nation-to-nation dialogues about enshrining new

rights, rights that need to be recognized so we can move forward in a healthy and prosperous future.

I know I'm not the only one who feels this way, Mr. Speaker. Our Premier is very passionate about this issue. In fact, during the Territorial Leadership Committee he made a speech where he enshrined this as one of his top priorities.

Mr. Speaker, if I may quote from this:

"Aboriginal people make up half the population of the Northwest Territories. They should have the same opportunities to participate meaningfully in the political, social, and economic life of our territory and share in its benefits."

I couldn't agree more.

I was very pleased to see the Premier committed to forming a working group with Regular Members of this House, a joint committee between Regular Members and Cabinet to provide oversight and give direction to our negotiation on files dealing with Aboriginal Land and Resource Agreements.

Mr. Speaker, this working group has met once since the Premier was appointed to that position. One time. How are we giving direction on negotiations and helping expedite this process ensuring that all Members of this House are consulted when this group is barely meeting, Mr. Speaker?

Furthermore, the Premier also committed to having a meeting with leaders of the Dehcho within 45 days and a new offer on the table in 90 days. It's been a long time since then, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that process is still unsettled. I will have questions for the Premier on if we are going to settle these outstanding claims by the end of this Assembly as he has promised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mahsi. Members' statements. Member for Sahtu.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANS

**MR. MCNEELY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Since the inception of the Arctic Energy Alliance Program with objectives of reducing energy consumption through education, home audits, alternative energy programs, rebates on more energy efficiency appliances for NWT residents and the business community, a governance structure was developed consisting of Northern residents, residents who understand the high energy cost and challenges faced by our smaller communities. This knowledge, Mr. Speaker, helps the program or the department design efficiencies on deliverance; however,

improvements are an ongoing prudent management principal.

Mr. Speaker, this program is well received in the smaller communities where high energy cost exists and burdens the family income significantly. Planning on deliverances for these programs, Arctic Energy Alliance initiated development of a community-by-community energy plan in the Sahtu region.

This government is practicing on the principles of Arctic Energy Alliance directives. In the Sahtu Region, we have seen recent installation of LED lighting, pellet boilers for public buildings.

Later, Mr. Speaker, I will have updated planning questions for the appropriate Minister. Mahsi.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mahsi. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVES

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Regular Members in the House, we are in the process of asking government to put more money into the anti-poverty movement. Today, the Minister of Health had laid out all of the work this government is doing to combat poverty; however, most of those initiatives had been there for years, and we will have a very high percentage of people in poverty in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to get up quickly after the speech that the Minister of Health and Social Services made to respond to it quickly because I don't want people to believe that \$438,000,000 of additional dollars is being put into anti-poverty. Of the money that the Minister spoke of under the anti-poverty Minister's statement, there is about \$36,000,000 of the \$438,000,000 that he spoke of in his Minister's statement on actually combating poverty.

Most of these initiatives are not targeted towards people who are in poverty. I just wanted to make sure that I got that out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mahsi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON #LOVENWTWATER BOTTLED WATER CAMPAIGN

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to challenge all Members and all NWT citizens to take the Love NWT Water pledge and swear off bottled water for the coming year, and ideally, forever.

Love NWT Water is the promotional campaign recently launched by Ecology North, a northern environmental NGO, to encourage Northwest Territories residents to turn on their taps and stop buying bottled water.

According to Ecology North's research, 24 bottled water retailers sold more than 1.8 million liters of bottled water here in the NWT between 2014 and 2015. Those bottles are shipped from southern suppliers with all the negative environmental costs of greenhouse gas production resulting from the manufacturing of containers, processing of water, trucking, and the cost of handling the waste containers. About 200,000 bottles ended up in the landfill. It is not cheap; flats of bottled water can cost \$20 and more if they are flown into communities off the road system. All this to replace a product that is available only steps away, in our taps.

This government transfers tens of millions of dollars to our municipal governments for the construction and operation of 29 water treatment plants serving our 33 communities. We mount training programs for plant operators while Health and Social Services conducts regular tests to ensure drinking water quality regulations are met. As the organization representing the 33 municipal governments in the Northwest Territories, the NWT Association of Communities has a standing resolution calling for municipal governments not to use bottled water.

So let's get with it. Our territorially funded municipal governments produce some of the finest drinking water in the world. If this government doesn't show its faith in the quality of that water, who will? We need to make our territorial offices bottled-water-free, starting with the executive offices here in this building, and challenge our municipal partner governments to do the same.

I am urging all Members here and citizens across the territory to take the pledge, drop the cost of bottled water, reduce their environmental footprint, and drink from the best municipal water supplies in the world. Go to #loveNWTwater to take the pledge. I will have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
INUIT-CROWN PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to take part in a historic agreement between Inuit in Canada and the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, these terms of reference reflect the commitment by Inuit and the Crown to identify and take action on shared priorities through partnership. This partnership is based on the Government of Canada's special relationship with Inuit as Indigenous rights holders under the Constitution. Pursuant to this relationship, an Inuit Nunangat, the homeland, approach to policy development is necessary to advance shared priorities. The following permanent, bilateral committee, the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, is tasked with advancing this relationship and creating prosperity for Inuit, which benefits all Canadians through the development of policy guidance by taking action to advance shared policy priorities and facilitate inter-agency collaboration.

The purpose of an Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee is to create prosperity for Inuit which benefits all Canadians through shared action. It will do so by identifying solutions, providing guidance, and addressing challenges shared by Inuit and the federal government. It is structured to ensure that we create success through a unified approach that is based on partnership and accountability.

The ICPC is outcomes-focused, and its parties are committed to working together in the spirit of cooperation to advance shared priorities. The ICPC will operate on the principles of collaboration, consensus, transparency, fairness, partnership, and inclusion. Members will respect existing Inuit land claim agreements, Indigenous rights, and the human rights confirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mr. Speaker, as I see the language and cultures thrive across the territory, it is clear there is a core that is unshakable, and we must build on those values for Indigenous people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
CONDOLENCES TO K'ATLODEECHE HOUSE  
FIRE VICTIMS

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

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I acknowledge a tragedy that happened on the K'atlodeeche Reserve. A house fire claimed the life of a family member, and another is in critical condition and was medevaced to Edmonton.

Last night I was made aware of the tragic house fire on the Hay River Reserve. I immediately felt sad and sorry for the loss of life and the family that was affected by this tragedy. On behalf of my

colleagues of this House, I express my condolences for the family, relatives, and communities of the K'atlodeeche Reserve.

I have spoken to Chief Roy Fabian of the K'atlodeeche Reserve. He asked that people remember them in their prayers for the family and community to get through this great tragedy. Mr. Speaker, [English translation not provided.] Mahsi.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Our condolences go out to the family and all those affected. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize my partner, Ms. Colleen Wellborn, who is joining us today. It her first time seeing me in the House and it is long overdue. Thanks for being here.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Hay River South.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize two pages from Hay River, Tenielle Patterson and Zoey Walsh and also their chaperone, Myrtle Graham. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Range Lake.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent in my riding, someone who I consider a close friend, and more important, a woman who is really interested in preserving her culture by writing children's books. She just came out with her first one, called Wild Eggs. Suzie Napayok-Short is our translator today. I am honoured to have her here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce Brenda Van Hauvar; she is the water specialist with Ecology North who is spearheading the Love NWT Water campaign. Also my constituency assistant, Craig Yeo. Mahsi.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize two of our pages who are with us today, Malaenah Alexie and Jaydin Wilson, also chaperone Liz Wright. Thank you for all that you do us in the House. Mahsi.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Colleen Wellborn. She is a constituent of mine, and thank you for joining us in the House today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Welcome. If we have missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. It is always nice to have an audience. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 583-18(2): LAND RIGHTS AGREEMENTS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker earlier today I spoke about the Premier's commitments to settling land claims by the end of this Assembly. The direct quote is, "Let's get these land claims completed, all of them, in the life of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly." I would like to ask the Premier today if we are on track to do that and if these claims will be settled by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Honourable Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that the honourable Member from Kam Lake finally recognized that this file exists and that he's learned the difference between land claims and land rights, and I'm very pleased to say that we're working very hard to fulfil our objective of selling all of these land rights agreements within the length of this 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**MR. TESTART:** Language is important and I obviously have to be careful, as does the honourable Premier.

On the topic of land rights agreements, Mr. Speaker, there was the commitment to have a new offer to the Dehcho processed within 90 days. Was that offer made? I'll just leave it there. Was that offer made? Was a new offer given to the Dehcho in 90 days of the Premier taking office?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We did better than that; we met with the leadership of the Dehcho and we committed to having ministerial special representatives appointed to review the progress to date to identify deficiencies and challenges and what areas we could change to move forward. We had the opportunity to have a discussion in Vancouver at the Mineral Roundup with the Grand Chief Herb Norwegian, and he agreed that we would continue to work together to resolve these

long-standing negotiations and we are both optimistic that we can move forward.

**MR. TESTART:** I think there's a difference between making progress and a new offer. My understanding of a new offer within 90 days is there will be a new offer on the table for full consideration. Was that made? Was there a full deal given for consideration in this process, or was it only the appointments of the ministerial special representative from both governments that changed this process? That's certainly a new way going forward, but I think it pales in comparison in a fully realized deal.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I have said before, it's very easy to make a new offer; could make one today to the Dehcho, but our objective is to reach an agreement and that's what we're working towards, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final question. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On an issue that's very near and dear to my honourable friends on this side of the House, the working group on this issue, it's only met once. I'm wondering if the Premier can advise when the next meeting will be and if the terms of reference allow this committee to give direction to the negotiations process, or if it is only a group that's being used to update my honourable friends? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be pleased to answer his multiple questions. First and foremost, the terms of reference were reviewed and agreed to by both sides at least six months ago, and so everybody agreed to them, and the honourable Member from Kam Lake knows that we had a meeting. Everybody agreed that the next meeting would be when we received the reports from the two ministerial special representatives, and we expect to have those very soon and then we would have a meeting at the appropriate time to discuss these reports.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

#### QUESTION 584-18(2): SOCIO-ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. On the weekend I was doing some work, research for my Member's statement on socio-economic agreements, so I went to the departmental website. There's a mix of unsigned versions and only one completed and signed agreement there. Can the Minister commit to getting the final and signed versions of all these

agreements on the department's website within a reasonable period of time? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to have a look into this. If there's the only one posted there, certainly there are other agreements that have been signed off and have been in place for a number of years and I will ensure that the ones that are signed off and in place, that we will have them posted on the website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I can assure the Minister that all those agreements are there, but most of them are unsigned, most of them are undated. I had to go to secondary sources to try to actually find out when they signed, like, news releases and so on. In any event, I look forward to having them all there.

As I raised in my statement earlier today, there are few, if any, legally binding commitments in the current socio-economic agreements. Can the Minister confirm these agreements are really best-efforts arrangements with few, if any, specific binding commitments with penalties and sanctions for non-compliance?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** These socio-economic agreements that we have in place, which benefit Northern businesses, Aboriginal groups, and Northern people, are a great partnership, and that's how the Government of the Northwest Territories looks at these agreements. We take the partnership approach to it and corroboration and collaboration with these companies to try to bring as much investment and employment opportunities and business opportunities to the residents of the Northwest Territories, and that's the basis of these agreements.

**MR. O'REILLY:** That's great that these are partnerships, but when people don't live up to them there have got to be some sanctions there or some way of ensuring compliance again.

So there's a mix of commitments in terms of office locations and functions in the current socio-economic agreements. When I looked at the Voisey's Bay development agreement and our inability to retain head offices for large resource development projects, what is the Minister prepared to do to ensure that there are no further main office closures in Yellowknife by resource developers?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** These are agreements that are presently in place. When they were signed back in the early 90s and later 90s, we never had the regulatory authority over this; this was done under the federal government, the system that was in place at that time, and we have

to live up to what was taking place then. When we move forward, as we try to attract new mining companies to the Northwest Territories, we will try to enshrine the stuff that's important to Northerners and the Northwest Territories and ensure we get the best deal for the people of the North.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Final question, Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, monsieur le President. Glad to hear the Minister say that we're going to start being a little bit tougher with our negotiations so that we can retain more of the benefits here for Northerners.

One way to perhaps help that: can the Minister commit to having a thorough and independent review of our socio-economic agreements conducted so we can learn from others and our own mistakes, and will he agree to make such a review public? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As we move forward with the new socio-economic agreements with up-and-coming mining companies, some of this conversation is already taking place with the potential new mines that are in place and negotiations are under way. As for the Member's comments of having a full review, I'm not committed to doing that just yet. We have to get our mine regulations and stuff in place, as devolution has come upon us and we have to work on how we're going to make our House better; once that sort of stuff is in place, then we can have a better look at it.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 585-18(2):  
ICE ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a follow-up to my Member's statement. I have a few questions for the Minister of Transportation. I'd like to ask the Minister: how frequently are contracts for ice road construction and maintenance awarded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to probably look into that. I imagine every section may have different appendices to it, but if he wants to ask on a specific contract I can look into that for the Member. Thank you.

**MR. BLAKE:** How does the department plan to award the contract for the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway, maintenance contract?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** We're waiting to have the completion of that road. We are having a hard look at how we are going to tender this process out for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway. It is no different than any other contract, and it will have to follow our procurement steps as laid out by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. BLAKE:** I would like to ask the Minister: will the Minister award the contract for the maintenance of the ice road between Aklavik and Inuvik to an Aklavik contractor, since the road primarily serves the residents of Aklavik?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As the Member knows, the section of road between Aklavik and Inuvik right now is between two different contractors, but the one section that is closer to Inuvik is the part that goes to the Tuktoyaktuk section, which will be closed off after this winter season with the opening of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway. The present contractor for the majority of the road is from Aklavik. He presently has the contract, and I believe he has three more years, roughly, remaining on his contract. What I will do is have a look at that once the Inuvik section is done and see what we are going to do.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Final question, Member for Mackenzie Delta.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are talking about 30 kilometres of road, here, that is to the junction of the Aklavik turn-off. I don't see why we can't just add this to the remaining contract, which is majority to the Aklavik contractor. Will the Minister ensure that this is straightened out before the fall? As you know, it is on that section of road to Tuktoyaktuk that will be no longer needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, there are two contractors on that section. The last 30 kilometres in the Inuvik section is a different contractor. Once the contract is done, at the remainder of this winter road, we will have a look at economies of scale. It probably makes more sense to have one contractor for that whole section of road versus two, but I will have to have a look at it when the time comes.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 586-18(2):  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES OUTSTANDING  
VOLUNTEER AWARDS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Mr. Speaker, I talked about volunteerism, and my questions will be for the Minister of Municipal and

Community Affairs. During the 2016 nomination period, how many people and organizations were nominated for the awards that the department issued? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through the 2016 nomination period, actually 23 nominations in total were received for the four awards: 10 were from elders; 11 were individuals; one group applicant; and one youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I must apologize to the Minister. I am going to probably ask a question that is a little bit outside the box here. So we have 23 nominations, which is good, but it is really sad for this territory, where we have a lot of volunteers out there. Can the Minister advise what the department is going to do to increase the nominations besides up to 23 so we can have more people recognized?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** This topic of increasing volunteerism is not new to the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. We have been realizing that the numbers of volunteers have been going down over the years. There may be a variety of reasons for that, including the need for two-parent families to be working now.

We are actually doing a number of things. We are looking at increasing our advertising to get more nominations out there. We are also going to be putting it forward to the stakeholders, the five regional stakeholders that we will be meeting with, because I am guessing that they are also realizing that their volunteer base is shrinking, as well. So we will be putting it forward to them when we look at how we look at a strategic regional policy and seeing if we can come up with ideas to support throughout the Northwest Territories to increase our volunteerism.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for her answer. That is a good step, a good start. However, I think we have lots and lots and lots of volunteers. I know that. I can see there are people out there volunteering. I don't think it is the income thing; I just think the recognition is the problem. Is the department looking at ways to help communities recognize their hard-working volunteers as the first step towards the territorial award?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** So although I recognize that volunteers are really critical, really important, very valuable in our communities, they often don't do that for recognition. However, it is important to recognize our volunteers, and so we do a number of things to promote volunteerism.

We have a Volunteer Organization Development Contribution program that gives training support funding. We have a Volunteer Recognition Program, that we have \$30,000 that we provide funding for community governments to run volunteer recognition events. They can apply up to \$1,000 per event. That program is still taking applications, so I would like that to get out there, as well as the Volunteer Organization Development Corporation program for training. We also are continuing to take applications for that.

We support agencies, the NGO Stabilization Fund that gives to non-profit organizations that are mostly led by volunteers. We provide them with funding. We have the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards where we annually recognize volunteer achievements, that we are talking about, in four categories, youth, individual, elders, and groups. We have the NWT Youth Ambassador program, where we give youth opportunities to travel and experience volunteerism and get recognized for that. Of course, we have the Fire Service Merit Awards where we promote our volunteers within our emergency services.

So we do quite a bit. We offer some training. We can always do better, but we are looking at ways, and we are hoping that we will be able to expand on that.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Nahendeh, final question.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for her answer. I am very familiar with those programs and that, so she did a great job. Still, I think we need to get that money out to the communities. It shouldn't be application-based. It should be given out every year. It should be done so the communities can recognize their volunteers.

Now, in regard to the importance of volunteers that the Minister has talked about, does the department have any courses or resources that they can offer to volunteer groups to become more efficient and effective volunteers out there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have gone through on my last answer a number of areas where we promote volunteers and where we support organizations with doing that. Any organization that is interested in either accessing more volunteers or training their volunteers, we are willing to work with them individually, as well.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 587-18(2):  
ARCTIC ENERGY ALLIANCE PROGRAMS IN  
SAHTU COMMUNITIES

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is on the energy alliance program, directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services. The program, as mentioned, is a good one, well-received in the communities, and I would like to know what currently the department is doing in this fiscal year on the program deliverance to the communities of the Sahtu? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we agree. The Arctic Energy Alliance is a great program for the communities in the Northwest Territories. We are currently updating all the energy profiles of the communities of the Northwest Territories. They were last done in 2010. Over half of them are done, and they will be posted in the coming month here, hopefully. Within this next calendar year, we will finish up the rest of the communities on the community energy profiles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MCNEELY:** I welcome the reply to that question. My next question, Mr. Speaker, is: having completed the updated plan there from the last one referenced in 2010, which is seven years ago, when that updated energy plan per community could be -- if I can get a copy of that as well, if it can be provided?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I said, the ones that are done are going to be posted here shortly and the rest of them in the coming year, but I can get the specific ones to the Member's community, for the Sahtu, if they're completed already. I don't know if they're in the list that's not completed, but if they're done I will get them done.

I guess the other thing that I want to mention that we're working on this year, too, is Arctic Energy Alliance is working community energy plans, and there are two communities that are doing that right now. We're working with Fort Providence and Aklavik; this is an CanNor-funded project. At the conclusion of this, these two project communities will be identified energy projects that they want to undertake and it will be for a sum of \$400,000 that will be split between the two communities.

**MR. MCNEELY:** My final question is: once these engagements are under way in developing the community energy plan, will the community leadership be approached and have some input to the community energy plan?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The two that we're working on, as I just mentioned, Fort Providence

and Aklavik, we'll be working with the communities. We're hoping in the future that we're going to get some more federal funding to commit to do more community energy plans in the future, so we'll be pushing that, but also as part of our energy public engagement that we're doing presently, we are also asking invited participants as well as the public that come to our meetings about the Arctic Energy programs and services and how they can be improved as well. So that's another avenue for people to reach out in the communities on how we improve this.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Sahtu.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was referring to the questions earlier for the Sahtu communities, not somebody else's riding. Thank you. If I can get the questions to that, energy plans for the Sahtu communities? Thank you.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I think there's some confusion. Right now we're doing community energy plans, like I said, for the community of Fort Providence and Aklavik. That's an energy plan. The other ones that we're currently trying to finish up in the Northwest Territories is the community energy profiles for all the communities, and that is the ones -- the Sahtu community is done, I will be able to give the Member from across.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 588-18(2):  
#LOVENWTWATER BOTTLED WATER  
CAMPAIGN

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I know that, in some of our government offices, even in the executive offices here at the Legislative Assembly, you still find bottled water coolers. At meetings in GNWT-sponsored events, bottled water is still being offered. If we believe in the quality of our municipal water supplies, we need to walk the talk. So in that vein, will the Minister take the lead in Cabinet and have bottled water removed from the executive offices in this building? Thank you.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Personally, I do not believe in drinking bottled water. I think that we have excellent-quality water in the Northwest Territories. As MACA, my job is to promote community governments. I work with them in building and monitoring their water treatment plants. I am not responsible for all of the

government buildings, though, so I will voice my opinions but I cannot make authorization on someone else's department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** If the Minister is a champion for tap water, then can she take the lead in Cabinet and request her Cabinet colleagues to instruct their departments and agencies, the ones that are under their direction, to remove the bottled water coolers and also to direct them that bottled water will no longer be purchased with GNWT money?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I will bring the issue up to Cabinet and bring it to their attention. I can do that.

**MS. GREEN:** I respect the Minister's answer on this, but I'm asking her to go further. I'm asking her to be a champion. She's already said she believes in the fact that our tap water is some of the best water in the world, so I'm wondering if she can use her authority to get as many GNWT public servants as possible to take the NWT "Love NWT Water" pledge and also to promote the message that bottled water is unnecessary, through Bear Facts and any other communication means she has at her disposal.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** As I stated before, I don't have the authority to tell all government departments what to do. I do believe in promoting water. I have committed to bringing it forward to Cabinet. Cabinet is sitting here. I will promote that we should be drinking water from a glass.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for that endorsement. As the Minister of MACA, of course you have a close relationship with the NWT Association of Communities, and they've had a "drop the bottled water" resolution on their books for a number of years. So once you've persuaded the GNWT to go bottle-free, will you issue a challenge to your municipal partners to do the same? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I'm just a bit thirsty; I'd like to take a drink of water.

---Laughter

The Speaker, I notice, as well. Yes, as the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, we do work closely with all of the community governments, like we say, in developing their water treatment plants and monitoring them as well. I will put forward to promote the residents in their communities to actually use drinking water from the taps as well, and I would join the honourable MLA

Green in challenging all MLAs to go on the Ecology North website and join the campaign.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. I'd like to remind all Members of the Assembly to refer to Members by their riding or by their ministerial title in the future. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

QUESTION 589-18(2):  
SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Human Resources on summer students. Mr. Speaker, on April 30<sup>th</sup> this year, about two and a half months from now, the students will be coming back to the NWT or finishing off their post-secondary schooling here in the NWT. I would like to know if all of the departments are starting to advertise and take applications for summer students at this time? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Human Resources.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we hear the Member and we're looking to improve on the numbers that we had from last year. Last year I believe we had 306 summer students who were hired, and we are looking at trying to increase those numbers. We have been in discussions with all the departments and trying to increase the number of summer students that they hire so we can improve on our stats from last year, and we will keep Members apprised as to how many applications we get. We had a number of applications last year; I believe we had about 627 if I'm not mistaken, and out of that we hired 306. We're hoping to improve on those numbers this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to hear that. I'd like to ask the Minister: what is the strategy of working with the other departments? I know that it has always been a difficult task to give to one Minister when all Ministers are responsible for their own hiring, or the departments are responsible for their own hiring of summer students. I want to know if the Minister has any coordinated plan with all departments on the hiring of summer students.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** As I've said, we've been working closely with our departments and trying to get a coordinated effort going and getting call-out for the number of summer students that we'd like to hire, and actually getting a call from the students, as the Member pointed out before. Our summer students are going to be finishing their schooling soon and they usually try to get their applications in a little sooner. So we're working with all our

departments and trying to ensure we have a coordinated effort to improve on the numbers that we had from last year.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** The Summer Student program is an excellent program run by GNWT. The one bit of issue with it is the competitiveness of the private small businesses around the NWT when it comes to trying to hire summer students. I would like to know if the Minister has considered a way, in addition to trying to increase the number of hires by GNWT, of trying to support the students who are going to be going to the small businesses in a way of a subsidy or something like that for small businesses or for the students directly who wish to work for small businesses?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** My understanding was there was a program such as that in the past and it kind of fell by the wayside. Maybe it is something that we have to explore and, as we go through the whole budget process and pending the approval of budget, if we have any money left over I suppose that would be one strategic investment that we could make in the future. So it is something that we would like to see, and if it proves valuable then it's probably an initiative that we can carry on into the future, you know, providing that it's fiscally doable.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that such a program would be greatly welcomed by people in small businesses trying to hire summer students for the various jobs that they do. I think that I could help the Minister of HR take a look at the vacancy rate if you're looking for money to hire summer students. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I'd love to respond to the comment. I've got 25 minutes left to respond to the comment. One of the reasons it fell by the wayside is we need to get buy-in from the private sector. If they think that the government's going to fund summer students to do all their work, there's got to be a buy-in. So it's got to be a partnership that we form with them. Of course, we've looked at all ways within the government to try and realize some savings, including looking at the vacancy rates, and we'll continue to do that.

Again, this is something that we would love to do. We recognize the importance of summer students, we recognize the importance of the work to summer students as they go back to school, and we've heard a number of stories. The program is currently under review. We're looking for feedback from our summer students and anyone else who has been a part of the program. We're doing a bit of a review right now, but that doesn't answer the Member's question.

We do look at trying to get as many summer students hired as possible, and we will work with our departments to try and make that happen.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 590-18(2):  
LAND USE PLANS

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke about the importance of settling outstanding rights agreements, and one of our mandate commitments is to focus on the issue of making land accessible, that is, to complete land use plans for all areas, including regions without Land and Resource Agreements in collaboration with Aboriginal governments. So I have questions today for the Minister of Lands. Can the Minister tell us what the status of this is and if we're close to completing land claims in the Dehcho and the Akaitcho Settlement Agreements specifically? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Lands.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you heard from the honourable Premier, we are making progress in all land claims agreements and, of course, that will inevitably involve land use agreements in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** I inadvertently misspoke. I'm specifically asking about land use plans, so if the Minister can just reiterate if we have made progress on land use plans, which I believe are a separate issue from lands rights agreements.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, of course. As the Member has pointed out, they are separate. We are working with various Aboriginal groups and other stakeholders on these agreements.

**MR. TESTART:** Do we have any concrete details to share? People are looking at how we can explore these areas to develop the natural resource economy. We need to forget this land now. Is there anything more substantial the Minister can share today or commit to sharing in the future?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** In those areas where there are settled land claims, of course there are land claims agreements that are part of that process. In those areas where there are no settlements, of course we are working with all groups, in particular Aboriginal groups, to achieve that result.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Minister could tell us which regions

have completed land use plans and which ones are outstanding, maybe we can get a bit more clarity from that? Thank you.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** The Inuvialuit, Sahtu, and Gwich'in are close. Mr. Speaker, I could perhaps look into this more carefully and give the Member opposite a more detailed answer if I'm given that opportunity.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Mackenzie Delta.

QUESTION 591-18(2):  
ICE ROAD MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a follow-up to my questions I had earlier. I did a little research here and it turns out the contract is actually two years expiring 2016-17, so the information that was provided a little earlier is not accurate. So will the Minister look to working with the community of Aklavik to ensure that we have one solid contract for this coming fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said earlier in the House that it didn't make sense to have two contractors, especially when 30 kilometres is going to be one part of the contract. I'll have to look into the fact if it's two years or three years remaining on the Aklavik contract, but to me it clearly doesn't make sense to have two contractors doing that section of road times two. We'll have a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. 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, Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act; Bill 13, Marriage Act; Committee Report 6-18(2), Report on the Review of Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act; Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2017-2018, with the Member for Mackenzie Delta in the chair.

Committee, by the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 18-18(2), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. I now call Committee of the Whole to order. Mr. Beaulieu, what is the wish of committee?

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2017-2018, with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. We will continue after a short recess. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. Committee, I now call Committee of the Whole back to order. We will continue our consideration of Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2017-2018. We will return to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Minister Schumann, do you wish to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my left is Director of Finance Julie Mujcin, and on my right is Deputy Minister Tom Jensen. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome back, Minister Schumann, and to your officials. Committee, we will begin with the mineral and petroleum resource activity. The activity description is on page 205. The activity details are on page 206. Related information items are found on pages 207 and 208. When posing questions, please let us know the page number on which the item can be found. Also, please indicate when you are finished speaking so the technicians can operate the mics efficiently. Does committee have any questions or comments on the mineral and petroleum resource activity? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I would like to talk about the allocation to the petroleum resources division. I would like to know, of the seven staff who work there now, how many of them are specialists only within petroleum resources? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So out of the seven, I will list them all off: administrative assistant, manager of oil and gas planning, manager of oil and gas rights, senior oil and gas specialist, petroleum geomatics officer, registrar, and director of petroleum resources. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So by my count, three or four of the positions are specialist positions and the other positions are more general. Does the Minister agree with that assessment? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess I would have to know what the definition of a "specialist" means. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to use a definition of a "specialist" as somebody who has unique, specialized educational attainment and work experience in the level of petroleum resources. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, if you go by the list that I gave you, I would probably say the administrative assistant is the only one who is not a specialist. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The reason I am asking these questions is because I don't understand, given the current level of oil and gas activity in the NWT, why we are staffing an office with seven people, given the low level of activity. Why is it necessary to have seven people in this office? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We still need to have staff in the oil and gas office. You know, we tend to say 10 years until oil and gas comes back, but we don't control the commodity markets. There is still some interest in it. We are sitting on billions of dollars' worth of reserves in the

Northwest Territories, and when the markets come back, they will have the ability to jump on it and take best advantage of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have never seen the government jump on an opportunity in my life in the NWT. Crawl towards it is more the speed that it goes. So why staff this office on a what-if basis if they are waiting for the future to unfold? Why not put that money into the economic diversification that my colleagues have talked about until oil and gas is a going concern again? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the other side of it is, besides just waiting for the markets for commodities to come back, we are developing an oil and gas strategy legislation. That is going to take a number of people to put that together and bring it forward. As the Member is well aware, there is a lot of pressure on Cabinet to get our LPs to the table, and we have got to work on these initiatives and moving them forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, can the Minister confirm that the legislation is being developed in-house from existing resources and not contracted out? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, this is correct. We are doing it in-house. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister confirm that all seven staff are engaged in the development of this legislation? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would say yes, but some of the staff is also engaged with some of the register of the active leases that we have as well, too. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I remain concerned that this division is overstaffed vis-a-vis other priorities of the GNWT, and I would encourage the Minister, in the next budget cycle, to consider how these non-specialist positions could be redeployed to economic diversification portfolios. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member is well aware, we have had some cuts in this department already in this fiscal budget. We continue to work, like I said, on legislation and stuff moving forward, plus we can't forget about the possibility of the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline and the possibility of that still moving forward with the extension of their licence. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Next we have Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Mineral Incentive Program has remained, I would say, stagnant; I am sure the Minister would say stable funding at \$400,000, whereas our neighbouring jurisdiction, the Yukon, for fiscal year 2017-18 has invested \$1.6 million into this fund. How is the Minister ensuring that this incentive program is competitive with other jurisdictions in Canada and is attracting exploration here in the Northwest Territories compared to other jurisdictions? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This program has been very successful to date so far, but this is our third year with it. I can see some uptake on it. As the Member is well aware, we went to Mineral Roundup with all my Cabinet colleagues along with the chair of economy and environment from the Regular Members' side, and they showed the importance of this potential work coming to the Northwest Territories through the MMIP. I think this is something that, as we move forward in the next coming years of this Assembly, we will have a look at trying to invest more money. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am disappointed to hear that once again we are unable

to look at investing in this subsidy, important subsidy for our economy. Last business plan, I asked the same questions and was told that this year may be different. What are the expectations that we will see this increase in this fund by next business plan? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I just said, Cabinet went to Mineral Roundup with us and they have seen the importance of the mining industry in the Northwest Territories. All my Cabinet colleagues got to see some of the wants and desires of some of the mining companies and what we need to do to improve and attract business in the Northwest Territories. This is one of the programs that got some attention. As the Minister of ITI, moving forward in the life of this Assembly, I will see what I can do about adding some funds to this portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the entire Cabinet did attend the Roundup conference. That shows that we are willing to go to extraordinary measures to show leadership and support on this industry. I think, furthering that leadership, we should be increasing this fund to at least be comparable to our neighbours in the Yukon. Does the Minister disagree with that? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are two different jurisdictions. I am worried about the Government of the Northwest Territories, not the Government of the Yukon. Like I have said in my comment previous to this, I will look at trying to top this up in the coming years of the life of this Legislative Assembly. I believe it is an important program within the department of ITI, and I will see what I can do with my Cabinet colleagues moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also note that, on page 206, the NWT geological survey, which does very important work providing exploration data to mining companies and prospectors, the budget is down from last year. I am wondering if the Minister can speak to the reasons for that decline. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The reduction reflects the balance of a position reduction from 2016-17 as well as a sunset of devolution funding for receiving documents, core rehabilitation, core relocation, as well as funding no longer required for a portion of the shortfall for compensation and benefits for positions that came over to the GNWT during devolution. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the NWT geological survey going to be impacted at an operational level or hampered in its ability to provide high-quality data to the mining industry? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, that was just project work from switching over and we don't believe that that will impact the NWT geological surveys group. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That decrease was from last year to this year. However, in the 2015-16 actuals, also listed on page 206, we see almost a million-dollar decrease to the NTGS. What explains that sharp loss in available funding? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That would be devolution funding. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I have heard the Minister say he wants to support this industry and that we are doing a lot to support it and that our government has its own programs that shouldn't be held in contrast with other jurisdictions. Can the Minister point to any increased funding or a new program or a new initiative specifically that is designed to address the needs of our mining industry at a time when risk capital is at an all-time low and when there is much uncertainty in the Northwest Territories and when we see the lowest land tenure, mineral tenure, in the history of the Northwest Territories? Can the Minister point to some specific initiatives that are new and going directly to address this issue of getting mining back on track in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the things that we are bringing forward in the supplementary estimates -- I think they are already tabled, so I can ask about it -- we are asking for additional funding to provide the Slave geological, physical, surficial materials and permafrost study. That might have actually been in one of my Member's statements, I think. That is some of the revenue that we are trying to get to proceed with some other work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to the Minister for that. However, I am a bit disappointed that that is the only concrete thing we can look at. Surely, there must be more. I am a bit beside myself that we are doing nothing new in what we are offering to develop this industry. Does the Minister agree with that assessment of this status quo as terms of support to the industry? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Status quo, no, I don't believe it is status quo. We had the opportunity, as we were at Mineral Roundup, to hear from a number of people. They are quite encouraged with some of the stuff that we are moving forward on in the Northwest Territories. Our job, when we were down there, was to figure out some of the concerns that we need to work on moving forward. I took some of their comments not very lightly, and we are looking into a number of things. I think one of the things that we are having a good hard look at here right now is the EIP money, Exploration Incentive Program. It expires on March 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Every dollar that is invested allows a \$1.50 credit for exploration in the Northwest Territories. That is something we are considering extending on in this coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate those answers from the Minister. As the Minister knows, the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning has recommended an increase to the Mineral Incentive Program in the amount of \$600,000 of new funding. The budget last year was \$1,010,000 and we've seen that basically cut in half. Sorry, that's page 206. That's a sunset in the Mackenzie Valley development. So it

will be an increase of \$600,000 to the \$400,000, bringing that total to \$1 million. Is the Minister prepared to reinstate, or does the Minister have a reason not to reinstate, the grants and contributions to transfer funding which are seeing sunset now? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think we need some more clarity, because I think he's talking about two different funds that I'm not talking about here right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Schumann. Sorry, Mr. Testart, your time has expired. Next on the list we have Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question is related to allowances throughout the next 12 months for the duration of this budget here in preparation for, say, expenses. Underneath purchase services, there's an allowance there, contract services. As we review some of the opportunities that are going to be created by the remedial reclamation side of the Esso-Imperial Norman Wells Oilfield, as we know, the permit application for that reclamation is moving forward. Prior to Christmas, the applicant received an approval for one permit. They're applying for a secondary permit, so movement towards the remedial activities is happening. Are there funding allowances there? Should a remedial workshop be budgeted for or initiated by one of the land corporations in the Sahtu to engage on discussions of opportunities created by the reclamation side and create some awareness on those identification opportunities to the younger folks in the area of land and environmental land management, and maybe some required post-secondary schooling that's needed for those opportunities?

Just a general awareness workshop on the reclamation opportunities. Is there funding available for the person who is going to be laid off who was responsible for that position over the next 12 months? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the remediation question around the Esso Norman Wells field is a little early; they're still planning on producing for the next five to six years, but that's not saying that if someone came forward with a proposal to look at how we're going to get the community involved in a remediation, that type of workshop, I'm certain that the department would have a look at it and consider it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm glad to hear that response here. Most times, a project of this magnitude, there is never enough time for pre-planning and making the other communities aware that it's going to be a layoff process but it's down the road. In preparation to replace those operational producing opportunities or wage positions, here is another set of opportunities. So I'm glad to hear we're budgeting and being proactive for the reclamation phase. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** No, I'll just take his comments as noted. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Okay, thank you. Any further questions? Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** No more questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Next we have Mr. Nakimayak.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'd like to look at petroleum resources, the reductions. I've heard some explanation about the breakdown. I'm just wondering if the ban on drilling in the Arctic would have any further effects for 2017-18 on this program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll pass that on to the deputy minister, please. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Deputy Minister Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There will not be any impact in terms of the budget numbers here, but I just would like to inform the Member that we have an opportunity through the devolution agreement to negotiate responsibility for management of the offshore with the federal government, and those staff would be engaged, and, in fact, are engaged now and would continue to be engaged post the announcement of the ban on exploration, but there's still that process in place that that group would be involved in in terms of negotiating. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Jensen. Mr. Nakimayak.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Getting back to the mineral resources line, I see the reduction in there. I know in the territory when an exploration

program is unsuccessful and the licence is still held, I'm just wondering if the departments are thinking about keeping the information of these exploration programs who do not succeed so there's a library of information for the next exploration company that may come in to help boost our economy, and ensure that we have accurate records of exploration across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe we're already doing that on a number of sectors, but we'll make sure that anything that Member is referring to is included as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have a number of questions here around support for the mining industry. The Minister mentioned that they're using internal resources for drafting of the petroleum resources legislation that they intend to bring forward. So I'm just curious to know why there's a request for qualifications out for the new Mineral Resources Act. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So first of all, the differences in this particular file, we have the resources and the people qualified within the petroleum resources side to deal with it. On this side, first of all we're going to need some legal staff because the specialist has got to work in conjunction with the Department of Justice when we draft this up, and we have put that out to look for a unique individual who can help us move this file along. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response. I'm just wondering: what kind of assurance can the Minister give me that this drafting of this bill or this act is going to be done in a way that includes all interested stakeholders? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like probably most big bills like this, we would be going out to public consultation with this across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess that is part of my worry. If the public consultation is sort of like what happened with the fracking regulations, that was not a very good job. Again, I guess I am going to ask: how can the Minister convince me that he is going to solicit and ensure that all interested stakeholders, including the environmental organizations, conservation interests, Aboriginal governments, are going to be involved in preparing this legislation? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have said, this is going to be a big piece of legislation and a big deal for this department to get this thing through. Public consultation is going to have to involve all those exact people that the Member is referring to. Once we get closer to how we are going to be going out there, I am sure we are going to be coming to committee and getting their input on how we are going to proceed. So we will be coming back to committee on how we proceed with this drafting. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I guess I will go on record as expressing some concern about regulatory capture here. Given that all of Cabinet goes down to mining conferences, I want to make sure that the consultation around this is inclusive, that it includes all the interests across the Northwest Territories. I look forward to the Minister bringing forward some kind of a plan to the standing committee to make sure that that happens. Is he prepared to bring such a plan forward to the standing committee? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. ITI has begun its work on research and review legislation from other jurisdictions on this exact policy coming forward. Then we have to process the approach we will be taking, so that is what we are going to do. We are going to look at other jurisdictions before we proceed, and then we are going to develop policy intention papers and have discussions around those papers with Aboriginal governments, regulators, industry representatives, and other stakeholders. The papers are anticipated to facilitate feedback on the GNWT policy intentions with respect to legislation review and any proposed amendments. Once we do that, I am sure we are going to have a lot of input from committee on

making sure we are doing this right. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I look forward to the Minister coming forward to the standing committee with a plan for doing all of that. I do want to move on to one other thing here. Our government has publicly supported the UN Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples. Within there, there are some requirements for free, prior, and informed consent, and I am sure our government supports those, as well. Can the Minister tell me how the Mineral Resources Act is going to incorporate the concept of free, prior, and informed consent? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the UN declaration is probably pretty much recognized by all governments in Canada now, but as we move forward, that is one of the reasons why we are going to have a legal and specialist person drafting this moving forward, to ensure all these things are met. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. In the department's business plan, there is a discussion of a regulatory roadmap that is being developed for mineral development. Can the Minister commit to me, this House, and the public that, again, our government will incorporate free, prior, and informed consent requirements into that regulatory roadmap? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can't commit to that right now, but we will have a look at it and see how we are going to move this forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I look forward to the Minister getting back to me on that. Our government has publicly endorsed the declaration, and free, prior, and informed consent is an integral part of that, so we want to make sure that our communities are fully informed and that they have the ability to say no where they desire to do so.

I want to turn now to a couple of other areas, if I can. Given that the Minister himself yesterday said

that there is no prospect of any oil and gas development here for another 10 years, is the department still working on this oil and gas strategy and, if so, why? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we are still working on this moving forward. We have drafted a strategy that offers a viable balance and a made-in-the-NWT approach to advancing oil and gas development in the Northwest Territories. I don't know if the Member has any more questions on it, but we are working on it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So why do we continue to work on this strategy if there is no prospect of any oil and gas development in the next 10 years? I am just quoting from what the Minister said yesterday in the House.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said yesterday, there is probably no probability of anything happening in the next 10 years, but the truth is that we don't control the commodities markets. We don't know what is going to happen. It is no different than the previous question, why we have employees in the petroleum division. We have to work on a number of things, our legislative proposals and such. We might as well be working on a strategy at this time, as well, when things are in a downturn, so it just makes sense to continue moving that forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I guess I would suggest to the Minister that he divert the resources that are going into this strategy into economic diversification, as one of my colleagues mentioned a few minutes ago. I have some other questions, though, Mr. Chair. I would like to get back onto your list, if I could. I do appreciate the time with the Minister, and I will have more questions for him. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just like to remind the Members that this is also a mandate commitment in the mandate of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. O'Reilly, your time has expired. We will move on next to Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to go back to a couple of aspects to get some further clarification from the Minister and the department. Some time ago in the House, the Minister spoke about a program called Introduction to Prospecting and that these were some courses that were hosted in collaboration with the Mine Training Society, mining companies, and the department. It was to support the development of an educated, trained, and readily available Northern workforce. I am just wondering if the Minister can indicate for us out of what contribution or out of what fund has that program been funded out of and will it continue to be funded out of? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That money comes out of the NWT Chamber of Mines, the contribution that we make to them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the clarification. Further, and I think this was the point that my colleague was raising earlier, and he may have confused which contribution line he was referring to, so with regard to the Mackenzie Valley development contributions, we have seen that there has been significant contribution in the past and now it has sunsetted. I believe the question was: would there be reconsideration from the Minister and the department to reinstate that sunset? I mean, we know that this is programming that makes contribution to resource pre-development programs and Aboriginal capacity-building, and so I am wondering if the Minister will give consideration to reinstatement to the Mackenzie Valley Development contributions? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This reduction of the Mackenzie Valley Development Corporations was in response to the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project and these drivers no longer exist, so this was taken out of the budget as there's no activity on that presently; but as for helping out Aboriginal organizations, there's money in the Aboriginal Mineral Development Support Program, the \$100,000 on the top line. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for his reply. As the Minister is aware, and as was alluded to previously by my colleague, the Priority and Planning Committee has let the Minister and the department know that we have proposed an increase to the Mining Incentive Program, and the Minister has indicated to this House in the past that that program has been very successful and in fact over-subscribed. He has also indicated that our annual investment of \$400,000 has resulted in additional \$3.36 million in exploration spending in the NWT by companies and prospectors. I mean, that's some pretty powerful immediate impacts and benefits to be had by the territory, especially in boosting the economic development and support for resource development.

We're indicating that we would like to see an increase to that program, and if the Minister is to accept the increase it's going to be about \$1 million in total. The way I look at it, if we were to crunch some basic numbers, that would equal an \$8.4 million expenditure in exploration and spending. So I don't know that I would put the Minister on the spot as it relates to will he accept that at this point, but I certainly want it to be on the record to let the Minister know that this is the reason why we're standing by this increase to this particular program. It's clearly a successful one. The Minister even alluded earlier that for every \$1 spent in exploration there's a return of \$1.50 or more.

We did hear also down at Roundup that, you know, the Yukon and Nunavut's exploration expenditures have gone up significantly in the last couple years, and ours in fact has gone down. It's this kind of contribution to exploration that we think can have some immediate benefits and some immediate effects on our economy, so I just want to put that on the record.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. I'll take that as a comment. Next on our list we have Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I had some questions in regard to the petroleum industry in terms of I think it's been stated that in terms of the potential outlook for this industry to exist and operate in the NWT, you know there's no prospect of, or likely any form of, activity in this economic sector for the next 10 years. So understanding that, over the course of at least the past three years or so we've seen a fairly consistent decline in terms of petroleum resources in terms of how this department engages oil and gas companies in terms of their activity in the NWT plus communities as well. So significantly over the past year the

resources and funding for this area has been dramatically reduced.

So I'm just trying to understand, you know, if it is indeed during a period of lull where there is no activity. It begs to question of what's the focus of this department in terms of ensuring, and at the very minimum we have at least maybe a unit that could be mobilized quickly if the markets reach their ideal prices where it's economical for companies to start exploring and working the oil and gas industry in the Mackenzie Valley, or the NWT for that matter.

So I understand the Minister has stated that there is going to be an Oil and Gas Development Strategy. I mean, how much attention and focus should be of this government to ensure that we also explore the idea of developing alternative energies? You know, we just had a dilemma of transporting goods down the Mackenzie Valley and, because of climate change, the water levels have affected the operations of a barging company that brings goods to northern remote communities.

The point is that, you know, our community is very reliant on diesel energy and diesel as a source of fuel. At the same time, should we be looking at maybe putting efforts to remediate abandoned wells in terms of our obligations of taking on more responsibility through the devolution agreement? Mahsi. If the Minister could maybe provide some insight into that. Mahsi.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I guess the comment about going to more renewable energy, we'll be speaking to that when I'm up here with the Department of Public Works and Services on where we're going with that. As the Member knows, we're out there doing our energy strategy presently and getting input from all the stakeholders in the Northwest Territories and public sessions for public input. When I'm up here as the Minister of Public Works and Services, I'll be glad to discuss that.

As far as reclamation of abandoned wells in the Northwest Territories, that falls under the OROGO regulator, so that's not part of our portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The other part of this question is on page 207. It makes reference to the Mackenzie Valley development contribution, which is essentially non-existent anymore, but it also makes reference to the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. Does this department or this government have an obligation in terms of ensuring that the

APG in terms of their relationship with the GNWT is maintained, if there is a relationship? Mahsi.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we've said, we've taken that funding out, as the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project right now is kind of in a moratorium stage, to figure out what the industry is going to do moving forward. As far as the Aboriginal Pipeline Working Group goes, they're well aware of this reduction, and I believe everything is just on pause until things to decide to move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think the scope of possibilities has widened in terms of how perhaps this department can maybe refocus its energy if the oil and gas industry is non-existent. So I'm just trying to understand whether this department would be perhaps a lead agency in terms of engaging. You know, there may be some consideration of developing at least the infrastructure so that in eventually, maybe 10 years, 20 years down the road, there's a need to access the oil fields and the gas fields that more likely haven't been found yet.

Is there perhaps some consideration of examining the pipeline infrastructure perhaps down the road that could be in parallel to this great propensity that we have of highway infrastructure? Is there some idea of a strategy that could be part of this oil and gas, at least discussion paper or strategy that might be developed? Mahsi.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The oil and gas strategy as we move forward is going to have a component on infrastructure. With the pause, as I've said, in the oil and gas industry this department has taken the initiative to downsize our wants and needs around the oil and gas industry to at least meet our obligation and the mandate commitments as well as developing oil and gas strategy legislation moving forward and have enough people in place in case there is a rebound and the market indicates there will be.

I want to make the comment around what the Member is stating, around infrastructure needs, and that is a cross-departmental issue with this whole government. How do we bring interest back into the oil fields, and particularly in the Sahtu? I believe, as in my other role as Minister of Transportation, that it is vital that we try to get the Mackenzie Valley Highway approved and get that built to help access

all the millions and billions of dollars' worth of oil and gas that we have in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

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

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was looking for a bit of clarification on an item here on page 206 on the expenditure category on compensation and benefits over the past two fiscal years, gone down slightly from almost \$10 million down to \$9.6 million down to \$8.3 million, but the positions are exactly the same. I was wondering what the difference is? If we are still paying 58 people benefits and compensation, why is there such a big drop in the amount? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will redirect that to the director of finance. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Ms. Mujcin.

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The reduction you see here is the second year of the reductions that were made in 2016-17. There were a number of position reductions made in the 2016-17 Main Estimates and they were cash-flowed over two fiscal years. That is what you are seeing in 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Mujcin. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell me how many positions existed in mineral petroleum resources, active positions, in 2015-16, so that I get a better picture of what the director is referring to?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. From the 2015-16 that the Member is asking for, there were 14 positions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has got me confused. Did the Minister say there

were 14 positions in -- okay. According to this there was a huge increase in the amount of positions. I wonder if the Minister would like to clarify what he means by 14 positions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Ms. Mujcin.

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There were 14 position reductions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Ms. Mujcin. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think that is clear. What is not clear is why it was cash-flowed over two years, but that is fine. I have no more questions in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just want to go to the grants and contributions and transfers page, which is 207. There was a reduction in the socio-economic agreement funding for Canadian Zinc and Diavik. There is now zero there for 2017-18. Can the Minister or staff explain what is going on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was no reduction as such. We just moved them to other expenses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister tell me where it was moved to? Thank you.

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

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This budget line item was moved to contract services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am not sure that it is buried in there. This seems to be a much more transparent way of presenting the information; why has it been moved to contracts? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Typically, the work that is done in this area is through contract

services or travel. It is typically not through a contribution program, so therefore we reflected it more accurately, the way the funds are being spent for 2017-18. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Are the companies actually putting any money into these agreements, or is it just us expending money on the agreements? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our expenditures are covered for us to meet with communities and have our conversation with them. I am sure that the mines, when they are there participating, they are expending their own expenses. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Why are we contracting people to go meet with the communities? Is that not something that we would do on our own with our existing staff? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would have to get the details of the numbers, but that is probably for boardroom rentals and things of that nature. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. The bottom line in this contributions is for the NWT Chamber of Mines; is that core funding that is provided to the chamber? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, that is not core funding.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister then explain what the money is for? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. These contributions allow the NWT mineral industry sector to have a visible presence at two of the largest, most important trade shows held in Canada, helping attract investors and increase awareness of the NWT. This is one of the goals of the Mineral Development Strategy. The contributions include projects such as prospecting courses, event studies, regional mineral strategy projects, and more. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Was there any consideration given to cutting this funding to help meet our government's fiscal strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have said earlier, all these items are in our mandate commitments, so there is no consideration of cutting funding to mandate items. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I believe the Minister or his staff mentioned the offshore negotiations that are possible under the devolution agreement. Given that the federal government has prohibited exploration in the offshore area, what is the status of these negotiations? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Deputy Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** Certainly, the ban on offshore exploration has changed the context for those discussions, but we have put forward notice to the federal government that we want to continue to be involved in those negotiations and discussions, particularly around the issue that they have identified, that there will be a five-year review. We want to have discussions with them about what that means and what that means in terms of what the ultimate commitment to negotiate co-management in the offshore as part of the devolution agreement. So we continue to try to keep the federal government at the table to meet those commitments.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Jensen. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So I guess I have asked this question before. I am just trying to understand. There have actually been no formal negotiations. People have not sat at a table

together to talk about this. It is us just asking for these negotiations to begin. Is that where we are at? Because that is where I understood things were at. We can't even get the federal government to the table. Is that the case, or what is going on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There has been some discussion at the official level, but I wouldn't exactly call it a negotiation at this point. With that announcement, one of the things that we have to have a good look at is, our devolution agreement with Canada includes a provision to negotiate and manage our offshore and gas resources. So they have signed on to that, and then they have come along and announced that they intend to put a five-year moratorium on there. We need to find out what Canada's signal is on this whole file. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So we can't get the feds to the table to talk about this because there is a period, whether there was a prohibition in place or not, so why would we continue to devote resources to this? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, this is a part of the devolution agreement, like I just said, and it is something that we are very interested in pursuing. It is also part of the IRC's land claim agreement. As we are all tri-parties to that agreement, we have to pursue any opportunities that are available to Northerners, be it resource development or mineral activities or such, but it is our obligation to uphold our end of the bargain. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am conscious of the time. I have one other question. The business plan for the department talks about looking at legislation for geothermal energy. Can the Minister or his officials tell me what that is all about and is there a timeline in place for it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have established a working group that is having a look into this right now, currently, which includes

ourselves, Public Works and Services, and Lands. As we move forward, we are going to have a look at legislation options we have available to enable geothermal exploration and development in the Northwest Territories, so we are currently working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Any further questions from committee? Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the activity description on page 205, it indicates that this activity includes marketing and promotion of NWT mineral and petroleum resources to attract investment in exploration, development, and production for the benefit of all NWT residents. I am wondering if the Minister can identify the total marketing budget or total dollar amount of resources attached to marketing our resources to attract investment in exploration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have two people working on this initiative, and then there is about \$140,000 put towards it, and also access to some O and M funds, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister mentioned O and M funds. Can he just elaborate on that, please? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Without getting to exact detail, counting the two individuals and all the money that is put towards it, the total probably comes to close to \$460,000 with salaries included. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Minister, can you repeat the exact amount? I couldn't hear you. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Around \$460,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mandate commitment is quite broad in this area, but one of the lines is to support Aboriginal governments to build capacity in dealing with mining-related activities, and I see we do have an Aboriginal mineral development support program and that funding has remained stable. Is that the total amount of funding in this budget to support Aboriginal governments in capacity-building exercises related to this industry? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member is aware, we took a number of Aboriginal groups down to Mineral Roundup this year, which was a great success. We got letters back from all of them stating it. As we move forward and there is more interest in the mining industry from Aboriginal governments, I believe this line item will be oversubscribed. If it is, we will try to find money from within somewhere else. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So these resources are designed to participate in events like Roundup, but are we providing resources to assist in training potential prospectors, setting up licences, things of that nature so we can get potentially a junior miner started that is Indigenous-owned? Do we have any intention to do something like that to create a strong partnership that way, or is this solely per diem money to get people out to meetings? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As we believe, this is a great line item. It is meeting its objective, but we also have the client services in the communities that relate to Aboriginal consultation requirements in the GNWT. We believe they do a great job. They are working on passing along the information on legislation and mineral and petroleum rights and exploration and development activities in their regions.

We also work in partnership with other departments, like education, on how we can get the mining industry into the classrooms, that we are presently, that the Minister of Education has been working on, on a trial basis. We continue to proudly help and move that along.

As the Member is well aware, the mining industry, I am not understating the reliance that we have on the mining industry in the Northwest Territories. We need to promote this in all aspects, be it education

or through Aboriginal governments, community relations, or through Members of this House, so we will continue to pursue that. We are also working with the IRC, and we have the geoscience survey and a number of other things that help promote mining in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nothing further at this time.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Any further questions? Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Previously, my honourable colleague from Frame Lake was talking about the geothermal working group. Can the Minister please advise who is on this working group? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So from ITI we have the director of petroleum resources on the working group, and, as I said, there are people from -- I would have to get the specifics -- Public Works and Services has an individual; Lands also has someone on there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. Will the Minister make a commitment to actually get some community members on there? Because I know in some of our regions and some of our ridings we have people who are really interested in this geothermal. So will the Minister make a commitment to get community members on there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I've said, we are just starting the early days of working on the geothermal energy status in the Northwest Territories. As we move forward and get a little more information on how we're going to move this forward and along with legislation, I'm sure we're going to have to look at how we're going to acquire some funding and how we can move this initiative forward as a possible development in future economic development in the Northwest Territories that benefits all residents.

This is early days, so I suspect at some point, no different than our energy strategy, there's input that can be done through that process on how we move it forward on the Public Works side of things. So as we move forward I will definitely engage with Members of the House, and how we're going to and who is going to be participating. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess I'm just really hoping that the Minister will work with some of the communities. I know in Fort Liard they've had proposals in the past, and it's a great opportunity for that community, too; you know, agriculture, heating, power, a whole bunch of opportunities there, and also employment.

So I greatly appreciate the Minister and his answer, and I'm looking forward to working with him on this file as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair. That will be my final comment. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Take that as a comment. Any further questions from committee? Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we know that the Mining and Mineral Strategy for the Northwest Territories was kind of a pre-devolution product, and I'm just wondering if the department has any kind of reason or will they be giving consideration toward renewing the strategy now that it's post-devolution, kind of taking those evolutionary steps in that strategy? Or is that even necessary if we are going to go into creating a new act? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the short answer is, yes, we're going to have a review of the Mining and Mineral Strategy moving forward. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister elaborate a little bit more on what that's going to entail? Will there be a public engagement process or a consultative process, and how long do we anticipate it will take to go through this process? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member is well aware, when we were down at Roundup this actually came up in one of my meetings, or several of my meetings, if we were going to have a look at this thing. So this is something we've considered since we got back from Mineral Roundup and this is early days in how we're going to do this. Like I said, this is a big one for the Department of ITI moving forward and, again, we'll be engaging committee as we move forward and get their input on how we should be developing some of these items. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That leads me to quickly touch on the work that's being done to create a new act, and I think I basically have similar questions along those lines, in that what will be the process that this government is going to take to, I guess, streamline our approach to regulatory environment and kind of bring it in line with our priorities. What's the intention there in terms of getting the act under way, who are we going to consult and engage with, and what kind of timelines are we looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think I answered this question earlier on moving forward on how we're going to engage everyone. We're going to get input from committee on how we're going to do this. This is a big act for the Government of the Northwest Territories moving forward. We want to bring the administration and land tenure and royalties together under one act, so it's going to take a lot of input from a number of stakeholders across the Northwest Territories, Aboriginal governments, NGOs, citizens at large, so we'll be engaging probably as many people as we can as we move this forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that a number of our Aboriginal governments have started to advance their regional mineral development strategies. Is our government working in collaboration with them to help them, assist them in doing their mineral development strategies? What kind of part will those strategies play in our new post-devolution Mining and Mineral Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The latest one we worked on with Aboriginal governments was in the Deh Cho, which was, from my understanding a great success on moving it forward and getting an interest on how they want to move their mineral strategy forward. How it's tied to the Government of the Northwest Territories is probably going to depend greatly on regions, as we have settled claims in many of the regions in the Northwest Territories and it's a shared responsibility on a number of initiatives on how we move some of these things forward.

As for the unsettled claims, I think it brings a lot of certainty working on a mineral development strategy with them, as industry certainly wants. The number one thing is certainty moving forward, and anything we can help facilitate with the Aboriginal governments on their own mineral development strategy, we'll be at the table to assist them on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we also, through our client services and community relations, were able to deliver the Mining Matters curriculum in four schools last year, in the Sahtu in particular, and there's some intention that this unit is going to be preparing to deliver some programming in other schools, in particular Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, and Fort Liard. Are we rolling out the Mining Matters curriculums in those schools? What is the status of the Mining Matters curriculum and is it rolling out? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would have to get a little more detail on that how that's being rolled out, because I believe that's kind of a cross-departmental issue with Education, Culture and Employment, and the amount of input that we have in it. I don't believe it's part of the curriculum across the Northwest Territories yet, but it is being rolled out in that particular region I think in the coming school year that you're talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I guess I'll wait for that information to come back at some point from the Minister, because that would have been my line of questioning, that in the client services and community relations line item in the budget on page 206 we have actually seen a small decrease since 2015-16. If we are actually going to

work toward increasing and building this curriculum in other jurisdictions, I would think that we would need a slight increase in that pot and not a reduction. Until I hear further from the Minister, I will leave it at that. Mr. Chair, if there are no further questions, then I will have a motion to move. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Next we have Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just want to go back to this line item under grants, contributions, and transfers. It is the NWT Chamber of Mines. This is just a continuing contribution. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and smells like a duck, this is core funding, essentially. It sort of sticks out to me. I don't see similar contributions, say, to Northern Farm Training Institute for agriculture that would enable them to attend agricultural conferences and do training and so on. Or I will just pick another one, Ecology North, when it comes to renewable energy or climate change. How can the Minister convince me that this is not really core funding? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not certain I can convince him otherwise. This money is for specific projects, so every year it is allocated to specific projects. Last year, they have actually spent more than the money they were allocated. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't want to prolong this, but can the Minister then commit to provide similar funding, then, to an organization like NFTI so that they can participate in agricultural conferences and so on as part of the agricultural strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't have that detail, but I believe we already give them grants and contributions and it is used for some of this stuff. We will get that information for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. I see no further questions. Seeing no further questions or comments from committee, please return now to page 206, Industry, Tourism and Investment, mineral and petroleum resources, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$14,712,000. Does committee agree? Mr. Vanthuyne.

COMMITTEE MOTION 51-18(2):  
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN  
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, INDUSTRY, TOURISM  
AND INVESTMENT, DEFERRAL OF MINERALS  
AND PETROLEUM SERVICES ACTIVITY,  
CARRIED

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the activity minerals and petroleum resources under the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment Main Estimates 2017-18 on page 206 at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Motion is on the floor and is now being distributed. The motion is in order and is not debatable.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. We will now proceed to the next activity, tourism and parks. The activity description is found on page 209, the activity detail is on page 210, and related information items are found on pages 211 and 212. Does committee have any questions or comments on the tourism and parks activity? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am looking at page 211. I see that there are a number of funds that seem to do similar things, for example, Tourism 2020 and Tourism Industry Contribution. Has there been any thought put into amalgamating these funds just for the sake of efficiency? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tourism 2020 is for original marketing support, so that is the reason we want to keep them separate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister tell us what kind of an evaluation, if any, is done on the value of the spending in each of these tourism areas, such as 2020, product diversification, industry contribution, skills development? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have said many times in this House, the number of tourists coming to the Northwest Territories has gone up substantially and so has the number of dollars spent in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not looking for a number of total visitors. I acknowledge that, in fact, they have gone up. Let's take the Tourism Product Diversification Program; what kind of evaluation happens annually on that program? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Tourism Product Diversification Program is an important one to diversify and expand the tourism market. We don't, as such, do a review of the exact spending on that department, but as a whole, like I said, the tourism numbers are up and so is the spending in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in other parts of his portfolios, the Minister has been able to rhyme off statistics for dollars spent and benefits for the Northwest Territories economy. I am puzzled that he doesn't do a systematic evaluation of this program as well to ensure that money is well spent in this area. I wonder if the Minister has given any thought to a systematic evaluation of the Tourism Product Diversification Program? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you go to, as I referred you yesterday in the grants and contribution book for 2015-16, in there on page 33 is the product diversification marketing allocations that we have spent. It has a number of clients in there that have received funding and their amounts. As I have said, it has a total amount of money that was spent in there. It was \$1,178,732 versus the amount of increase in tourism and dollars spent in the Northwest Territories, is what I see value for money spent in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I think it is good practice to measure outcomes for grants and contributions, and so I'm not hearing that the Minister is interested in doing that and I'm puzzled by that. Can the Minister commit to doing a systematic evaluation of the outcomes of this program that goes beyond just the number of people who visited the NWT? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the things we do is make sure that the money that's allocated in the funding applications is these people do what they say they're going to do. So for instance, let's pick number four; \$250,000 went to the Village of Fort Simpson. I believe Fort Simpson's probably very happy to get that money. They did three community tours of infrastructure enhancement projects in the Simpson with the Liidlii Kue First Nations and the Heritage Society. They did landscaping, branding, signage, dock lookout, teepee renovation at the Papal grounds which we had an opportunity to see, interior completion of the Fort Simpson Heritage Centre.

This is the type of expenditures that this program is used for, and we believe they're value for money in every one of them. I don't feel that we need to be doing a systematic review of this tourism product diversification and marketing funding at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm not doubting that the recipients are doing what they said they would do with that, but is this self-reporting or is this the department providing oversight on the self-reporting? How is this information determined? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This would have been actual expenditures on these projects. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, and for this particular example that the Minister used, can he correlate that to number of visitors in Fort Simpson and the amount of money that they spent? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not sure I can take one little community like that in isolation and compare those numbers, but what I can tell the Member I can do is have a look if we tracked the number of actual visitors who visit Fort Simpson. I'm not saying that every visitor checks into the Village Tourism Information Booth or not, but I can get the numbers for that particular community, the number of visitors that they had. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that commitment by the Minister. This is the kind of reporting or evaluation that I'm asking for, is to look at the outcomes of the funding; not just to say that it happened, but what did it produce, and the more specific the better. I don't have any further questions. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm just wondering, can the Minister tell us whether there's any core funding or other kinds of funding that are provided through the budget to the Northern Frontier Visitor Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The money that you see on line 3 on page 211, the \$161,000 is what we give the Northern Frontier Visitor Centre. That would be excluding any other SEED money or something we're doing right now to do the evaluation on the centre. Thank you. Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So is there any possibility of increasing that funding say one time to help with the infrastructure at the visitor centre within the O and M budget so that it wouldn't necessarily appear in capital? Is that a possibility, Mr. Chair? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think that'd be a little premature until we get all these studies back. I believe also the City of Yellowknife is having a different look at their strategy on how they're going to involve tourism and the City of Yellowknife in the downtown core. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I understand the study is probably going to be available in a matter of weeks, so I really look forward to talking to the Minister again about what additional support we can provide for the centre, but in his opening remarks he talked a lot about the new initiatives that the department's doing. One of them was \$132,000 for a full-time tourism development officer position for the North Slave Region. Can the Minister just explain a little bit more about what this position is going to do and whether that individual is going to be in a position to offer support to the visitor centre here in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This initiative was brought forward just based on the success of tourism specifically in the North Slave of the number of tourism operators and licensees that are approaching the Government of the Northwest Territories to get licences up. The uptake has been significant, and we need to increase our staff on the ground to deal with this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister, but it didn't really answer my question. So is this individual going to be coordinating in any way or assisting the Northern Frontier Visitor Centre with their workload? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, this position is strictly for the operators. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Maybe I'm just a little bit thicker today, but then can the Minister tell me what this position actually does? Do they regulate operators in some way? What exactly does this position do? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This position, as I said, is to assist the operators and regulators. As I've said in the House earlier this

week, we have some safety initiatives that new licensees have to follow up on to make sure they're compliant, so we want operators that are safe and operating the environment to ensure a very safe but compliant operator so we can ensure the safety of all the tourists in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I'll be the first to admit I don't really know a lot about how tourism operators are regulated. So is this individual then going to look at applications for potential operators, check to see whether they've got insurance coverage, go out and do inspections or something on their infrastructure or vehicles? Maybe the Minister could just get a little bit more specific about what this position really does. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just to make it simple, I think I'll get the Member a job description of exactly what this position person does. I want to make it clear; there are 51 operators in the North Slave Region right now with five pending to come onboard, so that's going to be 56 operators. The majority of tourists in the Northwest Territories who come here right now, especially for aurora viewing, are concentrated in this area and we need to make sure that our operators are running, like I said, in a safe and compliant manner. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment by the Minister, and just so that he understands, I'm glad that the department is getting ready and they're responding to a growing tourism industry here. That's a good thing. I just want to understand a little bit better about what exactly this position is going to do. I'll give you an example. I was over at the Frontier Visitors Centre a week and a half ago; I was there for about 45 minutes, they had, like, five staff on. Probably 50 people came through the doors and were buying things. The place was crazy, quite frankly. So those people are overworked and they need some additional support, and if there's a way that this new position can help them with their growing workload, that would be great, but I look forward to getting the information from the Minister and I thank him for his efforts in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the one thing I want to make clear, though, is the Northern Frontier Visitors' Centre is not a GNWT asset. It is a non-profit organization. I understand the Member's comments. They are a victim of their own success, basically, with the amount of tourism increasing in the Northwest Territories. We will continue to reach out and try to help them as much as we can, but it is also the City of Yellowknife's responsibility to probably help them as much as they can, too. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Any further questions, Mr. O'Reilly? Okay. Next we have Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to a tourism development officer and understanding the 51 plus the six that are coming in, has the department looked at expanding tourism outside Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The NWT TTA marketing strategy is a pan-territorial initiative, and they are looking at all regions of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for his answer. Can he explain to us why the government or this organization bought 150 tickets to Yellowknife and not anywhere else to promote tourism? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Deputy Minister Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** The 150 Secrets Campaign is part of a broader strategy, a pan-territorial strategy. NWT Tourism, as I understand it, worked with a carrier, Air Canada, and that is how they worked out the 150 flights. There are going to be 10 flights beyond Yellowknife as part of the super prizes, so it is not just for Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Jensen. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the deputy minister for his answer. These 10 super flights, wherever they are going, can the Minister or the deputy minister please advise this House where these super flights are going and what airline are they using outside of Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We are not sure which airline they are going to use outside of that. NWT TTA is their own organization, and they made the decisions around this. If the Member would like, we could probably check with them and see what they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to get that information from the Minister, so I thank him for his commitment to getting that information to me. I guess my next question is: we are bringing 150 people into the territories; has the government worked with the tourism organization to expand it outside the region, to promote the Nahanni, the Delta and that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not sure if the Member is zeroing in on the 150 or the NWT TTA's initiative moving forward. If he is talking about the NWT TTA and then moving forward, they have their regional marketing initiative that they do. The ITI regional offices are also doing this. The Beaufort Delta, the Sahtu region, the Deh Cho region, North Slave Region, South Slave region are all working on different aspects of that, and then they also have special marketing initiatives within the department, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for his answer. My question is: is the tourism association working with the government, working hand in hand to promote tourism across this great territory of ours? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess, to be clear, we made a contribution to NWT TTA. They pull their own board together from across the Northwest Territories to represent all the regions. They put together their regional marketing plans, territorial marketing plans, and how they are going to move the tourism initiative forward in the Northwest Territories. As the Ministry of ITI, we have a broad overview of what they do, but they pretty much run their NWT TTA as a totally separate entity. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Next, we have Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When I look at this particular department in the activities and the numbers written out there and allotted for different designations directed to tourism and parks operations, tour operators, and when I go back and look at the statement made by the same Minister here on November 2<sup>nd</sup> of last year, making reference to "between the year 2010-11 and 2015-16, the number of visitors to our territory has increased from 65,000 to 93,000 visitors; spending in this timeframe has also increased from \$94.1 million to \$167.1 million," I would say we are trying our best efforts, and that is a pretty good show on return.

The isolated region of the Sahtu wouldn't mind to get in on this glorified economy here, seeing that we have a number of attractions. Having a few hunters coming off the plane and coming back on the plane with their antlers, and a few paddlers down the Mackenzie River, is not going to cut it as far as contributing to tourism potential and sustaining some of the potential operators that do exist in that region, so therefore, when I look underneath budget allowances for community tourism infrastructure at \$200,000, skills development, purchased services, I would like to work closely with this department on the allowances budget to look at producing results from the Deline destination brochure initiative that the Deline Got'ine Government has produced.

There are very similar attractions in Deline as there are here, so there is room for potential and room for that visitor market. In flight, it is only an hour and a half, an hour and 20 minutes from here, so there is some supported documentation to say that the Sahtu could realize this industry sector potential.

My only question is: what supports would these budgetary figures do for the Deline destination? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, when you look on this page, I believe all regions can all tap in and benefit on a whole bunch of different things. The community tourism infrastructure one is one where all Aboriginal governments and organizations, like is listed there, can apply to it. That is one way to tap into doing that. The tourism skills development, that is going to be done in all regions this year in the Northwest Territories. The Sahtu region can also tap into the Tourism Product Diversification Program. Last year, I believe we helped the Sahtu region reprint the Canol Trail guidebook, as well as a number of cooperative advertising campaigns with their local tourism operators that are in the Sahtu. I think I had a number of questions in the House this week.

Communities can apply on having the tourism community advisor in each community. So there's a number of different initiatives to help the communities in all regions in the Northwest Territories to try to tap into the full potential of the tourism industry in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking back at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation here it refers to "Tourism 2020: Opening our Spectacular Home to the World to View." This five-year strategy is our government's plan for creating a \$207 million-a-year industry by the year 2021. So that's the given target and the given objectives, and now I see on this budget it's supported by the number of \$400,000. So I'm glad to hear that there is a plan and it's supported by the resources in order to implement that initiative. So it's more of a comment, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. McNeely. Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One thing about that document, we had a number of stakeholders involved in it as well. I'm proud to say that this is one of the few industries that we're diversifying the economy in the Northwest Territories that's having great success. As I've said earlier today, the amount of money that we're putting in there, you see in this line item of \$5,453,000, is a great investment in the culture and the people in the Northwest Territories and the programs and operators of the NWT. So it's one part of the department I'm very proud of. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Any further questions from committee? Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My interest is in terms of page 211, the community tourism infrastructure and to the bottom of tourism, the various initiatives in the range of at least \$5.5 million for this initiative. So I'm just trying to understand just how many territorial parks that we might have in the NWT. I understand, like, in my riding there are six territorial parks, so I just wanted to understand whether this department has a figure in terms of the total territorial parks that exist in the NWT? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. For all the parks in the Northwest Territories,

counting staff and contractors and stuff, we spend about \$5 million annually. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Specifically the question I was asking is: what is the total of the number of territorial parks that we have? I understand territorial parks would mean we have day-use areas, we have campgrounds. For example, in the Deh Cho riding we have Twin Falls and parks and then we have Lady Evelyn Falls campgrounds and then we have on the Kakisa River we have a day-use area. So I just wanted to know how many of those facilities that we have across the NWT? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't have that exact number at our fingertips, but I believe we have 17 parks in the NWT. As for the other day-use parks and stuff, we'd have to get that, so we'll get those numbers together for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair; that's good to know. The reason why I'm asking is, if maybe a community or a region were interested in perhaps establishing a park, is there any criteria set or are there any factors to be considered that ITI perhaps would consider in discussions with communities in terms of future parks that could be possibly expanded? What would be the factors or criteria that determine if a park could be established? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If a community was interested in establishing or expanding an existing park, I'm sure we're willing to sit down and have a look at it, and if it fits into our long-term plans we would certainly be welcome to have that conversation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just trying again to understand the efforts towards tourism. I mean, generally the initiatives that this department has undertaken are very constructive in terms of dialoguing with the communities and trying to take an opportunity of the tourism industry, but inevitably there could be the unintentional disparities between the concentration of resources say in Yellowknife,

other regions, or the communities. So I'm just trying to understand.

The Minister had indicated at least the total amount for tourism and parks is \$5.5 million. Is there an understanding of how much is designated for pan-territorial initiatives like the Tourism 2020 initiative? How much of the total of \$5.5 million is designated for regions and how much of that is targeted for community initiatives? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we go to page 210, so operations expenditures is \$14.7 million, roughly, for operations and expenditures of parks; \$5 million of that, I believe, is for parks alone. Tourism initiatives is one point --

**MS. MUJICIN:** Eight million.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** -- \$8,192,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to maybe get the Minister to maybe just repeat that. He indicated that there's \$5 million designated towards parks, and am I correct, \$8 million towards tourism initiatives? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's exactly what I said. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The other point that I wanted to understand is that there's an increasing interest in collaboration and cooperation in terms of working with communities, and also the management of territorial parks and so forth, but to basically take an opportunity of the growing number of visitors to the parks and it's a very good thing, and so I wanted to understand that communities want to, of course, be involved. So is it critical or integral that communities have an opportunity to develop their local community tourism strategies? Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister Schumann.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's why we had the initiative that's put in place in this 2020 going forward was the community regional coordinator position that each community

can apply on. They can do it by themselves, or a couple of communities can get together to pull it together, but the main intent of that is bringing that initiative forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Nadli.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (MR. BLAKE):** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Committee, any further questions? Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, section 1.27 of our mandate commitments, for which the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is responsible, has commitments to do a number of things. One, I'd like to ask how this budget address is erecting emergency shelters along remote highways. I know that that has been an issue in the past. How is the department investing in those emergency shelters and fulfilling the mandate commitment? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On this particular file, we are working with my other department, the Department of Transportation, on how we can enhance roadside facilities. There is a small working group working on that. We are working to define the underlying needs that meet the needs of these emergency shelters and identify some alternative solutions. We are still working on an initiative before we bring it forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When does the Minister expect to be in a position to release the details of this working group plan? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Like I said, the two departments are having a look at it moving forward. The long-term plan is to have a pull-out every 50 kilometres along the highway system and a major rest stop every 50 kilometres. We will continue to look at this initiative and see what we can do before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Midterm, when we review this mandate, is rapidly approaching, so I expect that, if we have an idea of what this plan is going to cost and whether or not we can accomplish it, we should know sooner than later. Further to this commitment, there is also a commitment to expand tourism options by building new parks, such as the Doi T'oh Territorial Park in the Sahtu region. What is the status of that development of new parks and in particular, the Doi T'oh Territorial Park? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Doi T'oh Territorial Park Canol Heritage Trail is still under the federal government. They are working on their initiative coming forward. I believe they have already had a site tour of potential bidders there in the last fall on this site. I believe in the coming months they are supposed to be doing a bid process and see how all that rolls out. Until that time, it is still under federal responsibility. We will not be moving on that initiative until that takes place. I believe we are also still working with the federal government on sources of funding to finish up wire cleanup on the Canol Trail this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister provide details of any other territorial parks that are in development? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As for parks under ITI's care and maintenance, I believe that we don't have anything besides some expansions of existing parks. Other parks, that may fall under department of ENR, which would be conservation initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify this mandate commitment, the intention is to only really pursue the Doi T'oh Territorial Park as an expanded tourist option. I just note that it makes a commitment to build new parks; is Doi T'oh the only new territorial park on the horizon? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** That is correct, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Minister for that clarification. How much contribution funding do we provide specifically for the purpose of destination marketing to NWT tourism and through other sources as well? How much are we spending on destination marketing? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What I can tell the Member is that we give the NWT TTA \$3.3 million as core funding and they distribute that as they see fit. I would have to get that information from NWT TTA and what allocation is for destination. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is that the only source of marketing funding that is available from the department, that contribution to the NWT TTA? Are there any other avenues for destination marketing that are currently undertaken through this activity? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. You have that Tourism Product Diversification funding that is there. There is also Tourism 2020, I believe, that you could probably tap into for that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the detailed information on that tourism destination marketing spending. With that, I will conclude my questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. We will move on to Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to continue to belabour this area too

much. I know we need to move on. I do want to give credit where credit is due. I see that, for the first time in a couple of years, we are making an investment in tourism skills development. I see that as a positive, but I do have a couple of questions around that. That pot of \$170,000, can the Minister describe for us, other than the contributions to support youth mentorship and community tourism coordinators, can the Minister describe for us how this pot of \$170,000 is going to be divvied out into skills development? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. \$150,000 has been approved for the community tourism initiative and \$125,000 for the Youth Mentorship Program. There is \$275,000, plus we have another \$125,000 we can get from other pots of money. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to make sure I did my math right: \$150,000 and \$125,000, that is \$275,000, plus you can get \$125,000 from additional pots.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sorry, I just need clarification again. I got \$125,000 for the youth mentorship. There was \$150,000; I missed the program that was announced for the \$150,000. An officer's position of some kind? I need clarification. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am going to redirect this to the director of finance for clarity. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The entire skills development budget is actually \$275,000; \$150,000 is for the community tourism coordinators initiative, along with \$20,000 for youth mentorship. In addition to that, we have \$125,000 that sits in other expenses. That can be tapped into for skills development. We may put on workshops and things like that with that kind of money. Thank you.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in last fall's business plans, the department described some programming under this skills development that was going to be coming forward. One of them was, in fact, the Youth Mentorship Program, which I'm happy to see we're dedicating \$125,000 to that program. The business plans also highlighted the Tourism Training Fund and also the Tourism Business Mentorship, and it's my understanding that those two programs are going to also come out of the Tourism Skills Development pot. First of all, I'll get clarification. Are all three of these programs, in fact, coming out of the Tourism Skills Development pot of money, and if \$125,000 of it is going to the Youth Mentorship how much is going to be going to the Tourism Training Fund and how much is going to the Tourism Business Mentorship? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. \$150,000 is for the community tourism coordinators and \$20,000 for youth mentorship. So the entire skills development budget is \$275,000; \$170,000 is reflected here in grants and contributions, but the other portion of the budget is actually sitting under other expenses, and that's allocated for those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Okay, that's good, Mr. Chair. I thank you for that clarification, and so that explains the expenditures in those other two areas. This is an area, of course, that's very supportive of our mandate. It's a direct investment into a growing industry that I feel is very important, and I'm happy to see that the department has committed these kinds of funds to skills development, specifically for tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think at this time, too, I want to take the opportunity to talk about the Regional Community Tourism Development and Capacity Building Workshops that we're going to be doing this year. We've got some money from the federal government and we're going to be contributing a portion of it to it, and we're going to be putting on community workshops to recognize the value of community tourism and identify champions in the communities, and all these sorts of things. So I

think it's another good initiative that we're putting forward to promote tourism in the Northwest Territories and help build regional capacity. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. Any further questions? I see no further questions or comments from committee. Please return now to page 210, Industry, Tourism and Investment, tourism and parks, operation expenditure summary, total activity, \$14,737,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, committee. Before returning to the departmental total, we'll consider the information items on pages 213 to 215, including lease commitments, NWT Environmental Studies Research Fund, and work performed on behalf of others. I remind committee to specify the page on which the item can be found when asking questions. Does committee have any questions or comments? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'm looking at page 214, which is the Environmental Studies Research Fund, and I guess for 2017-18 looking at spending \$298,000, and there's still a closing balance of \$326,000. I'm just wondering why there's not a plan to spend more of the funding than \$298,000. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you look at the top of the page, they actually have an authorized limit of \$15 million. If there's a surplus there this year it's because the projects are brought forward every year. Depending on how the expenditures roll out maybe that was a carryover from last year's, but these funds that come available are based on levies on oilfield leases. Thank you, Mr. Chair

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Okay, I'll try to go at this a different way. Is there a plan or a strategy for the use of these funds? Have research priorities been identified? I'm just wondering why we're not spending more of the money in a given year, why we're surplussing money. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is not a surplus. This stays within the fund, so as the fund either goes up or down it will be used accordingly, but my understanding is with the NWT Environmental Studies Research Fund is they put out a call for proposals on initiatives annually when they move forward. I don't want to call it a revolving fund, but it's basically sitting there for the next initiative. Some proposals come in under budget for what they budget for, and I suspect that could be an accumulation of probably that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I confess to using the wrong words, but there's a closing balance here. It's more than the money that's budgeted to be spent this year, but I'll just park that one for now. I think we should just be using more of that money, but does this fund actually have a plan, a strategy of priorities that have been identified for the use of these funds, and if so can the Minister provide it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is based on proposals that come in and that the board sees that they're going to follow up on. One of the things I want to make clear, this isn't government money in this fund. This is money that comes from levies from industry, and that is their money that is invested in this fund. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, the money may come from industry; this is not their money. This is money that's to be used for environmental studies, and if there's no plan for actually spending this money or priorities, so we just throw it open to requests for proposals. That to me doesn't sound like a very wise investment of the money. Is there not a set of research priorities or needs that have been identified so that the funds can be used in the wisest way possible, whether it's to understand the effects of oil and gas exploration on woodland caribou or offshore or whatever? What is the plan to spend this money? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The purpose of this fund, according to the act, is:

"To finance environmental and social studies pertaining to the manner in which the terms and

conditions under which exploration and development production and activities on petroleum lands authorized under the act or any other action to be conducted."

They reach out, they get the levies based on industry participation, and this is where the money comes from. They do a call for proposals. I believe the last one they've done as of late was on the caribou issue, Boreal Caribou Initiatives and Groundwater Monitoring in particular in the Northwest Territories, and they had a proposed budget of \$297,000. My suspicion is they didn't spend all the money on that proposal and I suspect in the coming year that they will be having another call for a proposal on what they're going to do research on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So how does the board then decide what to put out for a call for proposals? Is there a plan? Is there a strategy? Is there a set of priorities that have been identified to use these funds? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Its role is to determine the research priorities of the fund, set the budget, and establish the policies and practices for its future. So this is all up to the Environmental Studies Management Board and how they see fit moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I understand there's a board for this. I guess what I'm trying to understand is, you know, the accountability for this rests with the Minister but how does the board set these priorities?

In fact, the government, ITI actually has a person who sits on this board, and so does ENR, and then there are a couple of people from industry, and I think one member of the public. So how does that board decide how to use these funds? Is it just one-off, oh, this year we'll decide we're going to do caribou or something, or is there actually a more strategic approach to doing this research? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I've said, it's the role of the board to determine its research priorities for this fund and set the

budget, establish the policies and practices for the future of what they want to look at. It's not the government's role to do that. In this particular case, this is the way the board is set up and the way the Petroleum Resource Act is referred to in this, and that's how it works. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't seem to be getting anywhere with this, but there are two government people sitting on this board; one from ENR, one from ITI. What sort of direction does the department give to the ITI representative in terms of what the money is to be spent on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't want to get in a big argument with the Member, but this is an environmental research fund and they focus on environmental issues. As I've said, the role determines that, and, of course, we do have a couple of government officials who are on there but they're representing the Government of the Northwest Territories in an environmental capacity. This is what this board is set up to do and I think it does good work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Like one of my colleagues before mentioned, you know, how do we know if we're getting good value for money here, and no plan, no priorities that have been identified? It doesn't sound like there's any discussion with communities in terms of what they think the research needs might be or should be. I think there are some issues around the accountability of this board, and I hope that the Minister is going to look at this issue in terms of when the Petroleum Resources Act comes up for review. Is that going to be the case? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As this does fall under the Petroleum Resource Act, I guess when we take that out on the road and have a look at it this will be the opportunity for the Member to have his input on how he sees that we need to change things to fit the way he thinks it should be run; but presently this is the way the act is written and the way the board has determined their research priorities moving forward. I guess the other thing I could add to it is they do publish an annual report, and it is also online for everyone to see. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. This is not just about me; this is about accountability. Thank you, Mr. Chair, that's all I have to say.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Any further questions, committee? Seeing no further questions or comments on these information items, we'll now return to the departmental total. Please return to page 193.

There are three information items related to the departmental total found on pages 194 to 196. These include revenue summary, active position summary, and NWT BDIC active positions. Any questions or comments on these information items? I see none.

Let's return now to page 193, Industry, Tourism and Investment total. Does committee agree? Mr. Beaulieu.

COMMITTEE MOTION 52-18(2):  
TABLED DOCUMENT 261-18(2): MAIN  
ESTIMATES 2017-2018, INDUSTRY, TOURISM  
AND INVESTMENT, DEFERRAL OF FURTHER  
CONSIDERATION OF THE ESTIMATES FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND  
INVESTMENT,  
CARRIED

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee defer further consideration of the estimates for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The motion is on the floor and is being distributed. Thank you, committee. The motion is in order and is not debatable.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Committee, the consideration of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment has been deferred. I want to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Thank you, committee. We will now move on to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. Does the Minister have opening remarks?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to present the 2017-2018 Main Estimates for the Department of

Education, Culture and Employment. Overall, the department's estimates total \$314.9 million, which is a decrease of \$969,000 or 0.3 per cent from the 2016-2017 Main Estimates.

These estimates continue to support the GNWT's objective of ensuring a strong and sustainable future for the government and its programs by managing expenditures due to limited revenue growth.

The 2017-2018 Main Estimates include:

- \$2.2 million to fund rises associated with the increased clients accessing the Income Assistance Program. This funding is to address income assistance needs for our most vulnerable clients;
- \$3 million for the Small Community Employment Support Program to enhance youth employment and increase self-reliance in small and remote communities; and
- \$1.5 million in new funding to implement free play-based care for four-year-olds across the remainder of the Northwest Territories, which will help reduce the cost of living for families in the NWT.

The government has committed to fully funding the junior kindergarten program in the 2017-18 school year, and we will be seeking the additional funding in the fall once final costs are known; an increase in funding to invest in enhancing Income Assistance benefits for NWT residents who do not have the resources to meet their basic needs; and reductions of \$4.967 million as part of the government-wide reductions.

The department's proposed spending in 2017-18 continues to support the priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Specific activities in support of these priorities include:

- working in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Services;
- we will continue to implement the Right From the Start Early Childhood Development Framework, including implementing the three-year 2017 to 2020 action plan;
- simplifying the administration of licensed early childhood programs and continuing to increase funding for licensed early childhood programs;
- strengthening licenced early childhood programs through improving resource materials; and
- increased training for early childhood workers.

Spending also includes \$3.316 million for continuing implementation of Education Renewal, such as:

- initiatives for expanding high school distance learning programs in up to two schools;
- supporting student and teacher wellness through self-regulation and mental wellbeing initiatives;
- continuing the implementation of Safe Schools legislation through territorial Safe School and Emergency Response Plans, healthy relationships programming, and supports for students and staff from the LGBTQ2+ community;
- developing a renewed health and wellness curriculum;
- developing and implementing a territorial literacy strategy;
- supporting programming focused on strengthening teacher instructional practices; and
- implementing a comprehensive accountability framework for the JK to 12 education system.

We will also be working on other priority items, such as:

- updating the NWT Aboriginal Languages Framework and Action Plan, a shared responsibility;
- supporting the creation of the GNWT-wide Action Plan for the Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework;
- implementing the first year of the Skills 4 Success four-year action plan;
- increasing employment in in-demand jobs in the NWT with a comprehensive immigration strategy to address recruitment challenges;
- increasing the number of apprentices and journeypersons in the NWT by implementing a comprehensive apprenticeship strategy; and
- working in partnership with Aurora College to create a renewed strategic plan that contributes to the developments of the NWT's labour market.

The department will be reviewing the income security programs, including Senior Home Heating Subsidy Program and the Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefits.

These are a few of the highlights for the 2017-18 fiscal year. I look forward to working with Members to advance our priorities and mandate actions related to Education, Culture and Employment during the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Mr. Chair, that concludes my opening remarks. Thank you.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair rise and report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Committee, a motion is on the floor to report to progress. The motion is in order and is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** I will now rise and report the progress. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May I have the report of the Committee of the Whole? Member for Mackenzie Delta.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2017-2018, and I would like to report progress with two motions adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Do I have a seconder? Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Orders of the day, Madam Clerk.

### Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Thomas):** Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Friday, February 17, 2017, commencing at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements

7. Oral Questions
  8. Written Questions
  9. Returns to Written Questions
  10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
  11. Petitions
  12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
  13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
  14. Tabling of Documents
  15. Notices of Motion
  16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
  17. Motions
  18. First Reading of Bills
    - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
    - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Health and Social Services Professions act
  19. Second Reading of Bills
  20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
    - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
    - Bill 13, Marriage Act
    - Committee Report 6-18(2), Report on the Review of Bill 7: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
    - Tabled Document 261-18(2), Northwest Territories Main Estimates, 2017-2018
  21. Report of Committee of the Whole
  22. Third Reading of Bills
  23. Orders of the Day
- DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, February 17, 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:58 p.m.