



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session**

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

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

Pages 3199 – 3216

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Monfwi)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Tuesday, February 13, 2018****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**

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**Ministers' Statements**

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 23-18(3):  
SMALL COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY  
PROGRESS**

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Mr. Speaker, the social fabric of a small community is one of its strengths. Close family ties and a strong sense of community belonging are enduring characteristics and cannot be understated when residents make important life choices for their employment, education, and skills training.

This government made a commitment to support small communities by developing and implementing a strategy to increase training and employment in all communities. This is a part of our mandate, to enhance the Small Community Employment Support Program and develop and implement a strategy to increase employment and training in small communities that guides the delivery of territorial programming.

Last year, interim changes to benefit levels and greater flexibility were implemented to the existing Small Community Employment Support Program. Between April 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31, 2017, the creation of nearly 400 jobs was supported under this program, while Education, Culture and Employment developed a strategy to ensure the right mix of programs and supports are available to serve small communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Small Communities Employment Strategy is on schedule, and we intend to release it later this spring. In developing the strategy, Education, Culture and Employment conducted engagements that invited individuals, employers, community organizations, and other participants from across the Northwest Territories to share ideas, provide input, discuss issues, and suggest ways to support employment and training in small

communities. There was an additional online survey posted to incorporate feedback from those who could not attend the in-person sessions. In total, input from 411 stakeholders from 31 communities informed the strategy. A first of its kind, Mr. Speaker, the forthcoming Small Communities Employment Strategy outlines how the Government of the Northwest Territories will enhance employment and training opportunities and outcomes in our smallest communities.

The strategy recognizes the need to support the foundational aspects of employment and employability as well as program delivery. It will consist of programming, supports, and services that extend beyond the scope of the existing Small Community Employment Support Program.

Mr. Speaker, we have learned from all of our partners across government, business, and industry, and built on the work that has been completed to date. Over the next six years, this strategy will direct our work with the vision that Northwest Territories residents in all small communities have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for employment success.

The strategy includes four goals that mirror those of our Skills 4 Success strategy and includes increasing skill levels, bridging education and employment gaps, growing the Northwest Territories workforce, and improving decision-making with relevant labour market information. We remain focused on creating training and job opportunities in small communities.

I would like to thank all of the people who took the time to attend the engagements and respond to the survey. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution from the Committee of Rural and Remote Communities. The input we received across the territory was invaluable and has informed a Small Communities Employment Strategy built by Northerners for the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 24-18(3):  
CANADA'S AGRICULTURE DAY IN THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, our government has committed in the mandate to diversify the economy to create greater opportunities for our residents. Our investment in the agricultural sector is part of this important work, and we continue to make progress on this commitment.

Mr. Speaker, today is Canada's Agriculture Day. It is a day established to increase awareness for, and encourage the relationship between, food consumers and food producers; a relationship that we, as a government, are growing in our territory in support of our mandate to increase economic development and diversification and stabilize the cost of living in our communities. For the first time, this year, we are joining Canadian farmers, harvesters and growers, and all those who enjoy their products in marking this day.

It is a milestone that also highlights our transition to a more commercially focused agriculture sector. With the new fiscal year, we will open a new chapter in our economy as we invest new money into the implementation of our Agriculture Strategy and its goal to advance the business of food in the Northwest Territories.

Meanwhile, we are also finalizing our participation in the new Canadian Agriculture Partnership, which will build on the Growing Forward Programs that preceded it, to sustain an annual investment of \$1.2 million in the regional and community agriculture activities that have got us to where we are today.

While our first areas of strategy implementation must be in the processes and regulatory frameworks that will guide and protect our commercial food sector, the Canadian Agriculture Partnership will allow us to continue to support local agricultural training programs, courses, and workshops in areas such as greenhouse operations, new food growing techniques, food preservation, composting, and harvesting.

Mr. Speaker, while the seeds of a commercial agriculture sector in the NWT have been planted, its growth and success will depend on NWT growers and producers getting involved and embracing the potential that we have. I am happy to advise, Mr. Speaker, that they are doing just that, and more.

Our territory boasts commercial agricultural operations that range from egg and honey production to hydroponics and vegetables and a wide range of small and larger livestock. We have businesses that supply producers with seeds, local compost, feed, and other inputs. Every region has one or more commercial agricultural operations. People can shop for fresh produce at farmers' markets in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Yellowknife, Hay

River, Fort Smith, and Fort Simpson. After taking root in the Northwest Territories' first ever commercial food producers' conference in Hay River last year, a new organization is being formalized to represent the interests of Northwest Territories growers and producers.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Canada's Agriculture Day, it is my pleasure to salute the hardworking individuals in our territory who are dedicated to growing fresh, nutritious food across the Northwest Territories. Our local food producers are not only leaders within their communities; they are forging a new economic path for our territory. We have made great strides in the advancement of our agriculture sector and will continue our investment and support for the growers, initiatives, and commercial entities that will help us realize the viability and potential of this important sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 25-18(3):  
MINISTER LATE FOR THE HOUSE

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Glen Abernethy will be late arriving in the House today due to a personal matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Members' Statements**

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
MINERAL RESOURCES ACT: WHAT WE HEARD

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Tomorrow is Valentine's Day, and I am starting to get that feeling. I love mining, as long as it is properly managed and we get our fair share. Unfortunately, that is not what we got yesterday from the Minister of mining when he tabled the "what we heard" report on the Mineral Resources Act. Rather than a good summary of what was submitted, it is a classic example of regulatory capture. Regulatory capture happens when a government agency, created to act in the public interest, instead advances the commercial concerns or interests of the industry or sector it is charged with regulating.

Most of the input provided to ITI during its public engagement is boiled down into almost unintelligible bullets that do not provide any detail. ITI has not posted the written submissions. Rather than a good summary of what many stakeholders submitted, the "what we heard" report seems to have been cherry-picked from submissions to suit the department's views as a promoter of mineral

development. Many comments from stakeholders are categorized improperly, taken out of context, or the main points are not presented at all. Something as basic as moving the responsibility for mineral rights administration to the Department of Lands to avoid bias and conflict of interest is not even mentioned.

No further information is provided on best practices or lessons learned from other jurisdictions, despite a promise by the Minister to do so on October 19<sup>th</sup> in a public briefing to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment. ITI's "cross-jurisdictional reviews and extensive policy research" should have easily allowed for this information to be made available to the public.

There is no clear indication in the report whether there will be any further public engagement as promised by the Minister at the public briefing and even yesterday here on the floor of this House.

An ITI-commissioned international benchmarking study and other research show GNWT is not collecting enough revenue from mining. While I have gone on record as asking the department to take the time to get it right, delaying the review of royalties and taxation from mining will cost our territory literally tens of millions of dollars of lost revenue. No details on this royalty review are provided in the document, and it was very disappointing to hear the Minister say yesterday that this important work is not likely to take place during this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. As I said, it was disappointing to hear the Minister say yesterday that this important work is not likely to take place during this Assembly. Why did we bother to get devolution when something as fundamental as how much money the public gets from resource extraction is not going to be reviewed? Why should Ottawa give us any more authority when we won't even exercise what we have? Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the mining Minister later today. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Canada has taken steps to replace its northern strategy with a new Arctic Policy Framework. As part of this work, Mary Simon,

former Ambassador to the Arctic Council, and Minister Bennett, Special Representative, developed a new Shared Arctic Leadership Model. In her report, Ms. Simon makes a series of recommendations for action in Canada's Arctic regions, including the Northwest Territories.

I appreciate the recommendations, and I know that they were made after engagement and consultation, but there still seems to be some uncertainty around federal policies relating to northern development. This makes me wonder about the role our government has played to make sure that our priorities are taken into consideration for this Arctic Policy Framework.

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of devolution and respecting our existing comprehensive land rights agreements, as well as those currently being negotiated, the people of the NWT need to be in charge of our own future. We recognize that this will require collaboration and partnerships, and I appreciate the federal government working towards a vision for the Arctic. However, we cannot let Canada develop broad policies that affect us without ensuring that the priorities of our people are fully considered. The Premier has been clear on this message, and I agree with that position.

Mr. Speaker, climate change is changing Arctic lands and waters irreversibly. Commercial shipping is becoming a reality through the Northwest Passage. Our own Arctic communities are being visited by cruise ships. We have just completed the first road linking to the Arctic Ocean. Other nations, including China, Russia, and the United States, are all planning to have a major presence in the Arctic.

What is our government doing to guarantee that our needs are met in the development of Canada's Arctic Policy Framework? Has the GNWT, in fact, even determined our needs and priorities with respect to the new framework? Are Indigenous governments in the NWT able to have their say?

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to effect change and address many of our pressing challenges. It is essential for our government to step up and demonstrate strong leadership when it comes to the Arctic Policy Framework. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON KAM LAKE SEWAGE SPILL

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 15<sup>th</sup> of last month, the City of Yellowknife reported a sewage spill in my constituency of Kam

Lake. An estimated 1 million to 2 million litres of sewage was spilled, entering Kam Lake at two different locations, migrating from Kam Lake Road through drainage infrastructure and into the lots of several property owners, while the rest flowed downstream near the City Garage.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the City of Yellowknife for their prompt action to clean up this sewage spill, quickly collecting liquid sewage from the ditches and transporting it out of Kam Lake for disposal. However, frozen sewage is a more difficult matter, and one of the excavators hired to complete the clean-up work near the city garage broke through the ice on Kam Lake, further complicating the clean-up effort.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is more than raw sewage, although I cannot imagine a more unpleasant situation for homeowners to have to deal with. It is about ensuring the environmental health of our residents and, in particular, the residents that I represent in this House. It is important that we communicate clearly and in an effective manner with the public on this spill and provide the confidence to my constituents that all levels of government are on the case working to ensure the neighbourhoods are clean, healthy, and safe.

That's why I am pleased to report that tonight an open house will be held at Yellowknife City Hall, and I urge all those affected and other interested parties to join me at this public information event. I applaud the city for also taking the lead for ensuring that this clean-up is being done in a transparent and open manner. Although we are well into the month of February, there is still much more work to be done to ensure this spill is taken care of, and given the overlapping mandates of various governments on environmental protections, clean-up is not solely the responsibility of the City of Yellowknife alone to resolve. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for the Government of the Northwest Territories' response to the sewage spill, and I will have questions to the Minister responsible on the role of the department in assisting the city to restore the environmental health of my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON POWER IN KAKISA

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Power outages are all too common in our smallest communities, which generally depend on a diesel plant to generate electricity. In Kakisa, loss of electrical power has caused frozen pipes and septic lines, and other difficulties.

In fact, Kakisa does not even have a generator. Its power comes from the Dory Point generator operated by Northland Utilities near the Mackenzie River; and Northland itself is a small division of a big Alberta company. Some power outages are caused by the weight of accumulated snow on power lines. Some are caused by unexpected spikes in power consumption. Sometimes, it takes a while to find a cause.

Kakisa does not use a lot of power, but it is still very important to the community's residents. For example, when electricity is lost for an extended period, elders who rely on furnaces to heat their homes sometimes have to leave, or find some place where there's a wood stove. Leaving your home unattended for even a day can result in frozen water lines, and that has happened.

Mr. Speaker, as small as it is, Kakisa could become a model to showcase renewable energy products and sustainability. The community worked with the Arctic Energy Alliance on a very basic community energy plan completed in 2010.

Since then, the community has discussed a number of ideas, but it is not easy to find help, and then money, to turn the best ideas into reality. Maybe a central heating system fuelled by wood pellets could supply the entire community. Perhaps, the power line could be extended from Hay River, linking Kakisa to the Taltson River grid, or a local mini-hydro system might be built to supply the community's needs. Maybe the solution to frequent outages is as simple as a portable backup generator for each household.

The problem is, it seems to be no one's job to study these opportunities and come up with a working solution. Once again, I wonder: why doesn't the government help the small communities? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON 2017 LIVING WAGE

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, living wage calculations have been undertaken across the country, including here in Yellowknife. The premise of the living wage is that no one who is working full-time should be living in poverty, yet many do. Tax filer data says that one in three single-parent families, and one in eight two-parent families, don't earn enough money to meet their most basic needs.

The living wage is calculated for the most common family type. That's two parents who work full-time with one child in school and one in licensed

childcare. It won't surprise anyone that this family's biggest expense is rent. Close behind is the cost of childcare, at almost \$16,000 a year for full-time care for one child and after school care for the other. The cost of food rounds out the list of top three expenses.

Mr. Speaker, the living wage calculated for Yellowknife is \$22.24 an hour. That's a useful measure of the cost of living here. The wage has increased by \$1.56 an hour since 2015, driven by a 5 per cent cost increase in rent and 5 per cent in childcare, and 6 per cent in food in the last two years. The living wage calculation takes into account government benefits and transfers. The revamped NWT Child Benefit netted the family of four only \$14 a year. The family was over the income threshold for the Housing Corporation's rent supplement program and had difficulty accessing a childcare subsidy. Income thresholds are too low for these programs to allow low-income families to benefit from them.

Employers who voluntarily pay the living wage see the benefits, including attracting and keeping qualified staff and increasing productivity. My hope is that more employers will consider joining this initiative. Government has a role to play, too, by increasing the income threshold for programs that takes into account the cost of living and by indexing benefits to inflation.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of paying a living wage is that it offers a systemic response to poverty. A living wage enables families to meet their basic needs without the help of public housing and food banks. It enables them to be independent, and to experience the satisfaction that comes with that. I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECRUITMENT OF DOCTORS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today, my Member's statement is about doctors in the NWT healthcare system. Currently, only 45 per cent of NWT residents have a regular doctor, which means that just over half the population goes from one doctor to another to another as they try to address their own personal health issues. The rest of Canada has not faced the same issue, as the national average sits at 83 per cent, according to the 2017 Statistics Canada report.

Mr. Speaker, the department started working on creating a territorial pool of doctors that would lessen the use of locum doctors, but today it seems as though we are no further along than we were when we started.

Mr. Speaker, our residents are lacking medical consistency, which leaves them vulnerable to shorter life expectancy, higher infant mortality rates, and fewer opportunities for cancer screening. Due to a lack of access to, and long-term relationships with, health professionals, our residents are getting less medical service than what is normal in the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of having our doctors living and practising in the NWT is very exciting and would have positive impact on the health of our residents, not to mention the benefits that we have in our communities and our housing markets. I'll give one example. Let's say that the new Hay River Health Centre has a full complement of six doctors, but could only find three doctors willing to live in Hay River. Under the territorial pool, the system could hire six doctors who would live in Yellowknife, and they would practise half-time at the new Stanton Hospital, and practise half-time in Hay River.

Mr. Speaker, another bonus of such a scenario would be patients from Hay River, if referred to Yellowknife, would have a very good chance of seeing their own regular doctor here at Stanton. Mr. Speaker, the government needs to hire more doctors to live in the North. With a lack of full-time doctors, I believe doctors are facing challenges with heavy workloads. I urge the Minister of Health to engage with the NWT Medical Association on working on a strategic plan to attract physicians to move to the North. We need to address this issue and work towards recruiting and retaining doctors for the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR DORIS MACPHERSON

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the House that early Sunday morning on November 19<sup>th</sup> in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Doris MacPherson passed away after a long battle with her sickness. Her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson were by her bedside as she passed away in her sleep.

Doris was born on September 30, 1946, to Lucy and George MacPherson in Fort Simpson.

Doris enjoyed her life to the fullest and always had a smile and a good word for everybody that she met.

Doris adored her two children, Darrel and Nikki, and her grandson Brandon. When she came home, she made time with her loving sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and extended family, first and foremost. She always loved coming home and was planning on moving back.

In the early 1960s, Doris moved to Yellowknife to work for the Commissioner of the NWT. Yes, she worked for Stuart Hodgson, and I have seen a copy of her ID with his signature on it. She was very proud to have been given that opportunity to work with him. In 1975, Doris and her son Darrel left the NWT for a job in Nanaimo, BC, with the federal government in the social work field.

In 1980, she met her late husband, Gordon Desroches. Together they traveled all over Canada and the US. When you talked to her about her husband and their travels, it was amazing to hear about all their adventures together. As Doris had said to her family, the years she spent with her husband were truly her happiest and most loving time in her life. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2004.

When people spoke about Doris, they would say that she was the light in everyone's life. She was generous, kind, and known for her sense of humour, and could always be seen dancing.

The community of Fort Simpson and the family had a memorial service for her on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at the rec centre. The service was well attended and on Tuesday, June, 21<sup>st</sup>, she will have her ashes buried on her mother's grave in Fort Simpson. She will be sadly missed by all.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Our condolences to the family, as well. Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendeh.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a long-term friend. We grew up together in Hay River and he now lives in Yellowknife. Sean Ivens, welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I'd like to also welcome Sean Ivens, entrepreneur of the North. Thanks for being here with us. Masi. Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 90-18(3): KAM LAKE SEWAGE SPILL

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Member's statement earlier today, normally I like to share good news stories about my riding, but unfortunately, we had a rather large sewage spill, so I'd like to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources what role the department has played in assisting the City of Yellowknife in cleaning up this awful mess. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that they had called the spill line and ENR officers went to the site. ENR, we are the lead regulatory agency that ensures responsible parties like the city maintains operations. They meet departmental standards for the protection of people, property, and management, so our officers were on the scene right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. TESTART:** Are there any concerns arising from the regulatory side related to the spill? Has it been well contained by the city? Are there any lasting environmental hazards to my constituents, and in particular, property owners in Kam Lake?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** My understanding is the city responded very well to the site. They cleaned it up right away, they had a vacuum truck on site, and transported the sewage that was spilled. Unfortunately, the excavator that they were using also went through the ice, but our department reports that there was no petroleum contamination on site and they continued to work with the city to ensure that the site is well taken care of.

**MR. TESTART:** I'd like to thank the Minister for his answer and for the action the department has taken. Tonight, there is a public town hall. Will personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources be on hand to answer any questions members of the public might have as it relates to the spill?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I will give direction to the department to ensure that we have staff on hand to answer any questions that may come up during the meeting.

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

#### QUESTION 91-18(3): COLVILLE LAKE SOLAR POWER PROJECT

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, throughout my term as an MLA for Nahendeh, we've heard about this great project at Colville Lake, with the solar there. I have some questions for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation in regards to the project in Colville Lake: who was involved to help fund this pilot project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories provided \$1,150,000 for the hybrid solar, photovoltaic, diesel, and battery energy power plant project in Colville Lake. The federal government also contributed money in the amount of \$150,000, so total government contributions amounted to \$1.3 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for his answer. In regards to this project, and it's a pilot project from my understanding from the different briefings I've received from the department and the Power Corporation, can the Minister tell us how long this pilot project is scheduled to last?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I can advise that monitoring will continue over the entire life of the project. Our experience with this type of project is that what we learn from the project can be used and applied to future projects under the energy strategy. Solar panels have a life of 25 years or more, but batteries have a lesser life of about 10 years. Battery technology, however, is improving, so that may enhance the project.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. It's good to hear that the corporation is learning as they move on for other projects. Can the Minister please advise this House: what has the Power Corporation learned from this project and how we can move forward with it?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** The goal of the project was to validate the integration of solar with significant storage capacity and test the limits of integrating intermittent renewable energy sources. NTPC has contracted with a third party to complete a performance review of the hybrid plant at Colville Lake, to be completed at the end of March 2018. Once the study is complete, the design basis for a standard energy storage system will be completed for consideration and other NTPC thermal power plants.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to give some credit to the Power Corporation because, when the solar panels are working there,

you can hear a pin drop in the community; it's that quiet. So it's very positive in that nature. When can we see the Power Corporation actually expand this project to other small communities, such as, Jean Marie or Kakisa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** The Power Corporation supports the government's work on the 2030 Energy Strategy, and is looking forward to becoming a key partner in implementing a three-year action plan that is currently under development. We understand that emerging renewable energy projects require additional financial support, and the GNWT is committed to covering the incremental costs of these investments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 92-18(3):  
MINERAL RESOURCES ACT

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. The report on the Mineral Resources Act public engagement exercise is a "what we believe" document from ITI, rather than "what was said." Can the Minister explain why he promised that there would be more information made available from ITI's "cross-jurisdictional reviews and expensive policy research," in this report, yet there's nothing on that subject in the document? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have moved into the legislative drafting process on the MRA, Mineral Resources Act. What we heard during the public engagement along with consideration of other key elements, the resulting of the scoping exercise across jurisdictional review on policy research, that is what we take now. It is going to guide us to help us develop the Mineral Resource Act. Because that specifically may not have been in the "what we heard" report doesn't mean we haven't taken those things into consideration.

Our policy rationale for the proposed act will be provided to standing committee as part of our legislative process. When we get there, we can explain that. As we enter the next phase of the legislative process, we are talking about necessary steps to ensure the role of standing committee and Cabinet as legislators are not fettered. We need to continue moving this forward. We need to be able to carry out the drafting policy development moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks to the Minister for that response. He promised to give more information on how this is dealt with in other jurisdictions in the report. It is not there. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, when he did appear before the standing committee, he promised there would be targeted public engagement on this report. Yesterday, he repeated that promise in the House. Can the Minister explain what this targeted engagement is and who is going to be consulted and when?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The public engagement plan was provided to standing committee and stated that the second round of engagement could occur based on the expression of interest of community and feedback that we have. In fact, this is already happening. We have already met with the Chamber of Mines. We have received the request to meet with Alternatives North and expect to meet with them also moving forward. We will also continue to meet with the Intergovernmental Council going forward with the drafting process.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks again to the Minister for that. Unfortunately, the "what we heard" report doesn't even invite any further comments or public engagement. Glad to hear it is happening, though. It might just be advertised a little bit better. In the House yesterday, the Minister said that a review on mining revenues would not likely take place during this Assembly. It is my view ITI cannot be left in charge of this review due to its conflict of interest as mining promoter and the obvious regulatory capture that has taken place. Many other jurisdictions like Alberta have conducted independent reviews of economic rent from non-renewable resources. Will the Minister commit to an independent, evidence-based review of economic rent from mining, including taxes and royalties, during the life of this Assembly?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The Member knows he is asking a question that can't be answered. How can we know what we are losing out on if we don't know what the royalty regime will be in the future? We know that, as an interim, the mines will continue to provide jobs for residents in the Northwest Territories, business opportunities. They will continue to pay their fees and maintain their mineral tender, pay their land, tenure fees, royalties, property taxes, payroll taxes, and corporate taxes, as well as abiding by the socio-economic agreements and the IDAs that they have signed into.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I actually heard a response to my question. I will try it again. I think he has leapt ahead to the next one I

was going to ask. I was looking for a commitment from the Minister to an independent, evidence-based review of economic rent from mining, including taxes and royalties, during the life of this Assembly. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I stated in the House yesterday, we are not prepared to do that in the life of this Assembly. In our discussions with the Intergovernmental Council, we have made the decision to park this review of royalties moving forward until such time as the MRA is done and we will continue to move towards that. When we do come forward with the mineral resource royalties review, I can assure this House that we will have meaningful participation no different than what we have done on the MRA. We will have reached out to all the regions, all the stakeholders, all the residents of the Northwest Territories online, in person, what we need to do to make sure we get this Mineral Resource Act right and the royalties moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 93-18(3):  
ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I was talking about the Arctic Policy Framework and that the federal government is replacing the Northern Strategy with the new Arctic Policy Framework. My questions today are for the Premier. While I appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that there is work being done, I am a little bit concerned that the framework doesn't really align or isn't balanced with the territory's goal and objectives. I would like to start by asking the Premier: can the Premier, first of all, tell Northerners what our government is doing to guarantee that our needs are being met in the development of the Arctic Policy Framework? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The Honourable Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the Arctic Policy Framework is a federal policy. There are no guarantees, because it will be developed by the federal government. Having said that, the federal government has seen fit, in their definition of "Arctic," to include not only Yukon, Nunavut, and the Northwest Territories, but have also included Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Manitoba, and, of course, Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Metis National Council. As I said, this is the federal government.

Nonetheless, we are working very hard to include all sectors, all stakeholders, all governments in

developing a Northwest Territories chapter. Obviously, the federal government will have the overarching document. There will be chapters for NWT, Nunavut, Yukon. There will be chapters for the three provinces. There will be chapters for AFN, ITK, and MNC.

We are holding round tables to ensure that we get as much input as possible. The only guarantee I wouldn't say is a guarantee. I wrote to the Prime Minister. He wrote back that he welcomed our input, that we will have our own NWT chapter, and if we didn't like what was written in a draft, he would be pleased to meet to talk about how we could improve the policy framework for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you to the Premier for the details that he shared in the reply. Just for a little bit of clarification, I would like to ask the Premier: I recognize that we are undergoing efforts on our part to make a contribution to the chapter in the Arctic Policy Framework. I just want to get confirmation again from the Premier: are we consulting with Indigenous governments here in our territory for a contribution to that chapter?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As part of the overall framework, our government has the opportunity to develop a chapter. We have begun that process with a series of round tables with Indigenous governments, industry, and non-government organizations to identify key issues to include in the NWT chapter. I should point out that Indigenous governments certainly have other opportunities. The Inuit can have input into the ITK chapter. They have alliances with Nunavut, so they could have input in the Nunavut chapter. The federal government is holding parallel round tables throughout the North with the same people. They will be very well represented and have a lot of input into this document.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thanks again to the Premier for his reply. Last year, at roundup, not the most recent one but the one before, the Premier along with our sister territories announced the Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development. Is it the Premier's position that the Government of the Northwest Territories, a significant part of our chapter in the Arctic Policy Framework will stem from the Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As the Member knows, the Minister of Indigenous Affairs Canada appointed a Ministerial Special Representative to consult across northern Canada about the Arctic Policy Framework. Mary Simon was the MSR, and the three Northern Premiers felt that her report was too focused on conservation. I think it would be hard for us to find the words "sustainable development" any

place in that report, and we felt that we needed to have some balance. The three Premiers of the three northern territories developed the Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development that we submitted, and submitted it to the Prime Minister, and that is one aspect of it. In writing the chapter, as I said, we will be consulting across the territory, and this will provide input into the development of the Northwest Territories chapter.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Premier's reply. There have been some concerns, I suppose, that have been raised about the Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development in the sense that some folks are concerned about the balance that it might have within itself.

I would just like to ask the Premier: as much as it does focus on economic development, and frankly, I agree that that is a focus that we need to have, does the Premier feel that our goals to diversify the economy, mitigate climate change, and educate our people will also be met within the Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We support balance, sustainable development, and we believe that with the Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development, at least in the Northwest Territories chapter, we will have some balance between conservation and development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 94-18(3):  
POWER IN KAKISA

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had to think long and hard about what Minister is responsible for electricity in Kakisa. If we want to dial "E" for "energy," it is the Minister of Infrastructure who must answer the bell. I will start by asking him: who is responsible for innovative solutions to Kakisa's electricity problems? Earlier, I alluded to the frequent power outages. What funding is available for the necessary research? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you may know, Kakisa is one of the communities serviced by Northland Utilities. We do, however, have Kakisa in particular on our radar. One exciting potential project is the Fort Providence to Kakisa transmission line to connect diesel

communities to the Taltson Renewable Hydro Project, and this proposed project is detailed in our draft energy strategy that is coming out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** It is very encouraging to hear from the Minister that Kakisa is indeed on the radar. What is the Department of Infrastructure doing to help small communities develop more reliable and more sustainable options for generating electricity? Are they researching for useful community energy plans? Will the Minister commit to working with Kakisa on that?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** We have a slate of potential energy solutions for communities across the Northwest Territories, including wind, solar, LNG, mini hydro. This will depend on the local energy resources potential of each community.

Under the 2030 Energy Strategy, we are committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from diesel communities by 25 per cent by 2030. Community energy plans are well-suited for community-owned energy efficiency and renewable heating solutions, and under the energy strategy we are committed to supporting energy planning for communities that take this initiative.

**MR. NADLI:** The Minister's department has a lot of experience with pellet heating systems. Have his experts looked at the feasibility of a community heating system for Kakisa, and if so, what was the result?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** This would likely require some study. There are a lot of factors that go into understanding the type of system that would be feasible in the community. Under the Energy Strategy Action Plan, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be launching an application-based government energy fund where communities can request funds to undertake this kind of initiative.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the needs of small communities lack detail and emphasis in developing an energy strategy for the NWT. Will the Minister please explain how the territorial energy strategy will address the needs I have identified for Kakisa, for example, the frequent power outages, and, I am sure, other communities as well? Mahsi.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The 2030 Energy Strategy that we will be tabling, in fact, revolves around community needs. I think five out of the six points that we have in there are around communities and supporting communities and community residents, and the Government of the

Northwest Territories, as well as the Arctic Energy Alliance, are in line to well support communities when it comes to sustainable energy solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 95-18(3):  
2017 LIVING WAGE

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. As I mentioned in my statement, the NWT Child Benefit is not helpful to the low-income family of four that we surveyed for our living wage calculation. Their income, which is for the two of them for the year, \$92,518, qualifies them for just \$14 a year from the NWT Child Benefit, but the intention of this benefit, the Minister told us, is to help working families with their expenses. My question is: will the Minister revisit and revise the income threshold for the NWT Child Benefit? Mahsi.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and as the Member has mentioned, it is not only the NWT Child Benefit that we made improvements to and changes to with our income assistance benefits that exempted income intended to help with the costs of raising children, but we also looked at the child support payments. That was further to the work that we did with the Canada Child Benefit, and we made changes there.

I can assure the Member that any individuals and families in the Northwest Territories who are unable to meet their basic financial needs can also access assistance through GNWT social programming, and we offer those programs to the families. Seeing that this is still new, we are still going to have to look at doing the report and looking at monitoring this program moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** I thank the Minister for his response, but I believe he has missed point of the living wage. The point of the living wage is that people work full-time to take care of themselves and their families out of their employment income. They don't need food banks. They don't need public housing. They need to earn a decent wage so that they can pay their way.

To that end, the NWT Child Benefit could be very helpful to working families. That is the reason that I am interested in knowing whether the Minister will look at revising the income threshold to make it more useful to low-income families.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** The Member mentioned the living wage. The living wage reflects what earners need to bring home to live an acceptable quality of life. I just want to inform Members and the public that there is no jurisdiction in Canada currently that has legislated a living wage as part of its minimum wage policy.

As a government, collectively with Housing, Health, my Department of Education, Culture and Employment, we do provide a lot of services to help low- to modest-income families, and we continue to look at doing those supports. As I mentioned, we are really in our first year of the NWT Child Benefit. I will go back to the department and have those discussions in terms of how the evaluation of the NWT Child Benefit was in its first year, and we have not had a complete first year yet.

**MS. GREEN:** I appreciate the Minister's willingness to go back and look. For what it is worth, the income threshold is also too low for the Canada Child Benefit. Mr. Speaker, the point of the living wage is not to ask government to legislate the living wage, but rather it is to encourage employers to see the benefits for themselves of paying a living wage in order to recruit and retain and encourage greater productivity from their work force. We are not looking for legislation of the living wage.

I want to talk about how the cost of living has been gone up in the last two years; 5 per cent each for shelter and childcare, 6 per cent for food. Is there any thought about indexing this benefit to inflation?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Setting minimum wage to increase with inflation could limit our ability to explore other options for adjusting the minimum wage rate. We do have a Minimum Wage Committee that does a lot of work on behalf of the government and brings back options. They do that every two years. As you know, NWT CTR rates are based on Yellowknife. If there were any links to that, it would adversely affect some of our more northern and more isolated communities that do even have a higher cost of living, if we looked at doing something with that as it is based on costs here in Yellowknife.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, I didn't make my question more clear to the Minister. I am not asking him to index the minimum wage. The methodology for calculating minimum wage is something entirely different than calculating the living wage. What I'm asking him to do is index the NWT Child Benefit. Is that possible? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Not at this time. As I said, we are in our first year of the NWT Child Benefit.

We need to look at the evaluations, look how this has affected our families right across the Northwest Territories. As I mentioned, any families or individuals who do need that extra support for the basic needs, our government is always there to support and help and provide the most basic needs for our families across the NWT, and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 96-18(3):  
GANGS IN CORRECTIONAL CENTRES IN THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you pay attention to the news, it seems like major drug busts have become common place in the NWT. Despite the hard work of the RCMP, the market here is so robust that there appears to be no shortage of money to be made. In addition to the social problems that the drug trade brings, it also brings a lot of Southerners, many of whom have ties to gangs and organized crime. What happens to these people? When they are arrested, they are put into the North Slave Correctional Complex in remand along with the general population. What I am concerned about is because what's happening is we are putting a lot of our young troubled youth. If you are in your 20s, you are still a youth. You are putting them in a remand unit with hard criminals and gang members, and correctional centres are proven to be excellent recruiting ground for gangs. A lot of these Southerners bring the mentality, a level of violence that isn't traditionally seen in northern correctional centres.

I would like to ask the Minister, because this is a relatively new problem compared to other places, it is not out of control yet. Does the Department of Justice have any sort of policy in place to deal with the influx of gangs into the correctional system in the Northwest Territories?

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise that Corrections is aware of this problem which the Member opposite has alluded to. I can advise that gang awareness is covered for new recruits in the Corrections training program, so staff are aware of the problem involving gangs; they are able to identify and deal, hopefully, with those issues. Thank you.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Maybe I will look for some more details in a minute, but I'd like to know: does the department do anything to basically get the gang members out of the territory? Maybe send them

back to their home jurisdiction, or to a correctional facility that might be better able to handle them?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I can advise that those on remand, which would cover many of the gang members who are in the facility, people on remand are held in the jurisdiction in which the offence has occurred. Now, once they're sentenced, particularly if they are sentenced to a federal term of incarceration, they are generally sent south, but we can't do that with remands.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I read the news. I see a lot of these people who are arrested from the South. They are on probation. They have other charges. If they are importing pounds of cocaine and firearms, they are looking at significant time.

What they do is they try and do as much time as they can at North Slave because it's easier time than doing it at Bowden or something. What has the department done to look into sending them back? I know he says we can't send them out of the jurisdiction, but have they tried? Have they tried anything?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** As I mentioned previously, those alleged gang members really fall into two categories. Those who are on remand, we don't have the ability to send them back to the jurisdictions from which they came.

Also, too, that would be difficult financially. For example, they might have many court appearances, and if they were sent back, say, to Ontario, then we would have to bring them back at our cost each time they appeared in court. However, once they are sentenced, and often they do receive lengthy sentences, many of these gang members are charged with narcotics offences, and sentences have been increasing in that area. Once they receive a sentence, if it is a federal offence, that is, two years or more, my understanding is most of them are sent back to penitentiaries in the South.

**MR. SIMPSON:** I guess when they are identified as having gang affiliation in remand, are they separated from the general population, or are they left with people who are in there, maybe just because they have addiction issues?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** The staff manages the inmate population based on risks, security, and safety to inmates. In some cases when inmates, gang members or otherwise, become dangerous, have a security concern, or are dangerous to other inmates, they can be housed outside the general population in the same facility.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am interested in this topic because I think we are at a point where we can stop this from getting worse like we have seen elsewhere. I would ask the Minister: would he be able to share the department's policy with me so I can have a look at what they are doing to deal with this gang issue? Thank you.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I will speak with corrections, and if there is a written policy regarding gang awareness, I will ask them whether they will be prepared to share that with the Member opposite. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 97-18(3):  
ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF  
CHILDCARE

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my statement today, the second largest expense for a family of four in Yellowknife is childcare, amounting to \$16,000 a year to provide full-time care for a child and after-school care for another child. To that end, I want to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about the recent study of childcare in the NWT that revealed that families had difficulty accessing childcare subsidies. I am wondering what the Minister is doing to make it easier for low-income families to qualify for childcare subsidies? Thank you.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any constituent's issues that the Member has coming by, I encourage you to come and see me at my office, and we can do it on a case-by-case basis. Our government has made improvements to subsidies that we give to all of our daycares throughout the Northwest Territories. We have 11 communities that currently do not have daycare services or access throughout the NWT, and that is a focus and a priority to try to get childcare and daycare services to those 11 communities that currently do not have that.

We do have a junior kindergarten program that we have implemented territorially this year, and we are continuing to monitor how that is working out, but any concerns that the Member has in terms of families that have approached her, or any Members in this House, I encourage them to come and see me at my office or send me an e-mail, and we can work on addressing that.

Our client service officers also work very hard with our income assistance clients to give them the services that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** I just want to reiterate that the living wage is to enable to families to earn enough money to stand on their own feet. We hear all the time in this House that the best remedy for a social program is a job. These are people who have jobs, but they are not earning enough money to make ends meet, unless they are getting \$22.24 an hour in Yellowknife. To that end, how is the Minister going to reduce the second-largest expense that these families have, which is childcare? What can he do to help working families afford the cost of childcare for their families?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned, we have made changes to our childcare subsidy programs. Myself and the Member from Yellowknife Centre actually attended the opening of the new daycare here in Yellowknife and increased spaces that allowed for more of all ages that can access the daycare programs.

As I mentioned, we have provided junior kindergarten to four-year-olds across the territory, which on average saves anywhere from \$8,000 to \$12,000 for families that put their children into the junior kindergarten program. There is a lot of work that has been done, and we continue to work with our daycares to make sure that they get all the opportunities for the childcare subsidy that is provided to them.

**MS. GREEN:** As with many things in the NWT, what is required in Yellowknife is not the same thing that is required in Paulatuk. In Yellowknife, we have an affordability question. In other small communities, a third of them in the NWT, they have accessibility problems; there are no daycares. Can the Minister craft a solution that takes into account the needs of different kinds of communities in providing affordable and accessible childcare?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, it is a priority of this government to provide early childhood development childcare as well, and in those 11 communities, I do agree with the Member that what is needed in Paulatuk is not needed the same here in Yellowknife. I think, with the junior kindergarten program, we have opened up more spaces here in Yellowknife. The new daycare opening last month was something that was very beneficial to families here in Yellowknife, and I will continue to work with groups and organizations to get the licensing and make sure that anyone who wants to open up daycare or childcare spaces, that we work with them to make sure that they have the opportunity to provide those services to our families across the Northwest Territories.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday during Committee of the Whole the Minister told us he had signed off an agreement with the federal government on childcare, and he didn't provide any other detail on that, except that there would be money carried over into the next fiscal year. Could the Minister please advise us what this agreement says about affordability and access ability of childcare? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, we did sign off on an agreement with the Government of Canada to provide more early childhood programming throughout the Northwest Territories. We are waiting on the signing from the federal government in order to make sure that the action plan that we are developing through that signing was agreed to by both parties. We will get information and send that to committee in a letter to give them an update on how we are using those dollars to provide affordable and accessible childcare throughout the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 98-18(3):  
CONSULTATION ON PAN-TERRITORIAL VISION  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Premier, and they are with regard to the Pan-Territorial Vision on Sustainable Development and the Arctic Policy Framework. I don't recall there being any public consultations on the pan-territorial vision. Can the Premier confirm that for me? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The Honourable Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The three northern Premiers worked together as part of the Northern Premiers Forum to develop this pan-territorial vision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I would like to thank the Premier for confirming that there was no public consultation with regard to the development of that statement. I have had a chance to look at it. It is supposed to be about sustainable development. You could actually take the word "sustainable" out and just replace it with "resources." There is nothing in the document, really, with regard to sustainability.

The classic definition of "sustainability" is to make sure that things that we do today do not take away from opportunities for future generations. It is about intergenerational equity. The Premier himself has talked about balancing economy and environment. Why is there nothing in the document about sustainability in the Pan-Territorial Vision on Sustainable Development?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As I said earlier in response to the Member for Yellowknife North's question, the three northern Premiers were very concerned about the report of the Ministerial Special Representative of the Minister of Indigenous Affairs Canada. She was commissioned to consult with stakeholders and governments through the Arctic, and the terms of reference focused primarily on conservation.

When she met with the Premiers, we felt that the request for increased sustainable development was not reflected in the report. We felt that significant work had been done in developing conservation and protected areas. We have significant amounts of parks, and the focus of the report that they worked on was marine protected areas.

We felt it was important to have this Pan-Territorial Vision for Sustainable Development that we felt would balance the report which was going to be used as the centrepiece for the Arctic Policy Framework.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I want to thank the Premier for that. I am certainly more than a bit disappointed to hear that our government has basically rejected the work, then, that was done by the ministerial special representative.

Of course, sustainable development is more than just about resources; it's about people, things like cultural sustainability, Indigenous language and cultural revitalization, social sustainability, recognizing the roles and contributions of business and civil society. Is there going to be some incorporation of these ideas of cultural sustainability, social sustainability, into the NWT chapter of the Arctic Policy Framework?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** When the Prime Minister and President Obama announced their parallel moratoriums in the Beaufort Sea, the Prime Minister announced that the fact that, when we raised it, there was no accompanying economic development strategy to deal with the fact that we were being asked to leave billions or trillions of dollars' worth of oil and gas in the ground, there was no accompanying economic development strategy to provide jobs for the people of the Northwest Territories. He said, "Well, don't worry about it, we're going to have a clean growth job strategy, you still have tourism, you have fisheries," and so, that's what our concern was about.

So we thought the Arctic Policy Framework would be focused entirely on jobs and diversifying our economy. The fact that the Member would like to see us in two languages, culture and so on, it was not my understanding how it would work, but if, as I said, if the round tables that we will be hosting where the primary recommendations is that the Arctic Policy Framework should be focused on

languages and culture, then we will approach it on that basis.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Thanks to the Premier for that, of course. I'm not suggesting that that be the sole and exclusive focus of the document. I want to make sure that sustainability is incorporated into it. It's offered as genuine input, and I hope that he'll take me up on the offer of including that sort of information and perspectives into the document. It's not just about resource development, and nor should it be.

I have another question for the Minister: is he committed, then, to sharing drafts of the chapters as it is being put together with Regular MLAs and keeping us updated on progress and development of the chapters? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We had a very good discussion at Inter-Governmental Council, where all the Aboriginal governments that participated and signed in to devolution were very supportive of working together and developing the Arctic Policy Framework. We have committed to holding round tables throughout the North with all of the different stakeholders. Certainly, we will be pleased to share drafts of the documents as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### QUESTION 99-18(3): OMBUDSMAN LEGISLATION

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is about the time of year the Standing Committee on Government Operations conducts public hearings with statutory officers who serve an ombudsman-like role over the government. So I'd like to take the opportunity, today, to speak to the Minister of Justice, who is charged with developing ombudsman legislation: where is this proposal? Thank you.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we will be coming forward with legislation later this year. Thank you.

**MR. TESTART:** I'm very eager to see this legislation, but I notice the budget doesn't have an ombudsman office listed, so how are we paying for the ombudsman role once the legislation is passed?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** We are, of course, committed to the office of an ombudsman, but we have not yet ascertained all of the costs.

**MR. TESTART:** I mean, it's clear that Northerners need a one-stop-shop for concerns around access to government services, and we need to make sure we understand what the costs are going to be on this government to provide that service and support the ombudsman. So will the Minister commit to getting those facts and figures together and presenting them to either the Standing Committee on Government Operations or to Members of the House, so we can understand the fiscal implications of this office on this government?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Yes. I understand that this is a matter that would go to the Board of Management, so obviously they're going to have to determine what those costs are.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister committed that the legislation is going to come sometime this year. Which sitting of this House will he table the bill for ombudsman? Thank you.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I'm not certain at which sitting. We do have quite an ambitious legislative menu that is coming up; legislation in such areas as cannabis is very important and is very timely. We will, however, and are intending to bring forward legislation this year. I can't give you an exact date. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 100-18(3):  
SHARING OF DRAFTS OF NWT CHAPTER OF  
THE ARCTIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I just need to nail this down. The Premier mentioned that he was prepared to share drafts of the Arctic Policy Framework, NWT chapter, but he just didn't go as far as to say that the sharing is going to happen on this side of the House. Can the Minister clearly commit to sharing drafts of this NWT chapter, the Arctic Policy Framework, with Regular MLAs? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Premier.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have committed to sharing all of the draft documents with all of the stakeholders, including, obviously, the MLAs. I didn't think I had to specifically say it, but that's what I will be doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Item 8, oral questions. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 12, replies to budget address (day 4 of 7). Item 13, petitions. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 72-18(3):  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 2016-2017, SECTIONS I, II,  
III AND IV

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Public Accounts, 2016-2017, Sections I, II, III and IV." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. The Honourable Premier.

TABLED DOCUMENT 73-18(3):  
LETTER FROM GARY VIVIAN, PRESIDENT OF  
NWT AND NUNAVUT CHAMBER OF MINES TO  
PREMIER REGARDING NWT PARTICIPATION AT  
ROUNDUP 2018

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table to following letter from Gary Vivian, President of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, to myself, Premier McLeod, dated February 12, 2018, commending the Government of the Northwest Territories for sending a strong signal that the Northwest Territories is serious about its minerals industry, through its presence at roundup 2018, along with representatives of NWT Indigenous governments that are emerging and that are engaging in their own work to attract mineral investments and jobs to their regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

TABLED DOCUMENT 74-18(3):  
YELLOWKNIFE 2017 LIVING WAGE, REPORT  
PREPARED BY ALTERNATIVES NORTH,  
NOVEMBER 2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 73-18(3):  
RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON  
YELLOWKNIFE LIVING WAGE CALCULATION –  
NOV. 2017

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the following documents entitled "Yellowknife 2017 Living Wage, November 2017," and "Recommendations Based on Yellowknife Living Wage Calculation - Nov. 2017." Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 9-18(3):  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO  
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 15, 2018, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on February 15, 2018, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, February 20, 2018;

And further, that any time prior to February 20, 2018, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and transact its business, as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 1-18(3); Minister's Statement 19-18(3); Tabled Document 63-18(3), with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

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

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chair of the Committee of the Whole leave the chair to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** May I have the report, Member for Hay River North?

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns; Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process; and Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019. I would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Do we have a seconder? Member for Nahendeh. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed. Motion carried.

---Carried

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

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, the orders of the day for Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 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. Replies to Budget Address (Day 5 of 7)
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills

## 20. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns
- Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process
- Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019

## 22. Report of Committee of the Whole

## 23. Third Reading of Bills

## 24. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

