



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Great Slave)

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, September 20, 2017****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Julie Green, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, 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

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty): Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Finance.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 196-18(2):
FISCAL UPDATE**

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to update Members on the fiscal situation and ongoing challenges we are facing for the next few years.

Yesterday the Premier talked about the government's vision for the future. Twenty years from now we want to see a healthy and prosperous territory where people have good-paying jobs built on the foundation of responsible resource development. We see residents who have achieved economic independence and who do not have to rely on income assistance to get by. We see people who can own their own homes, provide for their children, and purchase healthy foods. As a government, we need to make sure we are managing our financial resources responsibly so we can continue to fund the programs and investments that make this vision a reality.

When I presented the 2017-2018 budget in February, I was cautiously optimistic that we had started to turn the corner towards a more sustainable financial footing. The decisions we have made to reduce our spending on programs and services and implement initiatives to increase our revenues were intended to reverse the pattern where we spent more in the year than we bring in as revenue.

Preliminary actuals for the 2016-2017 fiscal year show we achieved a \$155 million operating surplus last year, which has allowed us to deliver our capital program without adding to our short-term debt. Mr. Speaker, the actions we took to better

align our expenditures with our revenues were a necessary first step. However, the challenge of the expected slow growth in revenues over the medium term means we need to continue to manage spending in the coming years. Over the next five years, we are forecasting revenues to increase on average by 1.8 per cent or about \$34 million annually. It is from these increases that we will fund new programs or services and respond to forced growth from increases in demand or in the cost for delivery of existing programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, our fiscal pressures are significant. However, to achieve our collective vision, we cannot just manage our financial resources and not make investments into our population and our infrastructure to help create a future where our people can thrive and be healthy, where a well-managed environment contributes to our economic wellbeing and quality of life, and where a strong economy provides the necessary jobs and opportunities for our communities as well as funding for essential government programs.

Planning has already started for the 2018-2019 budget, including the capital estimates which were tabled yesterday. The 2018-2019 capital plan totals \$237 million and includes investments:

- for health facility replacements, renovations and equipment, including for the Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal project and initial work to build 48-bed long-term care facilities in Hay River and Inuvik and to invest to improve long-term care facilities in Yellowknife. This funding will also be used to begin the replacement of the health center in Tulita and to complete the health center in Samba K'e.
- for highways, including the GNWT contribution to the Tlicho all-season road, and additional Building Canada projects;
- to begin the work for the replacement of the air terminal building in Inuvik;
- to continue providing funding to community government for their infrastructure needs;
- for new education facilities and renovations to existing facilities, including completing the school in Lutselk'e, the addition of the gym and

classrooms to Ecole Allain St-Cyr in Yellowknife, and the ongoing work on the renovation and addition to the school in Tuktoyaktuk; and

- for deferred maintenance and energy upgrades to existing GNWT assets.

In addition to our own capital plan, we are working closely with the federal government on the significant infrastructure investment programs that they have recently announced. While we continue to get more information on program criteria, there is little doubt of the potential for significant and transformational investments that may come from these programs. As GNWT contributions will be required on these projects, we will need to plan carefully to ensure alignment with our overall fiscal planning.

Mr. Speaker, this government's fiscal strategy has yielded results and has put us on a much stronger financial footing. That gives us the flexibility we need to fund investments in our economy and our residents, but only if we maintain our discipline. We know that infrastructure investments have a significant impact on our short-term economic conditions, while also providing the base for sustainable economic growth and improved social conditions.

We also know infrastructure spending alone will not address all of the challenges facing our territory. Our government remains committed to working with Regular Members as we move into the business plan review, which is an important step in the development of the 2018-2019 budget. The business plans describe the steps we are taking to ensure our programs and services are addressing the priorities of the Legislative Assembly and implementing our mandate.

Mr. Speaker, within this fiscal context the assurance that I can provide to this House and to residents of the NWT is that this government will remain mindful of our long-term financial objectives, and the future well-being of our constituents, as we move into the second half of this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Lands.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 197-18(2):
UPDATE ON TWO LANDS ACTS

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Lands takes its responsibility to administer and manage public lands in the Northwest Territories seriously. That is why, over the summer, the department engaged with Indigenous governments, stakeholders, and the

public on potential changes to the Northwest Territories Lands Act and the Commissioner's Land Act. This input will, for the first time, allow for a made-in-the-North approach to managing land in the Northwest Territories.

Since devolution, administration of public lands in the Northwest Territories has fallen under two separate acts: the Northwest Territories Lands Act and the Commissioner's Land Act. These two acts were developed independently of one another, one by the federal government and one by the Government of the Northwest Territories. With devolution, both lands acts became the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and our government made it a mandate commitment to improve how they work together to advance our vision of land and resource management.

Mr. Speaker, our work has focused on building from the foundations that these two pieces of legislation provided. As a first step, the Department of Lands developed an engagement paper on the two acts. The paper was used to facilitate discussion around potential administrative and technical changes that could provide better system alignment where appropriate, and improve consistency and clarity for the public land users. This was a key tool for jump-starting the conversation about the kinds of changes that might be needed to the two acts.

With this engagement tool, the department got to work reaching out to Indigenous governments, stakeholders, and the public through open houses in regional centres, presentations to interested groups, and online feedback gathered through the department's website. This feedback will be reflected in a report that will be shared with Members and made available to the public in October. The report will be placed on the department's website and sent out to those who participated in the engagement. Afterwards, we will follow the legislative process to begin developing legislation later this fall.

Making revisions to our lands acts is one step towards meeting our shared land and resource management goals and will not end with the development of new legislation. We will continue to take a collaborative approach to implement the legislative, regulatory, and policy systems. As our territory continues to change and evolve over time, we need to ensure our legislation isn't left behind.

Mr. Speaker, these efforts to improve legislation, policies and systems will help us to achieve our greatest objective, to create more certainty for land users throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 198-18(2):
LONG-TERM CARE PLAN

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly include a commitment to take action so that seniors can age in place. Our government's mandate builds on this priority by committing the Department of Health and Social Services to complete a projection of programming needs, develop updated capital plans to address the need for long-term care beds, and to develop a regulatory framework and financing options that will allow us to meet the growing demand for long-term care in the Northwest Territories.

As Minister of Health and Social Services, I remain committed to supporting seniors and elders to continue living in their homes and their communities for as long as possible, but we also need to provide for those who can no longer live independently, even with the appropriate supports.

Looking after our seniors and elders is an important part of this government's vision for the future, which the Premier outlined yesterday. Looking ahead 20 years, we see a healthy and prosperous territory built on northern strengths and advantages. We see residents who have good paying jobs, who are able to provide for their children and to purchase their own homes and healthy food. We see a territory where people have broken the hold of colonialism to achieve economic self-determination and who no longer have to rely on income assistance to survive.

That is why our government undertook a major review of the current state of long-term care in the Northwest Territories and the projected need for these services as our population continues to age. The Northwest Territories Long-Term Care Program Review Final Report, completed late in 2015, provided projections for long-term care bed needs over a 20-year period and achieved an important mandate commitment.

The report projects that, by 2026, there will be a shortfall of 258 long-term care beds in the NWT, which represents a substantial increase over the 180 beds available today. Plans were already in place at that time to replace and expand the Jimmy Erasmus facility in Behchoko and to build an 18-bed long-term care facility in Norman Wells, but the addition of these 27 new beds did not begin to meet the projected needs as identified by the report.

Mr. Speaker, we know that today there are elders who are waiting for a spot in one of our long-term care facilities, and that these lists will continue to grow. We must take action. In response to this

need, the departments of Health and Social Services, Finance, and Infrastructure worked closely to develop a plan to respond to these needs.

Today I am pleased to confirm that the Capital Estimates, 2018-2019 include the first concrete steps towards addressing the long-term care gap in the Northwest Territories. Funding is included to develop 72 beds in the old Stanton Hospital in Yellowknife; to begin planning for a 48-bed long-term care facility in Hay River to serve the entire South Slave region; and to begin planning for a similar facility in the Beaufort Delta region.

As we move forward, we also recognize that we need to address future pressures in the Dehcho region and in Yellowknife. In the near future, we will undertake a feasibility study to assess the potential for a combined health centre and a long-term care facility in Fort Simpson that would add 28 new long-term care beds in that region. To support our continued partnership with AVENS A Society for Seniors, the Capital Estimates includes funding for a much-needed kitchen and laundry renovation to support future expansion.

Mr. Speaker, there is more work to be done, and the support of Members, stakeholders, and our partners throughout the NWT will help us continue to advance this important work. We have committed to developing a regulatory framework and financing options for long-term care, and that work will get under way in the near future.

The improvements and investments being made in long-term care will support our seniors and elders to remain as close to home as possible when it is no longer possible for them to remain in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 199-18(2):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Wally Schumann will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend the federal-provincial-territorial Ministers of Infrastructure meeting in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MENTAL HEALTH IN INDIGENOUS
POPULATIONS

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are living in a time where mood and anxiety disorders affect Canadian youth in shocking numbers. Statistics Canada reports that those aged 15 to 24 have the highest rates of all of the groups.

First Nations and Inuit youth are even more severely impacted, Mr. Speaker. We see this in our own communities and in the communities across Canada. Among First Nations people, suicide rates are above the national average. Among Inuit it is between six and 11 times the national average.

Mr. Speaker, this is painful knowledge with real and brutal impacts on the people we serve. I have tried to explore available research, tried to begin to understand why this is happening and what we can do about it. I'd like to share some of what I've learned, Mr. Speaker. In researching I've looked for "the three C's": studies that are current, Canadian, and culturally relevant. As I said yesterday, programs addressing Indigenous youth health absolutely must be region- and culture-specific.

Programming must also recognize the continuing impacts of colonization. While it is conventional for physicians today to understand suicide as something deeply personal, specific to individuals, we can't deny the systemic roots. Researchers have described the mental health crisis in Indigenous communities as a "collective response to ongoing cultural assaults."

Looking at a study of 200 Indigenous communities in British Columbia, I saw valuable lessons learned by our neighbours. Where Indigenous cultures were respected, active, and empowered to grow and flourish, suicides rates were lower. Where communities enacted self-government and the restoration of land title; where languages and traditions, including leadership roles for women, were protected and practiced; and where Indigenous governments exerted control over education, child and family services, and community safety, Indigenous people were healthier and safer.

That means personal is political, Mr. Speaker. Person-specific solutions like the NWT Help Line, expanded counselling options, and enhanced mental health education are certainly critical, but they can't stand alone. Any plan to confront this crisis must support the political and cultural sovereignty of First Nations and Inuit people. Mr. Speaker, what happens at the negotiating table at the Department of Executive is of critical significance to the practices and priorities of the Department of Health and Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Nunakput, your time for your Member's statement has expired. Masi. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at Deh Gah School in Fort Providence, high school students aren't only taking on the regular challenges of back to school, they're also thinking about their futures and the future of their community, and they're asking the tough questions that we need to answer to help the community thrive in the years to come.

Through their principal Shanna Hagen, the students brought me their concerns about meaningful employment opportunities in Fort Providence. As young people preparing to enter the workforce full-time, either after graduation or following post-secondary education, they're interested in job creation. They want to know what actions the Government of the Northwest Territories is taking to work with the regions and communities to create new jobs, not simply subsidize existing programs or positions.

Mr. Speaker, myself and several of my colleagues are interested in this very same thing. Earlier this year, during budget deliberations, Regular Members and Ministers debated the Small Community Employment Support program. This side of the House wanted to see the program expanded beyond subsidy into job creation.

With the support of Cabinet in the final 2017-2018 budget, I think we're on our way to the program enhancements we need to get the results that will make positive changes in our communities.

The students of Deh Gah School have also offered their suggestions, identifying areas in the community where new jobs would create spinoff employment and health benefits for all residents. For instance, the students have suggested providing locally available training for the fire department, creating jobs to deliver improvements and regular maintenance to community recreational assets like the baseball field and the arena, and undertaking new initiatives like a skateboard park for children and youth.

Employment in our small communities continues to be a difficult challenge, and to date the Small Community Employment Support program hasn't made a significant dent. With the changes agreed upon by all the Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly, I'm hopeful that we can demonstrate to the students of Deh Gah School and to the youth and young families across the NWT that the GNWT is there for them, ready to deliver meaningful support. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
AURORA COLLEGE FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, shortly after the end of the last session I received a copy of a confidential assessment of Aurora College completed in 2013. After reading the report I wonder why the college is being studied again less than four years later. It would take less time and cost less money to follow through with the recommendations that were made then.

The 2013 study focused on the college's purpose, its roles and responsibilities with respect to the Education Minister and his department, and to "strengthen the college and its successes." The consultant met with everyone and anyone with an interest in the college.

The 2013 report made 36 recommendations about governance, operations, planning, and accountability. The consultant noted that many of the issues and challenges weren't new even then. The college's broad mandate requires it to be all things to all students. Then, as now, the college was required to reduce operations because funding from the GNWT had declined. To quote the assessment, "Possibly the greatest challenge facing the college is that of rationalizing its purpose against the resources available." Ditto today. The consultant recommended that "the Minister, in cooperation with the board, examine the college's purpose with the intention of confirming a long-term direction for the college." He also references a forthcoming strategic plan. That plan was scrubbed to make way for the foundational review this spring, although how it would differ from the study before or after is anyone's guess.

The foundational review ordered by the Minister in March has similar terms of reference and the contractor will meet with a similar group of people, and it is very likely that he or she will come up with similar recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, I'm unsure what the government of the day did with the 2013 study recommendations, but surely the Minister is familiar with them. If not, why not? If so, why take the time and money for another review? I believe the Minister already has the information he needs without spending another \$413,000 on the question of the college's future. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
COMMERCIAL CANNABIS PRODUCTION
OPPORTUNITIES

MR. TESTART: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Honourable Minister of Justice for taking real action on cannabis and actually getting out and starting to do this work. It's a bit late, but we're making progress.

Other provinces are also making progress, Mr. Speaker. Recently the Ontario government announced it will create a Cannabis Control Board and open up 60 store fronts in the first year to manage the sale and distribution of cannabis products in the province, while privatized cannabis dispensaries in Ontario will be shut down over the next 12 months.

Now, I wouldn't recommend the Minister take this approach; it's been very controversial, and this monopolization of the entire industry has not been well received in a positive light by the public. We need to create real opportunities with cannabis production in Canada. Once it is legal, our country will be facing a huge supply issue and, further, as other countries across the world open up cannabis markets either through medical or commercial production, Canada can plug that gap, which is why it's essential that the North has the opportunity to play in that market.

New Brunswick recently announced a multi-million dollar deal with a pair of federally licensed marijuana producers, OrganiGram Holdings and Canopy Growth Corp. This new deal is worth \$90 million of cannabis production, and at the end of this deal both companies saw their stock increase 2 per cent and 16 per cent by the end of the day that the announcement was made. There's clearly growth in this area, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, the New Brunswick government has set up a Crown corporation to have clear oversight on how recreational cannabis will be sold, but will not run a retail operation, instead counting upon other entities, the private sector and entrepreneurs, to do it. This public/private model is an ideal fit for the North's needs to both further economic diversification and ensure that Northerners have access to safe, legal product, and will allow us to compete in an explosive market for something that not only Canadians but the world wants.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for us to assist in the creation of real opportunities surrounding this new cannabis industry, and not just solely capitalize on them as a source of revenue. It's time to let northern entrepreneurs take the lead on this file. I hope the Minister agrees with me. I'll have questions for him later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ROLE OF REGIONAL WELLNESS COUNCILS IN
HEALTH CARE PROGRAM DELIVERY

MR. MCNEELY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Healthcare Strategic Plan: six regional health and social services authorities were established into the NWT Health and Social Services authority system, known as NTHSSA, which are agencies of the GNWT governed by the NWT Leadership Council. Regional wellness councils provide strategic advice and valuable input on the needs of priorities of the residents within their respective regions to better improve healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, the complex care needs of residents of the Northwest Territories must be addressed in a way that achieves the best efficiencies to operate within the GNWT's current fiscal challenges and logistically remote areas, while ensuring access to high-quality patient care. Later I will have questions for the Minister responsible. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER
CORPORATION

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation wants to raise our power rates again. We keep hearing the same arguments over and over. Water levels are low, so hydro is compromised; rates have to go up. Homeowners and businesses are doing such a good job at using less power; rates have to go up. Our infrastructure is old and needs replacing; rates have to go up. It costs more and more to produce energy in the thermal communities; rates have to go up.

A 4.8 per cent hike last year, 4 more per cent this spring, now another 4 per cent coming: that's an increase of almost 13 per cent in just over a year. It will be almost 40 per cent over six years. It has become unbearable. In a government and Assembly that committed itself to transparency and openness, Mr. Speaker, the Power Corporation remains shrouded in mystery. Forgive me for the bad pun, but we are all in the dark when it comes to this organization.

The government pretends that the Power Corporation is still an arm's-length Crown corporation, but in reality the government has brought the Power Corporation half in-house. By the Minister's own admission, he dissolved the

board to save money. He admitted that, because the GNWT had significantly subsidized NTPC's operations during the low-water years, it was acting like a department anyway, so he assigned an internal government board of directors. He is right. In practice, it is almost another government department.

However, Mr. Speaker, the public deserves to know the government's vision for power generation and distribution in the NWT. As MLAs, we deserve the chance to question and evaluate that vision. We deserve to know when the rate hikes are going to end and what alternatives are being pursued to wean our communities off diesel. We deserve to know what is happening with the generators that we bought from a California company nearly three years ago. We deserve answers to all these questions, Mr. Speaker, because any Power Corporation issue affects everyone's bottom line.

Mr. Speaker, whether the vision is to make NTPC a government department or to fully privatize it, the people of the NWT deserve to know the plan. They deserve a government that will level with them. NTPC, bring your annual plans to MLAs for meaningful discussion and debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
REPLACEMENT OR RETROFIT OF MOOSE
KERR SCHOOL

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have in the past, I rise today to speak about the needs of Aklavik's Moose Kerr School, needs that are just not being met. Let us review what we know. We know that Moose Kerr School was built close to half a century ago, in 1969, the same year as Samuel Hearne Secondary School in Inuvik. Samuel Hearne Secondary, though, was demolished in 2013, while Moose Kerr continues to support approximately 15 teachers and 160 students, not to mention a wide range of community and sporting events year-round.

We also know that, although various small projects and maintenance work has continued, Moose Kerr last received a major retrofit back in 1999 and that, according to GNWT capital planning standards, building replacements are scheduled 20 years following work like that.

The Minister himself told the House on October 19, 2016, that the school had "been identified for renovations or replacement in approximately 2019."

A building assessment would be one of the first steps to get that ball rolling, so earlier this year, on

February 8, 2017, the Minister also told the House that, "Should the assessment determine that a renovation is required, a planning study will be launched in 2018-2019 to begin this process."

With all this in mind, Aklavik has been looking forward to significant work on the school for some time. However, I am disappointed to report that the capital estimates tabled yesterday don't mention this work. This seems like a clear-cut case of communications breakdown, Mr. Speaker, and I will have questions at the appropriate time so that we can sort this out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MEDICAL TRAVEL COVERAGE

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Medical travel: where do I begin? There are issues with scheduling. There are issues with where patients are sent and how those decisions are made. There are issues with escorts. In Hay River, we have even had issues about the accessibility of the actual medical travel office.

Today I want to talk about an issue that does not receive enough attention in this House or from the government. Most people in the territory have some sort of extended health benefits which cover virtually all the costs associated with medical travel. The GNWT provides such benefits to its employees and their spouses and dependants, as do other public entities and many private companies. Similarly, benefits are extended to individuals registered under the Indian Act, Indigenous Metis, seniors, and those from households with incomes under \$80,000 per year.

This means that the only NWT residents who do not qualify for full medical travel coverage are those from households that earn over \$80,000 a year. To be fair, there is some coverage for those who earn above the threshold. Return flights to medical appointments only cost \$250, and they receive \$50 a day for accommodations and \$18 a day for meals when on approved medical travel trips.

According to the government, the fact that these amounts do not cover all of the medical travel costs is a recognition that these costs need to be shared between the GNWT and those who can afford it; but, Mr. Speaker, can they afford it? A young, relatively healthy single individual who makes \$80,000 a year may be able to foot the bill for the few times just to travel to Yellowknife for medical issues. What about the family of four that earns just above the threshold? What if a child has a medical condition that requires monthly visits to the specialist in Yellowknife or Edmonton? What if a

parent must take time off work to accompany that child, and what if they have to bring their other two kids, as well? Suddenly, that \$50 for accommodation allowance and \$18 a day for meals are not cutting it. I have had constituents in that bracket who have had to push back psychiatrist appointments for their children because they just could not afford it that month.

A living wage in Yellowknife for a family of four is actually above the current threshold, and that does not include medical costs. Assuming a similar living wage for other communities, it is clear that the threshold is too low. This threshold was introduced 14 years ago as an interim measure. Adjusted for inflation, it would be over \$100,000 now, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, this threshold needs to be updated as well as the other policy issues surrounding this. I will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REGULATION OF DUAL AGENCY REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. In the winter sitting, I raised some issues regarding consumer protection under our legislation. The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, who has responsibility for this area, committed to improving public information on consumer protection, and MACA has recently produced a pamphlet. I thank her for that.

Since then, I have also become aware of concerns regarding our regulation of the real estate sales sector. Our Real Estate Agents Licensing Act regulates the real estate business to some extent, but this is mainly in regard to the licensing and procedural practices of realtors. It provides, for example, that you must have a licence to act as a real estate agent, how contracts and funds must be handled, and the like. It provides that the license may be cancelled for general reasons, including doing "anything that dishonestly influences, discourages, or induces a trade," but in the modern sense of regulating realtors, it does not get down into any detail, specifically, what practices may or may not be ethical or proper.

A good example is the lack of regulation of the practice of realtors acting on behalf of both the buyer and the seller, a practice called multiple representation or dual agency. Realtors are supposed to protect their clients' interests and make transparent disclosures. A realtor acting on behalf of the seller has knowledge that could be very valuable to the buyer. Having information

about a buyer's circumstances could be useful to the seller. Dual agency is not permitted in some jurisdictions, is the subject of extensive ethical guidelines in other places, and presents obvious concerns regarding how the interests of each client are protected. It is not even mentioned in our legislation.

The purchase and sale of homes are the biggest financial transactions in most people's lives and should be properly regulated. Cabinet makes much of how full its legislative workload is. Although, again, it would be hard to know that on the basis of the very few bills this Assembly has passed to date.

I am putting my hand up now to get this piece of legislation, a review in modernization of realty legislation, on the list of future legislative initiatives. I will have questions for the Minister regarding real estate regulation and the protection consumer affairs can provide. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR MARILYN J. LEE

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about a member from Fort Simpson who recently passed away, Mrs. Marilyn J. Lee. Marilyn was born and raised in Trail, B.C., before coming north and calling it home. In her early years, Marilyn quickly picked up the art of cooking from her mother. Her passion for cooking and adventurous spirit brought her north.

Marilyn moved to the community of Fort Simpson in 1986, after spending the previous five years as a camp cook at the military base in Inuvik. In Fort Simpson, Marilyn served as a cook with the kitchen staff at the Fort Simpson long-term facility. Her generous spirit was reflected in her wonderful meals that not only leave your stomach filled, but your soul, too.

During her tireless effort as a cook Marilyn served countless elders of the community. Marilyn's accommodating nature caused her to constantly advocate for traditional food in the long-term care unit. She ensured traditional meals that meant so much to the local elders were served.

Marilyn was a kind woman with a big heart. Many current adults of the community remember turning to Marilyn for support in their teen years. One defining characteristic of Marilyn was her lively facial expressions. You could tell how Marilyn was feeling about something by the look on her face. Her generous nature did not allow her to mask her feelings and emotions when sought out. She also had a big, accepting heart and a warming,

welcoming home. It was not only citizens of the community that Marilyn cared for, but she was also known for always caring for animals, whether they were her own or strays.

Marilyn will always be remembered for amazing food and very large, generous servings. Her family and friends will tell you there was always too much food on Marilyn's table, but Marilyn cooked everything with love and always wanted to ensure everybody was well-fed.

Marilyn leaves behind two children, Natasha and Tim, and five grandchildren. She passed away in her daughter's arms after a brief battle with cancer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Our condolences to the family, as well, as well as the region. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGIES FOR MARIE JACKIE SMITH AND HELENE MACKENZIE

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has become an unfortunate tradition of mine to do eulogies for the people who have passed from sitting to sitting in my riding. Today, I have two such eulogies.

First, I would like to speak of Marie Jackie Smith, born May 29, 1939, and sadly passed away on July 7, 2017, at age 78.

Mr. Speaker, Jackie came from a large family in Fort Smith, the Benwell family; and also a family in Ndilo who loved being around her. Jackie was a very kind-hearted person who loved to work hard for her family. Jackie wanted to make everyone happy, so she always took time around her family and friends. Jackie's passion was her grandchildren. She had a passion for her grandchildren, and she loved spending most of her time with them.

Jackie is survived by her daughter Elizabeth Lockhart; grandchildren Amber, Catherine; sisters Shirley, Betty, Joyce, Jessie; and many other friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, Jackie is predeceased by her spouse, Jean Louis Lafferty; parents Mary Lockhart McKay, William Lockhart, and Paul McKay.

Mr. Speaker, my sincere condolences go out to the late Marie Jackie Smith, daughter, grandchildren, sisters, cousins, and all her friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to send my deepest condolences to the Mackenzie family of Ndilo. Helene Jean Mackenzie was born June 9, 1924.

She passed away on July 13, 2017, at the age of 93.

Helene came from a large family in Ndilo, the Mackenzie family, and also had family in Behchoko. Helene was a very kind-hearted person who loved her family. Helene always took time to be around her friends and family, and did have a real passion for her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Helene is survived by her children Napoleon, Rose, Jimmy, Paul, Bertha, Kathy, Nora, Dixie Lee, Carol, Hardy; sister Roseanne Manthla. She had many grandchildren, great grandchildren, family, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Helene is pre-deceased by her spouse Alexis Mackenzie, children Louis, Moise, Therese, Stanley, Eva, Marie; grandchildren Eddie Paul, Savannah, and Todd.

Mr. Speaker, I recently was introduced to Helene by her son Napoleon. Mr. Speaker, my sincere condolences go out to the late Helene Jean Mackenzie's children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and family. She will be missed by all who knew her. Marci Cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Again, our condolences to the family and also to the region. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to visitors in the gallery. We have with us Yellowknife Mayor Mark Heyck. Thank you for joining us today. Also from Whati, Mike and Sally are here with us today. Their daughter is here as one of our Pages, and I would like to say masi for coming. Welcome to our proceedings.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Great Slave.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the members of the Antipoverty Advisory Committee as visitors in the gallery today. The committee plays an important role in helping to guide the planning for annual antipoverty roundtables. They have helped us to establish performance measures for poverty in the Northwest Territories, and they do a hard work in reviewing the applications to the Antipoverty Fund. I really respect their guidance and their commitment to the Northwest Territories and residents and communities. I am happy to have them here with us today. We have with us here Committee Chair Mayor Mark Heyck from Yellowknife, Elder Pat Martel from K'atlodeeche First Nation, Knute Hansen from Aklavik, and the two members who

were not able to join us today are Nora Wedzin and Ruby Jumbo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Deh Cho.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week we are joined by students from the Chief Sunrise School, plus their chaperone Grace Sabourin. I would like to welcome them during this week. Sonya Sabourin and Sheena King-Sabourin as well will be working here this week. I also recognize and acknowledge Elder Pat Martel, K'atlodeeche First Nations Councillor and Chief as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Knute Hansen, the band manager for Aklavik. Welcome to the House. Mahsi.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge my constituent Mayor Mark Heyck and thank him for his leadership and his service.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Have we missed anyone in the gallery? Thank you for joining us. It is always great to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 830-18(2):

SMALL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, early in my statement, I had talked about the small community employment initiatives, so my questions are to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

In most of our small communities there's a description that caught my attention; it's called "non-market communities" and it's pretty true. Most of our small communities are remote and isolated and, of course, there is no economic market in those small communities, but for the most part our small communities have 50 per cent employment rates, are very strong in our traditional economy, and as I said, they are remote and isolated. With that in mind, can the Minister describe the changes made to the Small Community Employment

Support program following the 2017-2018 budget deliberations earlier this year? Mahsi.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd just like to commend the Member's community of Fort Providence and the youth for all the work that they are doing in the community that he mentioned in his opening comments.

On April 1, 2017, with the enhancements that were implemented with the Small Community Employment Support program, we did look at expanding eligibility, increasing benefit levels, and adding flexibility for communities and employers as well as organizations.

We are also looking at communities that were previously ineligible to allow them to apply for funding, and the communities of Behchoko, Hay River, Inuvik, Simpson, Smith, and Norman Wells are now on those lists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: The Minister clearly had indicated there's a big slant towards regional centres, and he just described that, and what this program was intended for was for small communities. What further changes will be forthcoming and when can we expect their implementation?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Because we put the program in April 1st, 2017, we've been trying to get that funding out to more communities so that it's being utilized at a better rate. We are also looking at some of our other initiatives. With Skills 4 Success, working with some of the small communities on projects where we've seen successes, and I think the Member had mentioned some in his Member's statement. We are going to continue to review those and see how we can look at other policy changes that need to be developed, but we're going to have a look at this.

As the Member knows, and as Members of the Assembly know, the previous funding that was allocated for Small Community Employment Support programs wasn't fully utilized. We made a significant increase and we're trying to make sure those dollars are being spent so that we are creating employment in our smallest communities.

MR. NADLI: The Minister had indicated again that more communities could be able to access this program and that there are other smaller communities besides the City of Yellowknife and the larger regional centres. The question I'm interested in is, through the rest of this fiscal year, how will the Department of Education, Culture and Employment work with regions and communities, especially the small communities, to create new

jobs, for example under the Small Community Employment Support programs?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: We have career development officers, employment transition officers in all the regions, and we are trying to get them to get that information out to our NGOs, our companies, our businesses, our band offices to make sure that they understand that this program is actually in place and how we need partnerships, we need better dialogue and communications on how we can work together to get more employment in small communities.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems that we have a lot of interest from our small communities in terms of trying to enhance and at least reinvigorate the economies in small communities, especially for people who are out of work.

The Minister has clearly indicated partnership arrangements, work in progress with various organizations, including the small communities. Before the conclusion of the sitting of this House, would the Minister be able to provide a status report in terms of some substantive figures that show that this program has impact and that we're lessening the unemployment rates in small communities? Mahsi.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Since the beginning of this fiscal year, we're about halfway in now, and there is a significant increase to the Small Community Employment Support program. I have asked the department what significant investments and changes have been made and seen in terms of getting those contributions out to the small communities. I will get that information, and I can share it with the Members for their respective regions and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 831-18(2):
NAHANNI BUTTE COURT INJUNCTION

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past winter a situation occurred when one of the communities that I represent, and we all heard it in the news, the Nahanni Butte Dene Band were doing some work on an old logging road. Unfortunately, the situation led to them being taken to court. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Lands explain what arrangements were made to have this injunction lifted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Minister of Lands.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise this House that currently there is no injunction in place because the Nahanni Butte Dene Band has stopped work voluntarily. The Government of the Northwest Territories did initially file an application for an injunction, but the matter was removed from the court docket by mutual consent and on the understanding that the band would not conduct any further work without a land use permit issued by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

The matter may be brought back to court to get an injunction if the band begins work without the necessary permits in place. I won't be commenting further on the merits of the case, which might possibly be before the court again, but it appears that the two parties are working together through their lawyers. Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. Can the Minister confirm if he spoke to the chief directly any time before or during or after this situation to discuss it and come up with a possible solution before it has to go to court?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: This issue has been managed from the beginning by the regional office in Fort Simpson and the support from headquarters. The Member opposite will know that I was in the community in April and again in July and listened to concerns raised. I certainly heard the concerns of the chief and the SAO. I made no comment or made no negotiation with respect to this matter, which would be inappropriate, as the matter was before the court. Again, I think the matter has been dealt with by legal counsel on both sides.

MR. THOMPSON: I thank the Minister for his answer. I was actually quite disappointed that the Minister didn't actually talk to the chief before this got out of hand, but we're happy to hear that it's moving forward. With this situation taking place, has the department learned anything from this situation so we don't have to take a local government to court in the future?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The department is always learning from its experiences, and our strongest desire is to have voluntary compliance with our laws and regulations. We only go to court as a last result if all the measures have failed.

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

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his answer. Mr. Speaker, in speaking with the communities, they were talking about the permitting process and challenges they were having. Can the Minister commit to having his department work with the community to get the

necessary paperwork done so they have a permanent place so they can do work in the near future?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: The department does not issue land use permits in the Mackenzie Valley; that is, of course, the responsibility of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. I understand the department has provided assistance in the past to the band to assist with the necessary paperwork, and we would certainly be hoping to do so again, to provide that assistance so that the permitting process can be properly followed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 832-18(2):
SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier, I spoke about suicide prevention and that the negotiations of the Department of the Executive is of critical significance to the practise of the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, effective, lasting, positive change must be built on a foundation of bilateral collaboration between the GNWT and Indigenous governments. Mr. Speaker, how is the GNWT working with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to coordinate mental health action and intervention in the Nunakput region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, prior to the move to a single authority, the Beaufort Delta Regional Health and Social Services Authority had a really good relationship with the IRC and the Gwich'in. I am confident that that relationship is still strong and still working since we have moved to a single authority. I know that the regional operation of the territorial authority has worked closely with the IRC in the delivery of some training, things like applied suicide intervention training and others. At a departmental level, we have worked with different Aboriginal and Indigenous governments on the development of the Strategic Framework for Mental Health and Addictions, where we directly consulted with Indigenous governments and got their input on key directions.

Mr. Speaker, all levels of our government have a role to play in supporting mental wellness, and one of the key directions outlined in the strategic framework is to take a whole-of-government approach. This includes the Government of the Northwest Territories, community governments, and

Indigenous governments. I think that is working well. We have a good relationship with the IRC. The IRC has been a leader in this area. They have worked with the Red Cross to establish a suicide prevention program in Ulukhaktok, which I think gives us an opportunity to learn and maybe apply in different regions. This program, Mr. Speaker, works alongside health and social services authority counselling and other supports and is a great example of the two groups working together.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, the Minister recently delivered a public briefing on the draft Child and Youth Mental Wellness Plan to the Standing Committee on Social Development. I know that the final plan will be coming out soon, but in the draft plan the Department of Health and Social Services set out a timeline to establish child and youth care counsellors across the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us more about how these specialized counsellors will be deployed, particularly in our rural and remote communities?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: This is a very exciting initiative. Child and youth care counsellors will be an important part of the overall continuum of mental wellness services for children, youth, as well as families. They will work in the schools and the broader community and will work in an integrated fashion with other community-based professionals to ensure person- and family-centred services are delivered as close to home as possible.

This is an incredibly important resource that is required in all regions, and it needs to be implemented thoughtfully and with input from all involved stakeholders. We are working with the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and of Health and Social Services, and gathering the data and utilizing the information indicators that we have to put forward a plan to roll out these positions over the coming years. I look forward to discussing that research, that analysis, with committee during business planning, where we will be able to lay out the plan moving forward.

MR. NAKIMAYAK: I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask about service options for Inuit who have limited access to counselling in their home communities. For instance, other jurisdictions are testing face-to-face counselling via secure video link. How does the department plan to use initiatives like outreach programming or new technologies to enhance and expand culturally specific services in the rural and remote communities?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Through our discussion with stakeholders across the Northwest Territories, one of the things we constantly hear are that options are important and that one size does

not fit all when it comes to programming. The use of technology to assist in delivering services to more remote communities is one that the department is exploring. In the meantime, we do have a number of mechanisms where individuals can receive services, including our 24/7 NWT Help Line. We have the opportunity through things like Facebook to do group sessions, group counselling sessions. There is the Kids Help Phone. As technology improves, we are hoping that there are more opportunities to do the types of things the Member is talking about, but we still need to do some analysis and work on that, as well.

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

MR. NAKIMAYAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, finally, building on my last question, can the Minister comment on how the department's new action plan recognizes that cultural and political health is intimately connected to individuals' physical and mental health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The Strategic Framework for Mental Health and Addictions Recovery recognizes the importance of culture. This is foundational to the work that we do and will be reflected in the action plans, including the one for child and youth mental wellness. The implications of colonization and the resultant loss of culture are a clear and strong focus of the work we will be doing to ensure culturally relevant and capable services and supports for residents of the Northwest Territories. The Child and Youth Mental Wellness Action Plan emphasizes the importance of providing access to land-based programs, cultural activities, and language revitalization for Indigenous youth. These will also be the guiding principles as we work to develop a mental health and addictions recovery action plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 833-18(2):
AURORA COLLEGE FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my statement, the terms of reference and the group of people to be consulted for the Aurora College foundational review are very similar to the assessment of the college completed in 2013. Why is another assessment of the college necessary at this point? That is my question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are aware of that review. A couple of things, just an update: some of those recommendations have been addressed in terms of working. Another one of those recommendations was to review the college's programs, and also service structure. The foundational review will, I believe, address that. At the same time, in the previous government, that report was also dismissed, but we also still looked at seeing if there was anything we could take out of that report. We also have new NWT-specific data that is going to help guide us into the way moving forward with Aurora College and developing programs and services, as well.

MS. GREEN: Thanks to the Minister for that response. He started to answer my second question, which is: what has changed within the college and the department in the last four years that makes a new ground-up study necessary? It goes way beyond having a new labour market forecast. The original 2013 study looked at governance, strategic planning, relationships between the Minister and the department, and so on, so what else has changed to make a new study necessary?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: The Member also kind of answered this. The NWT-specific data and the labour market information report that we have now will help guide us and Aurora College into the programs and services that meet the needs and educational needs of NWT residents and Northerners. It is going to help us make evidence-based decisions once we see the results. Just moving forward, that information is definitely going to help us. We are also going to be looking at administration, operations, governance, and legislation with this foundational review.

MS. GREEN: Will the Minister table the 2013 assessment of the college by Cleveland Consulting so that the public can assess the value for money of that assessment?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned previously, that document itself was not for distribution or not made public. I will have to take this back to my Cabinet colleagues to get some direction on whether or not we will release that report.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take that as a commitment that the Minister will explore each and every way to make this document public. On March 6th of this year, the Minister said in the House, and I quote, "The timeline for completion of this new foundational review is fall 2017, with an

implementation target of 2018-2019 academic year." Can the Minister update the House when the foundational review will be completed? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As the Member mentioned yesterday in her statement, we just signed a contract. Right now currently we're working on a work plan with the contractor and our department is working really hard to get that work plan developed. Once I have that work plan I will share it with Members and committee and get their input, as well as Cabinet to get their input into how we move forward. We're just waiting on that work plan, and I can't commit to anything until both the contractor and our department staff have worked on completing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 834-18(2):

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES POWER CORPORATION REPLACEMENT GENERATORS

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last February/March sitting I raised some questions in the House to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation with regard to three generators that were being built by Viridi Power out of California that we had put a million dollar deposit on and they were at that time about two, two and a half years behind schedule. I would like to ask the Minister if he has an update for this House. Are these generators in place and doing the job that they're supposed to do or are we still waiting for these generators? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, the generators are not in place. As I understand it they are still in California. We are hoping that at least three of the five generators will be delivered in the near future. I will certainly keep this House advised as to progress in this matter. I believe we have retained or spoken to legal counsel in the State of California to determine our rights with respect to this matter, but we are hoping to get delivery, as I say, of three of the five generators. Thank you.

MR. VANTHUYNE: Here we go; we're still flying on a wing and a prayer and using the word "hope" quite often when it comes to questioning around these five particular pieces of equipment.

Mr. Speaker, at one point in time it was indicated to us that Viridi Power was going to be responsible for any costs that the Power Corporation had to undertake or incur while we were missing these generators beyond their due date. At the last sitting when I asked about this in February/March, that

number was around \$500,000. I don't care to know what that number is to date because it's probably exorbitant, but the question needs to be asked. At some point, Viridi Power is going to recognize that they're not making profit anymore and they might pull the string on this.

I mean, to the point that the Minister just raised, are we evaluating when is the right time to maybe cut our losses and look at maybe the other proponents that had bid on these generators? I'm sure that we would have almost had those in place by now. When are we going to stop fooling around waiting for generators that we're never going to receive and cut our losses and take legal action if we have to?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: As I mentioned, we are hoping still to get delivery of the three of five generators. With respect to legal action, we understand from our counsel in California that that would be exceedingly complex if we had to take that route; there may be other parties that could have priority. We are still hoping to get delivery of these generators. As I say, we are hoping to get at least three of the five in the near future. If we don't get those and we cannot pursue legal action in the State of California, which as I say may be very, very difficult, we will have to re-tender.

MR. VANTHUYNE: I would have thought that this would have been some homework that we would have undertaken in advance of knowing who we were doing business with, but sadly we're learning the hard way. What reasoning is Viridi Power giving for not being able to provide these generators on the due date? I mean, we're pushing three years now; they have to be providing some legitimate reasoning as to why they're late. What is the reasoning that they're providing the Power Corporation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Why?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: I'm not sure of the financial situation or otherwise of Viridi Power. Clearly, we have made apparent to them our grave concerns about this matter and we also retained, apart from legal counsel which I mentioned earlier, an independent quality control inspector to provide progress reports. Progress is slow and, frankly, Viridi Power is way behind in delivery.

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

MR. VANTHUYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In there was no answer really as to why. They haven't provided us an answer as to why they're three years late, but this supports the reason as to why I continue to ask for the Power Corporation to come to MLAs during the annual business planning

process to give its capital plan and its annual O and M operating plan.

I ask the Minister: will the Minister get the Power Corporation to come and provide annual operating and maintenance plans through the regular budget planning process to this government, to these MLAs, to representatives of the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: We're always pleased to appear in front of committee. Of course, Members will know that the Power Corporation doesn't fall under normal business plans as it's overseen by the Public Utilities Board, so that's where they appear in front of, but to provide more information with respect to these or other matters, I'd always be very happy to appear in front of committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 835-18(2):
REGIONAL WELLNESS COUNCIL MEETING

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Strategic planning is an essential management principle based on the published strategic plan for the health department caring for our people in the Northwest Territories. As part of this vision, can the Minister ensure, for example, H. pylori workshops through education in the Sahtu communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that we do have some resources out there when it comes to H. pylori and providing information. As far as workshops, I'm not sure that we've actually provided workshops in the past or that we actually have the information to provide workshops, but I will talk to the department to find out how best we can get that information out to residents of the Sahtu but also to the Northwest Territories where appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCNEELY: Thanks to the Minister for that reply. Making residents aware of the strategic plan and sharing information is always very important for the remote communities, knowing that healthcare is behind them, with them, for them.

I was very happy to hear, reading the minutes of the Regional Wellness Council, that they had their Sahtu board meeting in the community of Tulita and they engaged with the public there. It was a meet-and-greet, which I thought was perfect in sharing that vision. Bringing health awareness to the

remote community residents in that area, can the Minister also ensure health services for additional services provided by the Health Department through communication workshops in every community on a circulating basis?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: With the move to a single authority in the Regional Wellness Councils, we are hoping that the Regional Wellness Councils do have an opportunity to travel throughout the regions that they represent. As the Member said, the Regional Wellness Council in the Sahtu did have a meeting in Tulita. They have a meeting scheduled in Colville Lake and they will over time get to all the communities that they represent.

As far as getting information, program information, out to the communities, one of the reasons that the Regional Wellness Councils are so important is they can help us tailor our message to the different regions and communities on what is the best way to get the information out. We do give a lot of responsibility to them to help us identify the best ways and we are constantly looking for that information from them so that we can tailor our delivery to the regions as appropriate.

MR. MCNEELY: Will the Minister schedule one of the quarterly board meetings in the town of Norman Wells as we approach closure to the transitional opening of the regional facility in Norman Wells which is scheduled to open later in these coming months?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I do not sit on one of the Regional Wellness Councils. The Regional Wellness Councils are the ones who, to some degree, determine when they are going to schedule their meetings. They are required to have one meeting, I think it is annually in public. All their meetings are supposed to be in public to some degree. They can go in camera. I am not prepared to, and I am not going to, dictate when and where they have their meetings. I think we need to leave that up to them. They know their regions best, and they know when they need to get together to have those conversations.

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

MR. MCNEELY: My next question, Mr. Speaker, is that scheduling the upcoming regional council meeting here in Norman Wells would be a joint effort to have the regional authority there, as well as the opening session of the Sahtu Health Building when it does open. That is all I am asking, is if it can be scheduled and coordinated together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The opening of the new health centre and long-term care facility in Norman Wells will be a significant accomplishment

for the region, for the delivery of services in Norman Wells and that region. We will definitely have an opening ceremony event. The Regional Wellness Council will absolutely, without question, be involved, as well as regional leadership and the MLA, of course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 836-18(2):
CANNABIS PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY
OPPORTUNITIES

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank the Minister of Justice for moving forward on cannabis consultations, but I would like to ask him today: the discussions that he is having with Northerners, do they involve supply and do they involve production? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, as this House will know, public meetings have been held in I think nine communities. The last public hearing was today. I understand there is a wide variety of concerns being expressed. Of course, production of cannabis will be licensed by the federal government under the Cannabis Act. That is the proposed legislation. Thank you.

MR. TESTART: Well, given that reality, in New Brunswick they have negotiated for nine million grams of cannabis for their province. Does the Minister have an idea of what the supply demands would be in the Northwest Territories and is he working to secure a supply with the distributor?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: No, I have no idea what the demand might be, but I have heard that it may be considerable. We have not yet entered into any sort of an agreement, or even contemplated agreements yet with possible suppliers who, of course, must be licensed by the federal government.

MR. TESTART: If anyone should know what the demands are, it should be the person responsible for this project, and it is pretty shocking that he has no clue whatsoever. I will ask him now: will he do some research, potentially with his colleagues in ITI, to identify what the supply demands are going to be and how we are going to regulate that? This is a significant issue for Northerners, and they expect to receive safe, legal product. It is not just about the issue of legalization and consumption, but it is about these broader issues of supply that he has got no answer for. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit to doing this very important work before we

go live with cannabis legislation in the Northwest Territories?

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Well, it is rather hard to determine what the demand and supply is of an illegal product. I do not know how we will determine that, but I will say that Federal Minister Goodale in speaking to us at the FPT last week estimated that the illegal market in Canada was somewhere between \$7 and \$9 billion, so I think we can anticipate that the market is significant throughout the country and, perhaps, no less per capita here than elsewhere.

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

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, again, New Brunswick seems to be able to do it. Ontario seems to be able to do it. They have fully informed plans, and they are already making the plans. We still do not have answers. Again, instead of suggesting what our demand may be and how some of these features are going to work that are not being contemplated by the round of consultations which we now concluded, will the Minister do some work on this area and report back to the House so people can have certainty about what the economic opportunities are going to be for this product, and how Northerners are going to access them? Thank you.

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Mr. Speaker, as mentioned previously, there have been a series of public meetings and in addition to that as I mentioned yesterday approximately 1,100 online responses. We will soon be coming up with a "what we heard" document, so we will have some idea of what the public's opinion is with respect to this important issue. I look forward to working with all Members of this House with respect to moving forward with this change in our law and how we are going to be dealing with the retail and distribution end for this product. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 837-18(2):
DELETION OF MOOSE KERR SCHOOL
RETROFIT

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Even though this topic does include Infrastructure, but from previous commitments, I have questions for the Minister. I would like to ask the Minister: when did the Department of Public Works and Services, as it was previously known, advise that a major

retrofit or a replacement of Moose Kerr School was not necessary? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After every annual capital planning process, the department goes back and looks at its 20-year capital needs assessment. You have to understand that there are a lot of areas that we have to look into; colleges, museums, libraries, information technology, other infrastructure. Last year, in June of 2016, a review was done, it was looked at, and it was done by the Department of Infrastructure, and at that time it was considered to be in good condition. All the work that has gone into Moose Kerr School over the number of years, and the Member had made some mention of it, did extend its life by 20 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: When did the Department of Education, Culture and Employment accept this recommendation?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: I do not have the exact date at this time. I am willing to get that information and get it to the Member so he knows at what time the department accepted the review and recommendations from the Department of Infrastructure.

MR. BLAKE: A follow-up to my two previous questions, then: to what assessment was the Minister referring to on February 8, 2017, when he said, "Should the assessment determine that a renovation is required, a planning study will be launched in 2018-2019 to begin this process?"

HON. ALFRED MOSES: As I mentioned, there has been a lot of work that was done to Moose Kerr School. I also mentioned that we have a lot of infrastructure within the Department of ECE. After every business, or every capital planning process, we do go back and look at our 20-year needs assessment. There are priorities in every community across the Northwest Territories. We also have 49 schools. We look at utilization rates when we take those into consideration, as well as our own needs assessment criteria, so those things come into play when we have to look at the whole scope of infrastructure needs within our department, but across all departments in the GNWT.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, what criteria indicated to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment that a major retrofit or replacement of Moose Kerr School was not necessary?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: There are various criteria that we do look at, Mr. Speaker, such as safety, stage in the asset life cycle, environmental

concerns, program needs, and preparation for further future business plans. As I mentioned, when the Department of Infrastructure looked at it, they said it was in good condition and extended the life cycle by 20 years; that is part of the criteria that we do look at. We base that on other infrastructure projects not only within our department but also right across the board of government. Those are some of the areas, but I can get more detailed information for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 838-18(2):
KAW TAY WHEE SCHOOL IN DETAH

MR. BEAULIEU: Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak a bit about the Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah. Mr. Speaker, the Kaw Tay Whee School in the 20-year assessment in 2016-2017 had been marked down as a renovation for \$2.5 million. In 2017-2018 it was a replacement for \$6 million. Then in 2018-2019 it was a renovation and an addition for \$6.4 million. Last year's acquisition had another \$6 million for replacement. I would like to ask the Minister what the plan is moving forward. Is this a replacement or a major renovation and addition? Thank you.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Work at Kaw Tay Whee School in Detah has been on the capital planning list, as well, and needs some work. We are working with committee. Both for Detah and Ndilo, we are looking at addressing some of the capacity issues, but also the age of the school. Right now, a planning study will be undertaken in 2018-2019 for the replacement of the school.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, in the latest detailed plan I have, the planning study was to be occurring in this fiscal year, 2017-2018, and then the beginning of the renovation in 2018-2019, so I want to ask the Minister if that plan has just been shifted one year and that is the only change.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: After we did the technical status evaluation, there were some other little things that needed to be addressed right away, such as in the areas of space and other technical issues. We needed to get that done. It has just gone off by a year, and we will get that planning study under way in 2018-2019.

MR. BEAULIEU: That is good news. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he can commit to involving the YK Dene in all aspects of the school, the planning, student needs, employment, design, and construction jobs.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, any time we do any major retrofits or replacement of a school, we do meet with community members and leadership to see what that might entail. However, we do have capital standards when we build our schools and infrastructure in our communities, and in some cases we do have governments, Indigenous governments, or other organizations, that want to make it bigger. At that point, we would have to go to a P3 process, but we always do involve community input.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if there has been any discussion on where the school will be built. In other words, has there been identification of a site for the school? Thank you.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Yes, initial discussions between some of the YK Dene chief, the SAO, and some of our department have begun in March of 2017. We will continue those discussions this fall and see where we go from there. We will keep the Member updated on how that progresses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 839-18(2):
REAL ESTATE SALES CONSUMER
PROTECTION

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, as she has responsibility for consumer protection. I just want to add to my Member's statement that I am not aware of any widespread problems with the real estate sector in Yellowknife or the NWT and that I personally used their services to my complete satisfaction in the past. My statement outlined the situation in multiple representation or dual agency in brokering of real estate transactions. As I pointed out, our legislation is very weak when it comes to the regulation of buying and selling properties. Has the department received complaints or requests regarding this element of the real estate business in the Northwest Territories? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to date, no, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has received no complaints regarding the dual agency role of real estate agents. However, I would like to stress that within the act we do have a provision for a superintendent for real estate. If there are any residents in the Northwest Territories who have complaints regarding the potential role of a dual agency role, acting on behalf of the buyer and the seller, then please contact Municipal and Community Affairs, talk to the superintendent of real estate, and we will take note.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that response. I appreciate that very much. I acknowledged her reference to getting consumer protection information out earlier in my statement today and thank her again for this in the House, but I am wondering if her officials have researched other jurisdictions to determine how the real estate sector is regulated and what, if any, changes might be made here, in the Northwest Territories.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: At this point, no, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has not done any research regarding the dual agency role for real estate agents. It has not been identified as a priority, it has not been identified in our mandate, and it has not been identified as a public safety issue at this point, so, to date, no, we have not done any cross-jurisdictional research.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks to the Minister for that answer. As I pointed out in my statement, our current legislation regulating real estate transaction deals with regard to ethics are under sort of a catch-all section prohibiting "anything that dishonestly influences, discourages, or induces a trade." Real estate transactions, as I mentioned, are amongst the most complex and significant investments many people ever make. Does the Minister agree it is time to review how we regulate the real estate sector to more specifically address ethical issues and practices such as dual agency?

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Yes, I do agree that there are a lot of acts and regulations that the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs are governed by. Very many of them are out-dated. We do need to work on updating all of the acts and regulations. However, we have prioritized, based on the mandate of this Legislative Assembly, safety issues, other issues that are necessary, such as the Western Canada Lottery Act. I had committed previously in this House that issues that were brought up would be put onto a list. We are working with all the stakeholders to identify priorities. Some of them will not be able to be done within this Assembly, but we will be putting in a report recommending that they be considered within the next Assembly if we cannot get to them.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the Minister for acknowledging her long legislative to-do list. I am just wondering if she can tell me: the legislation that governs real estate transactions, when was that last reviewed, if ever? Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: As stated in my previous answer, I do recognize that there are a lot of acts and regulations that we do need to update. The Real Estate Agent's Licensing Act was introduced in 1991. No significant changes have been made since then. Thanks to the Member, it is on our radar to actually put it forward to all of our stakeholders and ask to prioritize where it should be within our review of all the acts and regulations that we are governed by. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 840-18(2):
MEDICAL TRAVEL CO-PAYMENT THRESHOLDS

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's statement about the ministerial travel policy, I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The \$80,000 threshold for medical travel that I spoke about earlier does not take into account how many people in the household that \$80,000 is supporting, if there is an ongoing medical condition that requires frequent trips out of town, and the fact that it essentially punishes citizens for living outside Yellowknife where most of these services are offered. I am no socialist, but I do not think that costs should get in the way of people in Hay River receiving the same medical care as people in Yellowknife. I would like to ask the Minister: what is the rationale for this \$80,000 threshold? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the rationale for the \$80,000 co-payment is or, rather, the level of the \$80,000 co-payment. I know that my predecessor once referred to it as an arbitrary number. Clearly, we need to review the use of co-payment and the amount of the co-payment. That work is currently being done as part of the medical travel review, where we are reviewing a number of aspects of the medical travel policy, including the co-payment. We want to take into consideration not just the family income, but the size of the family; the illness that the individual might be suffering from; and the fact that some individuals, when they are ill,

may not be able to earn, and looking at last year's tax return might be the complete wrong thing to do.

These are the types of things that we are doing. We are hoping to have this work done late in this calendar year so we can present to committee early in the next calendar year so that we can make important changes to medical travel to benefit all residents in the Northwest Territories and to make sure that they can get to the treatment they need when they need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMPSON: It seems like I am late to the game and the Minister is already on top of this, but I have been hearing about the medical travel review for quite a while now, and it always seems like something bumps it. Can the Minister commit that this review is going to be completed when he says it is going to be and that I can tell my constituents that they do not need to worry about these arbitrary numbers anymore?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The review of medical travel actually started in the last Assembly. There was a significant amount of public consultation that was done. The department went out and sought information from users of the system from across the Northwest Territories. A lot of data was gathered.

A number of things have happened. We have put in an appeal process, I personally think it still needs a little bit of tweaking, and we have put out a handbook to help people understand and navigate the system, but clearly, more needs to be done. The area the Member is talking about is certainly one of the areas in which we need to make more progress, as is looking at the rates that we provide for individuals who are on medical travel for ground transportation and for per diems for accommodation.

I have made a commitment already that that work will get done. My intention is to have that work done late in this calendar year so that we can make presentation to committee early next calendar year so that we can bring the changes into effect April 1, 2018.

MR. SIMPSON: I had a bunch of pointed questions, but the Minister is actually doing this work already, so he is off the hook. How about this, though? Because this is a ministerial policy, I assume you can change it with a stroke of a pen. How about at least adjusting that \$80,000 threshold for inflation? For the next few months until this is in place, people could get the care they need and it would not be an economic hardship. This is not an academic exercise. I have people in my constituency who bring this up to me for whom this is a real issue, and it affects them every single month. Would the Minister be willing to do that?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I appreciate that the Member thinks that this is easy and it can be done with the stroke of a pen, but if we are going to make a change on some financial levels, we need to understand the implications of those. We need to understand why. I will say that in cases of undue hardship, where a family is experiencing some significant difficulty, we are willing to look at these on a one-off, one-on-one basis to make sure that we are not really disadvantaging families where there is undue hardship.

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

QUESTION 841-18(2):
DISMISSAL OF AURORA COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did some additional research and I have some additional questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about his decision to dismiss the Aurora College board of governors in May. According to the board minutes posted on the college web site from the February meeting, "Individual board members brought forward their concerns over the budget cuts, specifically the impact on students, regional centres, and staff." Can the Minister tell us what consultation he did with the board prior to announcing the changes to the teacher education and social work programs? Mahsi.

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

HON. ALFRED MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in previous sessions, our staff worked with Aurora College to look at some of these proposed cuts and made sure that we made informed decisions based on data and the information that they provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. GREEN: The minutes of that February meeting go on to say, "The board also noted their disappointment in how the decisions were brought forward with little consultation or discussion with the board." Does the Minister recall this statement from his February meeting with them?

HON. ALFRED MOSES: If the Member wants, we can get that information on how the process went down in regards to our staff meeting with the Aurora College senior management, how this information was relayed, and how this discussion happened right from staff to staff. We will get that information for the Member.

MS. GREEN: I will take that as a commitment. The minutes of the February board meeting is that the

board was fully functional. It was engaged in issues of financing, governance, strategic planning, and so on. I am still not understanding why the Minister decided to fire the board in May.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: When the discussions of the foundational review had taken place in the May/June sitting, we looked at some direction that has come through, and one of those discussions and directions that were brought forth from some Members was that we look at the governance and we look at the structure of the college. There was a recommendation from the 2013 document moving forward. We took that decision, made that decision, and we are going to be looking at governance as we do this foundational review moving forward, and we look forward to the results.

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

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to push back on that statement. I do not recall any of the Regular MLAs saying that they wanted the board dismissed and that this was something that they wanted to see in connection with the foundational review. What I want to say is that those minutes which I have just referenced indicate clearly that the Minister and the board were on different pages. The obvious question is: did the Minister decide to dismiss the board so they would not have any further pushback about the changes he wants to make at the college? Mahsi.

HON. ALFRED MOSES: No, not at all. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports on committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Justice.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 439-18(2): ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RENTAL OFFICER, APRIL 16, 2016 TO MARCH 31, 2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 440-18(2): 28TH ANNUAL REPORT, 2016-2017, VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NWT

TABLED DOCUMENT 441-18(2): ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGAL AID COMMISSION, 2016-2017."

HON. LOUIS SEBERT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following three documents entitled "Annual Report on the Activities of the Rental Officer, April 16, 2016 to March 31, 2017," "28th Annual Report, 2016-2017, Victims Assistance Committee of the NWT," and "Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission, 2016-2017." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Committee Report 11-18(2); Committee Report 12-18(2); Minister's Statement 186-18(2); Tabled Document 416-18(2), with Member for Hay River North in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Chair, Committee would like to consider Committee Report 11-18(2). Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. We will begin consideration of Committee Report 11-18(2), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Review of Standing Committee Public Engagement and Transparency. That's a very wordy name. I will turn to Mr. O'Reilly, the chair of the committee for comments. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'll keep this very brief. I just wish to thank my colleagues who serve on the committee; the MLA for Yellowknife Centre, MLA for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, MLA for Thebacha, and MLA for Nahendeh. There are no recommendations in the report. A number of things, though, that we've already started to carry out, including improving our committee web pages here at the Assembly. We conduct much more of our business as standing committees in public, and I think it's fair to say that we'll continue to work to improve our public engagement and transparency for the remainder of this Assembly. With that, Mr. Chair, I believe that probably concludes our consideration of this report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Are there any general comments from

committee? Seeing none. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 11-18(2)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, committee. Now what is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that we rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Member for Hay River North, may I have your report?

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 11-18(2), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Review of Standing Committee Public Engagement and Transparency. I would like to report progress and that consideration of Committee Report 11-18(2) is concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Masi. Do I have a seconder? Member for Yellowknife North. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Item 23, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements

7. Oral Questions
 8. Written Questions
 9. Returns to Written Questions
 10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
 11. Petitions
 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
 14. Tabling of Documents
 15. Notices of Motion
 16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
 17. Motions
 - Motion 35-18(2), Referral of Tabled Document 419-18(2): Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised) to Committee of the Whole
 18. First Reading of Bills
 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee Report 12-18(2), Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on the Progress Review of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019
 - Minister's Statement 186-18(2), Update on the A New Day Program
 - Tabled Document 416-18(2), GNWT Capital Estimates 2018-2019
 - Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Coroners Act
 - Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Residential Tenancies Act
 - Bill 28, Interpretation Act
 - Bill 29, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2017
 - Bill 30, Health Statutes Law Amendment Act, 2017
 20. Report of Committee of the Whole
 21. Third Reading of Bills
 22. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:22 p.m.