



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Monday, February 26, 2018**

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**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

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(Monfwi)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>3443</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3443</b>
37-18(3) – Launch of Municipal Elections Website (C. Cochrane).....	3443
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3443</b>
Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (Vanthuyne) .....	3443
Wood Pellet Production in the NWT (Thompson) .....	3444
Inuvik Hospital Privacy Breach (Green) .....	3444
Emergency Planning in the Mackenzie Delta (Blake) .....	3445
Climate Change Strategic Framework (O'Reilly) .....	3445
Basic Income Project (Testart).....	3446
Land Tenure Engagement Sessions (McNeely) .....	3446
Impact of Alcohol on Our Communities (Nadli) .....	3447
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>3447</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>3447</b>
<b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>3456</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>3456</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>3457</b>
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>3457</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>3486</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>3487</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, February 26, 2018****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. 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 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 37-18(3):  
LAUNCH OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WEBSITE

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the launch of the new Municipal Elections website, created by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs in partnership with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities. This website provides easily accessible municipal election resources to prospective candidates, community governments and to the general public. In addition to providing recent municipal election results, the website contains information on the dates, number of seats, and terms for upcoming municipal elections.

Mr. Speaker, the website targets three main audiences. These are members of the public who are considering running in a municipal election, candidates who have been elected, and returning officers who administer the elections.

For members of the public who are considering running in a municipal election, we have created the "Before You Run" section. This section provides information on the roles and responsibilities of an elected official, candidate eligibility, campaigning, and what to expect if a recount is needed.

For those who have been elected as a municipal councillor or mayor, we have created the "Now That You Are Elected" section. This section helps elected officials better understand their roles and responsibilities as community leaders. The website also provides information on conflict of interest, code of conduct and financial matters.

For returning officers who administer municipal elections, we have included resources on the

legislation that governs local government elections, including the Local Authorities Elections Act. The Returning Officer Manual is included as a resource. The manual clearly outlines the responsibilities of returning officers and provides a step-by-step guide to running a municipal election.

Mr. Speaker, the municipal elections website has been designed as a resource to be used throughout the year. If a resident would like to know when the next election is or the length of term of a council seat, this information is now easily accessible. If a municipal councillor wants more information on code of conduct or conflict of interest, a trusted source of information is now available.

Mr. Speaker, as community governments approach their elections later this year, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities will continue to promote this website to support candidates, returning officers, and elected officials. We hope that community leaders will visit this resource on a regular basis, not only to better understand their role in the community but to improve overall governance at the municipal level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

**Members' Statements**

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION  
CALLS TO ACTION

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the courageous and difficult work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission should be a benchmark in Canada's relationship with our First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, but the news every day tells us that, rather than being more united, the world is becoming more fractured. Instead of more caring and love, political dialogue articulates more hate. That is why it will take serious, deliberate, and brave actions to try to unify people in communities, and the TRC's calls to action should offer a road map to heal the wounds of the past and move toward a fair, more just

society by providing the basis for an honest, open conversation.

It concerns me, Mr. Speaker, that I don't know if our government is doing enough to respond to those calls to action. Have our dedicated public servants had the opportunities for the learning and growth that the TRC recommended? Are our senior managers and directors receiving training and orientation as the calls to action describe? How are we overcoming the gaps in education and health? Are we fully committed to restorative justice and significantly lessening Indigenous incarceration rates in the NWT?

I was inspired recently, Mr. Speaker, by some reading about the approach taken by the City of Edmonton. Edmonton established an Indigenous Relations Office. Last summer, they held Reconciliation Week to mark the anniversary of the TRC, and later they held an event called "We Are All Treaty People." It was designed to engage the public in a discussion about culture and history, educate them about the treaties, and to celebrate the historic contribution of our country's First Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I don't suggest that the GNWT should be acting like a municipal government, and I am aware of our positive collaborations with our Indigenous governments, but similar events in the North, especially here, in Yellowknife, where many other non-Indigenous people live, would go a long way in educating all of us on the important work we have as a society toward finding truth and reconciliation. Mr. Speaker, truth and reconciliation is about changing attitudes, and we must lead the way and make the calls to action a high priority for this government. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON WOOD PELLET PRODUCTION IN THE NWT

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will likely soon have a new industry in our territory manufacturing wood pellets. Aurora Wood Pellets' operation in Enterprise is expected to create many jobs at its mills and jobs for wood cutters from two First Nations communities. This is a very good thing.

I see from the records of the NWT Land and Water Board that green trees will be cut at various sites for pellet-making. Cleared lands are expected to regrow naturally without tree planting. The cuttings that have been approved are deemed to be sustainable for our forest. This is also good.

What is much less clear is whether cutting virgin forest in the NWT and then burning it as wood pellets is an environmentally sound thing to do. The release of greenhouse gases figures big in this equation. Another factor is that the live trees remove carbon dioxide from our atmosphere.

Currently, most of the wood pellets burned here for heat come from Alberta and BC. They are made from sawmill waste that would otherwise be burned without producing useful heat or energy. That is the main reason why burning these pellets instead of heating oil results in less greenhouse gas going into the atmosphere.

I am concerned this environmental benefit might be lost if we turn slow-growing northern forest into wood pellets, whether they are burned here or elsewhere in the world. So far, I have not been able to find any studies of this question in assessing the environmental impact of Aurora Wood Pellets' operation.

On the other hand, I have found studies, including one published by the Canadian Forest Service, showing that the use of Canadian green forest as a source of fuel for power or even heating releases more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere than other fossil fuels, even coal. Mr. Speaker, this tells me that caution is warranted as our territory breaks into the wood pellet industry. It tells me that this new enterprise might be more environmentally friendly if we use the by-product of saw mills that produce northern lumber. This is a business that we once had and have lost.

I am also afraid that the piece-meal review of the projects may result in, well, overlooking the forest for the trees when it comes to greenhouse gas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INUVIK HOSPITAL PRIVACY BREACH

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, privacy is a fundamental individual right that is under constant threat in this digital era. A reminder of the importance of privacy and the diligence required for government to safeguard the information it collects comes from a recent NWT Information and Privacy Commissioner ruling.

In 2015, a patient at the Inuvik Hospital complained to the CEO of an unwelcome visit from one of the medical clerks who worked there. This complaint touched off a round of investigations that revealed there was "a culture of inappropriately accessing patient information" within the clinic or, in plain language, snooping. The Information and Privacy

Commissioner found that there was a poor understanding of privacy in the clinic, poorly administered policies and procedures, poor supervision, and poor orientation for users of the electronic record system. Further, the IPC concluded, "Most likely, there are similar problems in other health facilities as well."

Mr. Speaker, to remedy the situation, the IPC made a number of recommendations. She suggested that there be a designated senior staff person responsible for privacy. He or she would deliver policy development training and supervision on privacy issues. He or she would conduct periodic audits to ensure staff were not snooping.

This privacy complaint was not the first that the hospital has received. In 2012, the IPC had investigated a different complaint on the same topic and made a set of recommendations. Some of those recommendations had not been acted on when the second complaint came along three years later. For example, the IPC recommended that each electronic medical record user have a unique user name and password. This recommendation was not followed. This recommendation is repeated in her 2017 report, along with the suggestion that new employees not be granted access to the system until they have been fully informed of privacy and confidentiality issues related to medical records.

A second unimplemented recommendation from 2012 was to grant access to electronic records based on the role that staff had at the hospital.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. GREEN:** At the time of her report, the Information and Privacy Commissioner found that almost everyone at the Inuvik Hospital had close to full access to the whole system. This recommendation on limitation is also repeated in the 2017 report.

Mr. Speaker, residents of the NWT must have confidence that this government is taking their right to privacy seriously. I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY PLANNING IN THE MACKENZIE DELTA

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Municipal and

Community Affairs is the territorial leader in emergency planning.

Each community is responsible for developing its own emergency plan, one to help them deal with things like forest fire evacuations, community-wide power outages, and more, but MACA is always there to help.

I am glad to hear that, Mr. Speaker, because emergency planning is on people's minds in the Mackenzie Delta. The recent windstorm and multiday power outage in Paulatuk really drove home how easy it can be to fall prey to natural forces. Residents also remember, in 2004, when fire destroyed the Fort McPherson power plant, leaving residents in the cold, in minus 25 degrees below zero, to be specific.

At recent constituency meetings in each of my communities, residents brought me their concerns on these matters. They also brought forward their ideas for improvements. Residents would like to see schools equipped with back-up generators, so that communities have guaranteed warming centres. They are also seeking assurance from the Housing Corporation that plans are in place to prevent pipes from freezing in public housing units and private homes, as well.

For example, when the Fort McPherson power plant was destroyed, many residents stayed warm by visiting friends and family members whose homes were heated by woodstoves. An inventory of woodfire-fuelled homes could also be a valuable asset. All of these issues could be addressed in well-developed, up-to-date community emergency plans. Such plans could also help communities plan for a wide range of potential emergencies, not only cold-weather crises. I would like to engage the Minister to help my communities take the necessary next steps to develop or update their emergency plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions later today.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Since our fall sitting, two important NWT climate change events took place. The draft Climate Change Strategic Framework was finally released on January 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, and Regular MLAs met with the Auditor General and GNWT officials to discuss the audit on NWT Climate Change.

The audit found, and I quote:

- ENR did not develop a territorial strategy to

adapt to climate change;

- ENR did not fulfill its commitment to provide departments and communities with information needed to take action on climate change;
- The territorial greenhouse gas strategy did not have a significant impact on reducing emission levels; and
- ENR did not address long-standing deficiencies affecting its leadership on climate change.

ENR provided its draft action plan in response to the audit literally a day-and-a-half before the standing committee public hearing on the matter. That is in breach of at least two Consensus Government Process Conventions. The audit action plan went as far as to claim that the Climate Change Strategic Framework addresses all of the audit recommendations. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is also almost no mention of carbon pricing and the role that will play in our international and national obligations on climate change.

Both the framework and the audit action plan neglect to say why ENR continues to fail in its leadership role on climate change or to propose specific policy or structural changes. When the Auditor General did his work, ENR was down to two staff on climate change.

I'm calling on this government to make climate change a real priority. Develop and introduce a climate change act or at least a Cabinet-approved policy that gives ENR the authority to implement the framework. Make climate change a part of Financial Management Board submissions and reviews. Establish a Ministerial round table on climate change to show real leadership and get industry buy-in. Finally, give ENR the resources to actually do the work. I will have questions later today for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BASIC INCOME PROJECT

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before in this House of the need for the NWT to implement the guaranteed basic income pilot in the life of this Assembly.

Whether it is a way to address income disparity or prepare for major changes in our economy, this innovative policy initiative is not only the right course for our government to take but, in all reality, an inevitable change we will have to implement

even if this government chooses to remain idle and continue supporting paternalistic and punitive income support programs.

I've used historical examples of Dauphin, Manitoba, but I now have something more contemporary for this government to take note of, the Ontario Basic Income Pilot. The Province of Ontario is amongst several areas of the world that is pursuing a basic income project, including Finland, which began a two-year pilot last January. The three-year pilot project in Ontario which began in Hamilton and Thunder Bay last summer and in Lindsay last fall is testing whether unconditional cash support can boost health, education, and housing for people on social assistance who are earning low wages. Information gleaned from the three communities will guide future provincial policy on how to better support all Ontarians living in poverty.

How it works is that individuals chosen are part of the first wave of participants in this pilot project with basic income received on a monthly, no-strings-attached payment of up to \$1,400 for people living in poverty, with those with disabilities receiving an additional \$500 a month. This amount remains fixed no matter an individual's living conditions, which is a change from the Ontario Works payment, the province's welfare program for people without disabilities, where a person can have their benefits reduced based on if they have shelter or work.

Mr. Speaker, 3,000 people have been enrolled so far. The province helps to recruit another 6,000 participants with 4,000 who receive a basic income, fill out surveys, and participate in focus groups as part of the study. A further \$2,000 won't go into the monthly payments but will be paid to complete surveys and tracked as a control group. Though they will need more time to properly analyze the full results of this ongoing pilot project, the initial result has been overwhelmingly positive and is achieving exactly what was intended: boosting health, improving prospects with better education and housing for people living in poverty.

Let us begin experimenting with the same kind of guaranteed basic income pilot because, from these results rendered initially, it would seem to be a policy that Northerners living in poverty could benefit from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LAND TENURE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raise the issues of community land tenure and the understanding of how this ensures program qualifications for recipients in my riding.

Mr. Speaker, this calendar year, and more specifically last week, the Department of Lands sponsored community engagements in Fort Good Hope and Tulita. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, and Finance will participate to share information on the property, assessment, taxation regimes, collections systems, et cetera. Understanding land tenure ensures benefits to residents and the seniors of the Sahtu for the variety of housing programs.

Mr. Speaker, modernizing our current legislation is a proven and responsible function of land management and administration, and, most importantly, community consultation with stakeholders contributes towards transparency and public engagement. Mr. Speaker, later, I will have questions for the Minister of Lands. Mahsi.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACT OF ALCOHOL ON OUR COMMUNITIES

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, February 21, 2018 [translation] it will be eight years since my last drink. A year after my late father passed on, I decided that I wanted to sober up and not drink anymore.

Alcohol has been around since the early ages. Alcohol is accepted as a way for people to socialize. Alcohol abuse heavily affects our NWT communities, especially First Nations identity, families, and children. High crime rates such as spousal assaults, family violence, and tragedies such as murders and fatal accidents can be attributed to the misuse of alcohol.

Since alcohol became a part of Dene life, it has tragically changed our self-identity and culture forever. Before alcohol, I believe Dene were strong and healthy people who were happy and vibrant in spirit. Besides personal wellness, my mission of sobriety is to dispel the stereotype that "all Indians are drunks." At a younger age, I came across a movie about Alkali Lake, a community in BC that took steps to sober up their families and community. Seeing that movie about Alkali Lake and what we can do to help ourselves and our families changed how I see myself today.

As they say in recovery and healing, we must take the first important steps towards sobriety one day at a time. Mahsi.

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

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great honour to have some of our students from Aurora College joining us today and taking in proceedings. I believe every year students from the social work program come and learn about how the Legislative Assembly works. I believe they got a great tour this morning, so I would just like to welcome the students and the instructor from the Aurora College social work program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Susan Fitzky. She is the instructor at Aurora College with the social work program, and she is also a constituent of Yellowknife North. Welcome to the gallery.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Danita Frost-Arey, originally from Aklavik. She is here in Yellowknife as part of the social work program at Aurora College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery, Ms. Emily Doiron. Ms. Doiron is joining us on attachment from the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island, and will be at our table for the next three weeks. Welcome to the Northwest Territories and to our Assembly.

Of course, colleagues, I draw your attention to visitors in the gallery as well, to all the students who are here with us today and also the instructor. More specifically, Kandace Apples from Gameti as part of the social work program at Aurora College. I would like to say welcome, and it's always nice to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Masi. Item 6, acknowledgments. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

#### Oral Questions

QUESTION 161-18(3):  
INUVIK HOSPITAL PRIVACY BREACH

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. One of the takeaways from the 2017 investigation by the Information and Privacy Commissioner into the privacy breach at the Inuvik

Hospital is that it was almost certainly avoidable if the recommendations from the 2012 investigation had been acted on. In an effort to ensure there is action on the problem this time, I am looking for information on the implementation of the 2017 recommendations. My question is: who is in charge of privacy issues at the Inuvik Hospital, and who does that person report to? Mahsi.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of things have happened since 2012, including the introduction of the Health Information Act, which is actually an item that was recommended by the privacy commissioner. With that new act, we have done a number of things. We have set up a number of new privacy policies. Those have been put in place basically since May 2017. They follow up on recommendations of the Privacy Commissioner but are also consistent with things we need to do under the act. Those focus on things like privacy breaches and the requirement for privacy impact assessments, the requirement for mandatory training, as well as how we utilize mobile devices within the system. In addition, we have put in a new public awareness campaign and materials about the clients' rights. It is important the clients understand their rights and what information they can access, how information is used.

Since the incident the Member referred to in Inuvik, since June 2015, the department has delivered over 57 territory-wide health information training sessions for over 373 staff. This is on top of the training that is done at a local level for local staff.

Beginning this year, this winter 2018, there are some new privacy training modules in place that will be delivered to all health and social services employees in order to meet our mandatory training requirement. We have also hired a new territorial risk manager. One of their roles is to develop and implement programs and policies that will mitigate risk and improve the overall health privacy across the entire Northwest Territories.

**MS. GREEN:** I thank the Minister for his response. I would like to ask: specifically at the Inuvik Hospital, the breakdown was that privacy wasn't anyone's job, so I am going to repeat my question: who is in charge of privacy at the hospital, and who does that person report to? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We have the territorial risk manager, as I have indicated. We also have a territorial health information director or manager. At a local level, all employees are in fact custodians and have a responsibility under the Health Information Act. Ultimately, in every one of our

regional offices, the COOs have the responsibility to ensure that all of their staff are properly trained and have a clear understanding of their obligations under the Health Information Act.

**MS. GREEN:** I would like to know from the Minister what restrictions are now in place in Inuvik within the electronic record system to limit access to the records based on the actual job the person does at the hospital.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** As I indicated, every individual is getting trained. Many of the individuals in the Inuvik regional office in the Inuvik health and social services region have been trained. They understand the roles and responsibilities. There are limitations on what the individuals can see through our medical records. We are ensuring that our people who have the training understand their roles and responsibilities under the Health Information Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral Questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Health Minister has demonstrated that he has, let's say, a heightened understanding of the importance of privacy and that is reflected in Inuvik and elsewhere. Can he tell us with respect to the privacy breach in Hay River whether the same safeguards are in place there? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The situation in Hay River and Inuvik were different. As we roll out the Health Information Act, we get out and train. Also, as we move forward with the single authority, what is clear is that, in the past, not all authorities have applied rules as consistently or the same as others. Having a single authority has really given us an opportunity to make sure that our rules and our procedures and our territorial legislations be applied consistently.

The Hay River situation, as I said, was slightly different than the Inuvik situation. The data that was in question wasn't the same type of data. The breach wasn't the same. We take both of them very, very seriously. We have been in touch with patients who were affected. We have made sure the employees understand where they had possibly breached the legislation. We are making sure they have the training. We need to make sure that in every corner of the Northwest Territories, in every office, every health office, every health delivery agency, that they understand their roles. That is why we are requiring everybody to have the mandatory training, which we are rolling out as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 162-18(3):  
WOOD PELLET PRODUCTION IN THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on my Member's statement today. My questions are for the Minister of ENR. My first question: does Aurora Wood Pellets plan to use tree cuttings in the tops in addition to the timber itself to make these wood pellets, or will these cuttings and tops be burned at the sites where they are being cut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the full utilization of trees on the harvest system used by Aurora Wood Pellets, this level of detail has not been provided to ENR yet. Pre-harvest prescriptions will determine what happens to treetops scattered onsite. As soon as we have more information to pass on and if it is the wish of committee, we can keep them informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for the answer. I think, probably, the standing committee would probably wish to see that. My second question is: I understand that more than 3.5 million hectares of forest have been burned in recent years, leaving behind large tracts of dry and boreal forest. Of course, much of it is in the South Mackenzie region. Using this timber might be an environmentally better source for Aurora Wood Pellet's operations. Has the company considered this, and, if so, what were the results of this consideration?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, it has been considered. Mr. Speaker, yes, it has been considered. The economic viability and lifecycle analysis reports on utilizing burned wood has been provided to Aurora Wood Pellets and Forest Management Agreement holders where the viability of using burned wood declines over time. It has been considered.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I appreciate the department's thinking forward and actually providing that information. I understand that, as time goes on, these trees decay. My third question is: how did overall greenhouse gas emissions figure into the permitting process for the Aurora Wood Pellets project, including the timber cutting permits? If this impact was determined, please tell us what it is.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Reports have been commissioned by ENR to look at greenhouse gas emissions and the forest industry, the substitution of fossil fuels with wood biomass in the Northwest

Territories. They demonstrate significant reductions in greenhouse gas emission when utilizing woody biomass. GNWT sees this industry as environmentally sustainable while also offering NWT residents potential savings on heating costs.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's answer and the department working on this project. My final question is: In regards to wood pellets that are being burned now to heat many GNWT buildings, how are the greenhouse gas savings calculated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Wood pellets are now burned at many GNWT buildings, but we don't have this information at our fingertips as to the greenhouse gas saving calculated. The information would need to be confirmed. I will work with my colleague at the Department of Infrastructure. If it is the wish of committee, then we will be able to give them an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 163-18(3):  
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. The Auditor General found that ENR failed to lead GNWT efforts on climate change. The recent Climate Change Strategic Framework and the action plan in response to that continue in that tradition by not proposing any policy, legislative, or structural changes. Can the Minister explain to this House why his department continues to fail in its leadership role on climate change? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I disagree wholeheartedly with the Member. The department has not failed in its leadership role. In fact, we're doing a lot of work. I think the Auditor General even made a comment to the work we did. Some of the work that they were doing was before the work that we did.

We are using the recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General to strengthen our role. They did look at it a fine period of time and did not consider all of the good work that is being done to develop the Climate Change Strategic Framework. The document is a roadmap as to how the GNWT will address and respond to climate change up to 2030.

The department also plays a leadership role in the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change in the Northern Adaptation and Strategy.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Yes, the Minister is right. It was for a defined period of time, but I quoted the Auditor General directly from the report. I wasn't making that up. I want to give the Minister his own opportunity to talk about the good work the department is doing. What specific policy, legislative, or structural changes is the Minister imposing to ensure that his department can fulfill its leadership role on climate change?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we've done a lot of work on this. I believe I've given committee an update on the carbon price. The Climate Change Strategic Framework, I believe, will still need to come before committee, or we could do 11 independent briefings if they choose to, as well. We continue to work on that. We are looking forward to coming forward with some changes and to strengthen our adaptation to climate change.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Well, I gave the Minister an opportunity to provide some specifics on policy, legislative, and structural changes, and he didn't take me up on the offer. When the Auditor General conducted the climate change audit, ENR was down to two staff on this file. How could we allow that to happen?

Can the Minister explain what he's doing to convince his colleague, the Minister of Finance, to secure the resources necessary to properly implement the actions to allow us to meet our international and national obligations with regard to climate change?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** It's very difficult getting money out of the Minister of Finance. ENR will be rolling out a proposed adaptation planning program to assist communities to prepare, plan, and implement measures to address climate change. The enhanced program also has a dedicated PY in resources to assist community. Also, as part of the development of a five-year action plan, the department will be looking at what resources are required for implementation and federal funding opportunities. If there are opportunities to access some federal funding, obviously we'll be looking at those. At the same time, we'll be making investments of our own through the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. Thanks to the Minister for those good-news stories, but he still hasn't talked about anything concrete

that he's prepared to do to make sure that his department has the proper authority to take on this leadership role, so let's get really specific here. I do want to say something nice about the framework. It finally sets a target for industrial greenhouse gas emissions, but to continue to send staff to try to secure industry buy-in, that's not the kind of leadership I think we need on this file. Will the Minister commit to an ongoing round table with industry leaders, GNOs, and other stakeholders to help lead the implementation of the Climate Change Strategic Framework? Masi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we have had a lot of work that was done on this, some regional meetings in a number of the communities, as I've pointed out. We've had meetings with industry and gotten their feedback. Again, as we proceed closer to the implementation, it is imperative that I work with committee, provide committee with information, and get some feedback from committee. I can ensure the Member and the public that ENR has taken the leadership role on this and that we want to make sure that we have a product that is best and one we can do for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### QUESTION 164-18(3): EMERGENCY PLANNING RESOURCES

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as follow-up to my Member's statement, I have a few questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. MACA offers community emergency planning workshops. How can the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic work with the department to see these workshops delivered within the next four to six months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Member's statement, he used the term, I believe it was, "MACA's always there to help." That's his term. I really appreciate that, and I agree. MACA's whole job is to help communities. How do we get the emergency planning into the areas of his region? Simple, we need to get the community government to contact the regional manager. At that point, we'll get a facilitator to come in and help them actually develop or update their community emergency plans.

We also provide tabletop exercises that they can take advantage if they're interested in that, which will help to validate and make sure that they're on

track for their plans. I should state as well that we actually were in Fort McPherson last week, and we have just worked with them. They are in the process of drafting their updated emergency plans. We're more than willing to help, and I appreciate the Member's comment.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister touched on this a bit. What other resources can MACA offer to small communities taking on emergency planning?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** As well as meeting with the communities face-to-face, we have online training, and that is available to communities. The online training in this case are particular basic emergency management and the incident command systems. Those are the two courses that, actually, we start with to develop community emergency plans. Those are online.

We also work one on one with communities. If they need our assistance, we'll come in and we'll help them either create or update their plans. We have tabletop exercises that we'll go in and we'll actually do a draft emergency plan to make sure that they have the right responses and that their plan is updated. Those are the things that we can do to work with communities. Like I said earlier, just contact the regional superintendent, have the community governments contact the regional superintendents, and we'll be more than happy to help the communities.

**MR. BLAKE:** When communities work on developing or updating their emergency plans, can MACA act as a liaison to other departments and territorial agencies, for example, to help communities install backup generators in local schools or other gathering centres?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Often, MLAs say to us, "Just say yes." In this case, I'm going to just say yes. We will actually work with them. Part of working and developing an emergency plan is having discussions on what resources are needed and what funding sources they have available. The regional superintendents and the management team will work directly with the communities, and we can also work as a liaison to work with other departments that they may need to access services from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer's yes.

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

QUESTION 165-18(3):  
LAND TENURE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Following up on my Member's statement for the Minister of Lands, the list of Sahtu community engagements of last week's schedule included Fort Good Hope and

Tulita. My first question is: are there any plans for similar engagements in the communities of Colville Lake and Deline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There had been information sessions which have already taken place in Fort Providence on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February and in Fort Good Hope on February 20<sup>th</sup>. A meeting was scheduled to be held in Tulita on February 22<sup>nd</sup> but was cancelled due to a weather advisory. That meeting will be rescheduled as soon as possible. I'm not sure if the department is planning on visiting other communities, but I can certainly take that up with the department and get back to the Member opposite.

**MR. MCNEELY:** I'll go back to my question here. If the Tulita community was cancelled due to, my understanding, that there were some storms there, will that community be put on the list of Colville and Deline for similar engagements? If so, can the Minister provide the proposed tentative date?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** As I mentioned, unfortunately the meeting could not take place in Tulita. It is definitely going to be put back on the list, and I will provide the Member opposite with the date once that is ascertained. I can't give him an answer with respect to the other communities, but I know we'll be going back to Tulita.

**MR. MCNEELY:** I trust the Minister will follow up on providing me that information to carry on with the community engagement. After all, there has been quite an investment put into scheduling one.

My next question: will the Minister confirm willingness through the Sahtu Bilateral Agreement dated June 25, 2015 for a joint shared collaboration on land officers?

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the details of the Sahtu bilateral before me, but I could certainly get back to the Minister with respect to that question.

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

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that reply and will follow up. My last question is: will the Sahtu see another round of engagements regarding the proposed multiple amendments to the NWT Lands Act as well as the Commissioner's Lands Act? They're related to the previous questions on that similar note. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** I understand there has been an extensive engagement with the communities with respect to these two pieces of

legislation which are being updated. I don't think we were contemplating another round of engagements, but, if we are, I will certainly inform the Member opposite. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 166-18(3):  
GUARANTEED BASIC INCOME PILOT PROJECT

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement, I talked about the early results of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot project. Some of the comments from people in the program: "It's given me back my independence," "I don't feel backed into a corner," "If I want to eat, I can afford to buy something instead of going to a food bank or soup kitchen." These are the kind of progressive policies that are moving the working poor forward in the province of Ontario. Will the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment speak to any analysis that his department has done on a guaranteed basic income pilot for the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware of the pilot program that's currently going on in Ontario. I believe it started up in June of 2017. The department is closely looking at that pilot program. In the meantime, we continue to make enhancements to our income assistance programs here, in the Northwest Territories. We want to make sure that all of our families, Northerners, do have the basic food and clothing, help them with rent and other expenses. As we are reviewing this pilot project, we're continuing to support our clients who are on an income assistance.

**MR. TESTART:** The issue is not: do we support those experiencing poverty through these programs. The nature of these programs are, as one of my honourable friends mentioned, a poverty trap. Once you get in this system, you can't get out. The Minister is clearly looking at this, but does he have any plans to move forward on a guaranteed income pilot project for the Northwest Territories?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As I mentioned, I can't make any commitments until we see the review of these results with the pilot project going on in Ontario. I did look over the program, though, but some of the things that they're doing are things that we do right across the departments with Health and Social Services, with Justice, within my department. One of the programs that we also have, that is similar to what they're doing in Ontario, is with our productive choices program that we have with our income assistance clients. I can't commit to any

kind of guaranteed income pilot until we see what's happening in Ontario.

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Speaker, the Ontario pilot project is just one of many that is taking place in the world. We've had them happen in Canada before. I'll ask the Minister. He mentioned the productive choices. How is that similar to a basic income pilot? How is that achieving the same results?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Some of our productive choices are trying to help people come out of poverty, so education, counselling, volunteering, where we're encouraging our income assistance clients to participate in a productive choice as they receive income from the GNWT in my department, but we're also trying to help them get out of poverty by getting the counselling that they need, looking at also getting the skills and training that they need, their education, and volunteering in their community.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One thing we're learning from these pilot projects, this basic guaranteed income, is that the best way to help someone get out of poverty is to ensure that their cost of living is taken care of without a lot of strings attached or government oversight. It allows them to get a job. It allows them to pay for food. Right now, we're clawing back a lot of income. I just don't understand what the hold-up is. Can we take a sample size of recipients of income support and start modelling this kind of effort, even on a temporary basis so it's a low-cost approach that still gets better results than we're currently experiencing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Our client service officers do a great job of meeting with our clients to ensure that they're up-to-date on their productive choices but also make sure that they're actively seeking to get employment and getting the services that they need as well as counselling that they need. I believe we're already doing some of that work with our income assistance programs. We're going to wait until this pilot project is complete with Ontario, but we are closely monitoring to see how that is impacting residents in Ontario and if that's something we can possibly look at here, in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 167-18(3):  
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier, in my language, I spoke about how last week on February 21, 2018 marked eight years of sobriety for me, so I wanted to take the moment --

---APPLAUSE

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, colleagues. I wanted to take the moment just to extend my appreciation and gratitude for the many professionals that have come across my path who weren't judgmental and were basically just professional and compassionate in believing in the service that they provide to the public. My heart is wholeheartedly felt to those people that go beyond the call of duty and provide a service to society in general. Mahsi to all of them.

My questions are to the Minister of Health and Social Services in terms of taking a step of sobering up. What kind of health does the department provide in terms of programming services for people who could be ready to help themselves to sober up and change their lives? Mahsi.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the mental health and addictions program that was held a number of years ago, what we heard clearly from the people across the Northwest Territories is that they want options, so we're trying to provide as many options and many alternatives for individuals to begin that healing journey as possible. At a community level in most of our communities, we have mental health and addictions counsellors or other counsellors who are available through NGOs and other partners. Thank goodness, they're out there. We have treatment facilities that are available to us in southern Canada that provide a wide-ranging program that could never be delivered in one facility. I think we need to be really proud of the fact that we're working with our Indigenous governments across the Northwest Territories for the delivery of on-the-land programming that is designed by the Aboriginal governments for their people. We also provide wellness dollars to every community in the Northwest Territories, who design their own wellness plans. Many of them are focusing on healing opportunities for the residents. We are working to provide as many options as we can. We always need to do more. We are coming forward with the new action plan. We are looking for some feedback from committee. I know the committee is putting something together for us, so we're looking forward to seeing that so that we can make more enhancements and improvements as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** The Minister did state that there are ongoing initiatives in terms of working with

Indigenous governments, and I'd like to commend the Minister for taking those steps to working with all of our communities in terms of placing, in all far reaches of the NWT, on-the-land programs and initiatives. My question is, understanding that the on-the-land programs, what was called for from previous assessments is that people wanted options, and that's one option, whether and how traditional beliefs of Dene are reflected on on-the-land programs? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, we heard clearly from many people across the Northwest Territories that on-the-land and traditional healing is incredibly important to them, and it is certainly, for many people, part of the process that they are going to go through as they proceed down their healing journey. There are a lot of questions about on-the-land healing programs. There really hasn't been an evaluation mechanism, but we have worked with our Indigenous partners here, in the Northwest Territories, to start the development of an evaluation framework so that we can see and try to assess some of the value.

Obviously, we hear many great and important things about the on-the-land programs that are out there. I will say that every one of the programs is different because they are designed by a regional Aboriginal government. We, as a government, don't tell people how to design these programs. I feel like we're the wrong people to tell the Indigenous governments how to design the programs because they are from the people, for the people. We do make our staff available if asked. We want to be partners. We want to help. We continue to work with our Aboriginal partners to make sure that they have the resources to do this important work.

**MR. NADLI:** One observation that I have is, back in the day, we had in every community alcohol and drug workers as they call them. My understanding, their approach was in addressing the root of the alcohol issues. They treated the whole issue of alcohol as a disease. Now, we have mental health workers who more likely take almost an approach that every person that deals with alcohol has some trauma in their background. Besides that, how has the philosophy of treating alcoholism changed over the years with the department?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I think the whole treatment methodology around addictions has continued to evolve over the years. Many years ago, it was believed that basically the 12-step program was one of the best sources, but we're starting to hear a lot more that there are other new approaches, more scientific, more medical-based systems that we need to be exploring. We're hoping and intending to explore this as we move forward with the next addictions recovery action plan. A number of years ago, the Member was correct, we

had addiction counsellors in the community. Before my time, and certainly before the Member's time, I do believe this changed, where we brought in mental health and addictions counsellors instead, recognizing that some of the individuals who were struggling with addictions may have had mental health issues. That doesn't suggest that everybody who has an addictions issue has a mental health issue, but we wanted to make sure, rather the system wanted to make sure, that we were providing a full range of services to individuals who were struggling, whether it was a mental health issue or an addiction issue, or in some cases both. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated that there's an effort that the department is undertaking, primarily that he's working on the developing of an action plan. Can the Minister highlight his immediate priority and seeing the success of the action plan and addressing alcohol issues in the NWT? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to travel with members of the standing committee as they toured different facilities in southern Canada. I think we had a lot of good discussion. I think we learned an awful lot from that experience. As far as setting a priority for the next action plan, I do want to be cautious. I don't want to pre-suppose what's going to be in that document. We still have some work to do. We still have feedback coming from committee. I think all that is going to be incredibly important to help us have an informed discussion and set our priorities moving forward. We do know that there is a need to explore other alternatives and to think outside of the traditional box, looking more at medical or scientific sort of responses to addiction, not just rely on things like the 12-step program. We've got to continue to explore harm reduction as an option for providing our residents with more and effective tools, but I don't want to pre-suppose exactly what this document is going to look like. I haven't received the committee's report yet, but I am looking forward to working together to put together a document that is going to meet the needs of residents going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 168-18(3):  
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION  
CALLS TO ACTION

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I spoke about the importance of the government's response to the

calls to action relating to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. My questions today are for the Premier. The Executive and Indigenous Affairs, about a year ago, did provide this House an update on the status of the calls to action as it relates to our government. Some of the questions I have might be a little bit cross-departmental. I will try to keep them as general as possible and see what kind of replies I can get from the Premier.

Last year, when the department reported on its responses to the TRC's calls to action, one of the major goals was to close the education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier advise the Assembly how graduation rates are unfolding, and does he feel that the government is, in fact, closing this education gap? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education is one of the most important priorities of this government, and I think that the Truth and Reconciliation report certainly confirmed that and made some concrete recommendations, which we have embraced. In 2015, the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students was reflected in the fact that 67 per cent of non-Aboriginal students graduated compared to 56 per cent of Aboriginal students. Obviously, we have a ways to go to improve on that. The major initiative that the Government of the Northwest Territories is using to narrow the gap is the NWT Education Renewal initiative, which is a four-year program running and focusing or looking at areas for action in the areas of language and cultural identity, student and education well-being, teaching and learning, and system accountability. I think one of the ways that I look at as to whether the gap is narrowing is I know that we have more and more post-secondary Aboriginal students. I think the fact that that number is in the hundreds is certainly a reflection on the improvement in the education services and the narrowing of the gap.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you to the Premier for the fulsome answer. I do appreciate that. A lot of the aspects around that question were relevant to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. I am grateful for that fulsome and detailed answer.

On health, the government is building a team of community wellness planners and a series of community healthy living fairs. Of course, it is to promote healthy living and nutrition and fitness at the community level. Can the Premier advise if these wellness fairs have all taken place, and, if so, how are we measuring the success of these fairs? Are they having a positive impact?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I am pleased to report that the community wellness fairs are proceeding. They are going very well. The most recent ones were in K'atloodeeche. At the NWT Associate and Communities AGM, they brought in some of their props. You could walk through a colon, so you could get people to go and get checked out for colon cancer. I think the most important message to people is prevention and that people are the ones that, if they practise prevention, they will be healthier. I think a large part of the measurement will be how healthy people are going forward.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you again to the Premier for his reply. I would like to maybe now direct the attention a little bit to our own GNWT employees. I recognize that all GNWT employees are required to undergo Aboriginal cultural awareness training. Can the Premier advise if all GNWT employees have now taken this training, and, if so, is the training provided continually to reflect turnover and maybe movement within the public service?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I am pleased to say that the Truth and Reconciliation Committee recognized the Government of the Northwest Territories for its leadership not only in cultural awareness but also the fact that the history of residential schools and also our land-claim negotiations are in our curriculum. We focused on mandatory training for students and educators. That has been our main priority.

Our expectation is that we will eventually have all of our employees undertaking cultural awareness training, and we will continue. Right now, we will focus on new employees as they come on board. We are hiring a consultant to review and update our Indigenous cultural awareness training program. I think that it is certainly very important for our public services to understand when they are delivering programs and services to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, thank you to the Premier for his detailed reply. It is much appreciated. I mentioned public outreach events such as those sponsored by the City of Edmonton. That was an example that I used. They were designed to engage the public on culture and history and to educate them about treaties and how to celebrate the historic contributions of First Nations. Has our government considered creating similar events in the North, particularly in the larger centres where maybe more non-Indigenous Northerners could participate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Our government has even gone above and beyond that. Instead of a special event day we have a statutory holiday called Aboriginal Day where everybody gets one day off a year. If you are working for the Government of the Northwest Territories, you can learn about Aboriginal history and culture. Also, you can go out and participate. Aboriginal people can celebrate the fact that they are Aboriginal. Also, we provide funding to those Aboriginal groups who want to participate on Aboriginal Day. We are always looking for ways to promote that. I think that the fact that over 50 per cent of our population is Aboriginal, you can just drive down the road and participate in Aboriginal events that are put on by Aboriginal governments on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 169-18(3):  
WOOD PELLET PRODUCTION IN THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few follow-up questions to the Minister of ENR on my Member's statement here. Can the Minister tell us: a lot of communities are looking at fire smarting their projects? Has the department encouraged the communities to look at working with the company to use this excess material for building and making pellets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, specific discussions with the communities haven't happened yet. This has been identified as an opportunity. It does make sense that, if there are opportunities there to use wood that has already been cut, then we should explore that. The actual discussions haven't happened with communities yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess my next question is: how would the greenhouse-gas-savings calculations change if pellets burned were made from green lumber?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The report looking at greenhouse gas savings was based on utilizing green timber. It is generally understood that utilizing deadwood yields greater greenhouse gas savings than green wood. The fact that the wood pellets that are out there -- I believe they have to have a specific moisture content. I looked it up on the Environment Canada website. I believe it has to have a specific moisture content. My understanding is they dry the pellets and do not utilize green as much.

**MR. THOMPSON:** My final question in regards to this topic here today is: what limits has ENR established overall to the annual sustainable harvest of forests for the south and west of the Great Slave Lake?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** The annual sustainable harvest level for the inventoried areas in the South Slave and Deh Cho combined is approximately 500,000 cubic metres per year.

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

QUESTION 170-18(3):  
PRIVACY BREACHES IN HEALTH CARE  
FACILITIES

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. I have some additional questions about privacy following on from the ones that I asked before. Is the Minister able to tell me what percentage of the NWT Health and Social Services Authority staff have been trained in privacy training? I will just start with that one. Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information at the tip of my tongue. I will get in touch with the department. We will provide that detail to the Member and committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** I appreciate that commitment by the Minister. I would ask him to include Tlicho Community Services Agency and the Hay River Health Authority, as well. I am wondering about the audits of usage of the electronic medical records system. Is there a regular audit procedure in place?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** As I indicated in my previous responses, we do have some new positions that have been put in place to do this type of analysis and put the policies around that. I can't say for certain exactly what those processes are today. Once again, I will get that information for the committee and the Member.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for that. Has the Minister considered reporting to this House and to the public on these issues of training and audits and other things that would strengthen our confidence in the ability of the Health Authority to keep our information private?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, if that is the wish of committee, I'm certainly happy to explore that within the department to see what we can do within our existing legislation. I obviously want the Members to be comfortable with the

information, but, more importantly, I want the public to be comfortable. So if that's the wish of committee, I'll certainly explore it.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker; and thank you to the Minister for that. So, when the Minister says "the wish of the committee," is he looking for direction in a letter from the Standing Committee on Social Development, for example? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I enjoy working with the committee. I look forward to their feedback and input, and I think a letter from the committee would be helpful in helping to move that initiative forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, Replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

### Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes the Northwest Territories Lottery Commission. It also establishes the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Fund, a special purpose fund that will receive proceeds from the operation of lotteries by the Western Canada Lottery Corporation. The commission is responsible for the conduct, management and operation of lotteries. The Minister will administer the fund and distribute proceeds for limited purposes including the promotion and delivery of physical activity, sport and recreation programs.

A public clause-by-clause review of the bill took place earlier this afternoon. With that, Mr. Speaker, the Committee wishes to report that Bill 1 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Government Operations will present a substantive report on Bill 1 to this House tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 97-18(3):  
2015-2016 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE ANNUAL  
REPORT

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "2015-2016 Traditional Knowledge Annual Report." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board.

TABLED DOCUMENT 98-18(3):  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BOARD OF  
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled "2017 Annual Report Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories." 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. Minister of Justice.

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 6:  
CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION  
IMPLEMENTATION ACT

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, I will move that Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. 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: Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns; Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process; Minister's Statement 32-18(3), Update on the Northwest Territories Disability Framework and Action Plan; and Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019. Members, by the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 7-18(3), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider the business before the House, 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 now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, committee would like to consider Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019, with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment as the department under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. We will consider the document after a brief recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. This department begins on page 203.

I will first turn to the Minister responsible, for any opening comments. Do you have any opening comments, Minister Schumann?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to present the 2018-2019 Main Estimates for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Overall, the department's estimates is proposing an increase of \$1.97 million or 3.5 per cent over the 2017-2018 Main Estimates. They include approved adjustments of \$1.2 million in total to fund the freight cost assistance program for fishers, the mining incentive program, contracting in relation to the development of the Mineral Resources Act, and funding for French language communications services.

Our proposed estimates also include \$100,000 for the Northwest Territories Geological Survey to share the costs of establishing and populating a permafrost database. This cost will be offset by revenue which we will receive from the Government of Canada.

To respond to increasing demand to the tourism sector, the 2018-2019 Main Estimates includes forced growth funding of \$143,000 for a new manager of tourism development and enforcement position in the North Slave Region.

An additional \$588,000 in new funding is being proposed to support the implementation of the new Agriculture Strategy, to fund a two-year support officer for the fishing sector in the South Slave and, as we continue to implement the Mineral Development Strategy, for prospector training, the Resources and Energy Development Information initiative, and the development of regional mineral-development strategies.

The 2018-2019 Main Estimates reflect sunsets of \$420,000 related to the implementation of French language services, an administrator for the Sahtu oil and gas business development, business coordination under the Mineral Development Strategy, and hardware costs and database updates for the Northwest Territories Geological Survey.

As we plan for the up and coming fiscal year, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment remains committed to meeting the priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. We will be fulfilling commitments that we have made to introduce an NWT manufacturing strategy and a strategy for the development of NWT petroleum resources.

We will also be investing in the implementation of strategies introduced last year to grow the agriculture sector and to revitalize commercial fishing on Great Slave Lake. We will continue to implement the Mineral Development Strategy, most notably in the drafting of a new Mineral Resource Act, and the introduction of amendments to the Mineral Resources Regulations.

Of the department's total proposed budget, 58.5 per cent has been allocated to economic diversification, business support, and tourism with 27.5 per cent identified for spending in the area of Minerals and Petroleum Resources. This concludes my opening remarks. I welcome questions from the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. I understand you have witnesses you wish to bring into the Chamber. Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, you may take your seat at the witness table.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Committee, previously, we have agreed to forgo opening comments. Does committee agree to again forgo the opening comments for this department?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. This department consists of four activities. Each Member will be allowed to speak once for 10 minutes to each activity and again to the departmental summary as well as the four information items as a whole at the end of the section. The departmental total can be found on page 207. As usual, we will forgo that until discussion of the activities, beginning with corporate management on pages 210 to 213. Do we have questions or comments from committee on the section corporate management? I will give committee a moment. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am on page 211. I noticed that corporate costs from the previous budget have gone down. Can the Minister explain where these changes come from? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is a decrease of \$28,000. The decrease is a result of the interactivity reallocation to finance and administration to fund the Hay River area corporate services office clerk, previously cost-shared with ENR. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Could the Minister please elaborate further in regard to that cost-sharing position? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This previous position was cost-shared between ITI and the Department of ENR. We have moved to a new location now, so this is fully funded from within ITI. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Further on to the directorate, we see a reduction of about \$55,000. Can the Minister expand on this reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This was primarily -- not all of it, but primarily -- because of the reduction of the executive assistant position to the ADM. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister please tell us if this position was actually filled at this time, or was this a vacant position? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, it was vacant.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Going further down, where it says "finance and administration," we see an increase of about \$142,000. Can the Minister expand on why we see an increase in this area? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's right. It's \$142,000. The increase relates to an interdepartmental reallocation to fund the full-time occupational health and safety specialists and an area corporate services clerk for Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you. Can the Minister expand on that occupational health and safety position? Is that allocated in a regional centre, or is that a headquarter position that looks after the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is based out of Yellowknife, and this is for occupational health and safety, as I have said in my previous comment. This is something that we have internally funded within our department. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that. I just need clarification: is this position going to be for the territory, or is this going to be specifically for Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's specifically for ITI, but it's for all regions in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, and I'd like to applaud the department for doing that. I think it is much needed for the territory, and I think this is a good first step. My last question is: there was a reduction in the policy and legislation communication of about \$35,000; what is the reason for this reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This decrease reflects the sunset portion of the French language services. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess, just a follow-up: is this a federally funded program, or is this something from the GNWT that was funded for this? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that is correct. It was a federally funded program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. Has the department been working with the federal government for a potential program in this area again, or is that not going to happen again? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The French language services goes through ECE, so that question would have to be directed to that department if they are going to continue to pursue that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Nothing further from Mr. Thompson. Any further comments or questions on corporate management? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Corporate management, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$8,037,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Moving on, economic diversification and

business support. This activity is found on pages 214 to 218, \$17,313,000. Questions or comments from committee? Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to business support, trade and economic analysis, and other program costs, we see a reduction of about \$503,000 in this area. Could the Minister please expand on why we see this cut in this area? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. \$122,000 off the sunset of the Sahtu oil and gas business development administrator position; \$123,000 transferred to finance and administration to fund a portion of the occupational health and safety position; and \$225,000 for diversification, which got reallocated.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for the clarification on that. It says, "NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation," it's the \$943,000. Is that the BDIC cut? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, Mr. Chair. This is a phase 2 expenditure reduction of \$925,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that. For economic diversification, he talked about how there was about \$225,000 coming from business support, trade, and economic analysis and other program costs. Could he spend a little further on where the other difference of \$325,000 is coming from? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's the new Growing Forward equity that we're going to put forward for \$188,000 and \$145,000 for South Slave, the new fishery person that we're going to be moving there. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 216, it says "Growing Forward." It says "\$488,000."

Could the Minister just maybe elaborate a little further on what he talked about with the Economic Diversification in there, the amount? I'm just trying to get that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is our equity portion for Growing Forward 2, which will be the new CAP program under the Department of Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you for the clarification. Maybe I'll just go on to page 216 in this area here and look at the Growing Forward 2 section. It's \$488,000 in this area. Where is the additional cost coming from in this area? Because right now my numbers don't match up, so maybe the Minister could just clarify that for me and it would help me. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Could I get the Member to rephrase the question? I don't totally understand what he's asking.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In Growing Forward, there's \$488,000 on page 216. When we talk about the Economic Diversification, a portion of that money was earmarked for that. Where is the difference in that money? Is it a federal program that this money is coming from, or is this an internal transfer? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That will be in the schedule for work on behalf of others. That will be the federal portion of the new CAP program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** No, I'll ask that question in 231. Thank you.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a series of questions. Commercial Fisheries, this is the section to discuss that. I won't go too much into

the fish processing plant and that type of stuff. I know there are a lot of activities going on related to the Commercial Fisheries Revitalization Strategy, but there doesn't seem to be any sort of organization to this outside of the fishery strategy. Is there an action plan that the Minister can share with the committee so that we can see what is exactly happening with this strategy and how it's being implemented?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We presently have a project task team who is working on this. At some point, we want to come in front of committee to present. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. What kind of timeline are we looking at before we can get some sort of definitive action plan or presentation to committee? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As of even today, we're meeting with the Tucho fishery, our staff is, but after March 8<sup>th</sup>, I think is hopefully when we can get in front of committee to explain where we're at. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is also under the line of commercial fisheries. I believe that's the industry support programs. The issue was brought to me by the fishermen, and I brought this up with the department at business planning. The issue is that this money is there to support the fishermen so we can get this industry going. Eventually, that money will be gone, I assume once the industry is profitable and that this sort of subsidiary isn't needed. In the meantime though, it is needed.

The problem with it is that, after we approve this, it's going to take possibly months for this to go out. It's an ongoing issue when it comes to non-profits or these groups where we approve money and then it takes a long time for it to get where it's going. I know that we're not going to miss a paycheque. I know that the money's coming to us after April 1<sup>st</sup>. It doesn't take six weeks to get us paid.

Can we do something so that the fishermen can get this money that is coming to them April 1<sup>st</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, sometime sooner than May or June, when they've been getting it traditionally, because they use this

money to gear up for the next season? They're already weeks behind by the time they get these payments because they're not using the money to gear up for the season. They're using what they have for rent and truck payments and that kind of stuff. Can we get the fishermen paid promptly this year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I met with some of the fishermen when I was home this weekend, and I thought that we'd have a winter fishery. I believe there would be a concern of mine going forward if that was to take place, but it doesn't sound like they're going to do any winter fishing this year. It is from my understanding talking to some of the fishermen, come April 1<sup>st</sup> when the new money rolls out, the fishermen can't get out on the lake until late June to do that part of it. We can have a look at this, but I always thought that the subsidiary was based on the amount of fish that was caught and that it was put out that way and not advanced in a manner based on fishermen or something like that. We can have a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that they're paid for the catches from the previous year. Perhaps that's inaccurate, but there are some monies that they would prefer to get upfront. Maybe that's for the Northern Food Program. Maybe that's through some other program, but that's one of the issues that was raised with me because, even though they're maybe getting out in June, they have to gear up for that in April or May.

In addition, I have questions about the Community Futures. I believe that's where we are here. Southwest Territorial Business Development Corporation, I believe that falls under Community Futures. Looking at the most recent report I could find, from 2015-2016, I see that there are seven development corporations. All are funded by ITI except for the Southwest Territorial Business Development Corporation. I was wondering if the Minister could explain why that is.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that the South Slave outfit is not asked to sign a contribution agreement with us when presented with them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's good to see that they don't need the government's support if they're doing it on their own.

I have a question about SEED funding. In the business plan, there's a very scant support for this program. I know it's a good program. I know from anecdotal experience that it's a good program, but in the business plan it basically says we've handed out this much money in SEED funding, this many people have applied for SEED funding, but that's not really support for why we should approve SEED funding.

Does the department have any sort of substantial information that it can present to the committee about how many jobs have been created through this or how many businesses have been created or anything like that, any sort of substantial information? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know we track a number of these things, and, if we were to get a number from standing committee, I'm sure we can go in front of committee and give them all that information. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Maybe I'll talk to the committee about writing that down and sending it on out again. I've got a couple of minutes left. I'll talk about Growing Forward 2, I guess. I see that, in 2016-2017, they include the federal and territorial portions, \$759,000. In 2017-2018, it was \$1,032,000, I believe. This year, it's budgeted at \$1.2 million. I know, if you look at the grants and contributions, the document that ITI produces, only a fraction of that money, less than half, goes out as grants or contributions to producers and to communities. I was wondering if the department could let us know what's going on with that other half-million-six, seven, hundred dollars that's being spent through Growing Forward 2. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is we provided that information to committee. That leftover money is usually used for raw materials, travel, salaries, those sorts of things. We can have another look at that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. \$700,000, I wouldn't call that leftover money. That is the bulk of it. Whose salaries are we paying? Is this money being used basically for government programs as opposed to being diverted to producers and to entrepreneurs and that type of stuff? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding, under agreement with the federal government, we are only allowed to charge a certain amount of administration against this program. The rest of the money is spent out under the Growing Forward program as it is laid out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have seen what the Minister has sent to committee. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars listed as "salaries and other." That is sort of what I am getting at. What is that? Can I get some more detail about what "salaries and other" exactly are? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We will provide that to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to be sure that I can distribute that to interested parties. Is that something that I would be able to pass on to my constituents if requested? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will double check, but I am sure there is not an issue with that. It is no different than a grants and contribution report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** In the spirit of transparency, you could. Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Simpson.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have 40 seconds left, so I will go back to fishing. I believe the Minister mentioned there was a fishery position. I heard this also at the Fishermen's Federation meeting. Has someone been hired to help coordinate this revitalization strategy? If not, when

will they be hired and where will they be located?  
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is going to be a fishery sector support officer. That position will be located in Hay River. It will be advertised as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** All right. Let me have a look here. You know what? That is okay. I will pick it up when we get back to the departmental total. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I would like to know: there don't seem to be any line items here for economic diversification business support that might be related to supporting the arts other than there is a Great Northern Arts Festival contribution and the film industry rebate program. How does ITI support the arts?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We support the arts through -- so the Member knows, on page 215, the economic diversification line, the \$3,396,000, and also through the SEED program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Really, it is just the SEED money, the Great Northern Arts Festival, and the film industry rebate program. That is it? Those are the only streams of money that are available for the arts? Is that what the Minister has just said? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Last year, ITI alone supported the arts with \$1.6 million in total. I will read them out if the Member wants to write them down: arts and crafts, fine arts and performing arts, support under the SEED program, \$725,697; festival SEED, \$294,471; raw materials, \$125; film promotion, \$311; regional programming, \$125,000; and marketing and promotion, \$106,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That was all SEED money, though; right? Is that what I think I heard the Minister say?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** No, Mr. Chair. That is not all SEED. That is all of our allocation between SEED and the line on page 215, economic diversification line. There is some money that comes out of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I accept what the Minister said, but maybe that item of \$3 million needs to be broken down in the next main estimates or through the business plan to provide a little bit more information. I will double check the business plan on that myself, as well. I am sure the Minister is getting all prepared for this review of arts strategy with his colleague, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I want to move on to the agricultural strategy. I have seen there are a number of departments that have funding under the agricultural strategy. How is the implementation going to be coordinated, and how will performance successes be measured? Who is going to be doing that? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Department of ITI is leading the working group on this thing. We will be having them monitor the evaluation that will be following every step of the way on this going forward so that we will be able to track all the progress on the program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Is there an evaluation framework that is available? Can that be shared with committee? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The answer is yes. We will hopefully have that finalized by the end of March. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Perfect. The Minister is actually anticipating all my questions. The number for Growing Forward on page 216, the \$488,000, is that GNWT's contribution towards

Growing Forward, or does some of that include federal money and how much? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have said in my earlier comments to Member Thompson, this is our equity portion of Growing Forward, the new CAP program. The federal funding is totally separate, above that. That will be in the grants and contributions that show later in our binder. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Just for clarification, that is under the "Work performed on behalf of others." On page 231, it shows the Growing Forward federal contributions. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just wasn't sure what the GNWT contribution was. Now I understand that. I want to move on. I think this is the part of ITI that deals with socioeconomic agreements. Can I just confirm that with the Minister?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, this is not the section. That will be under the minerals section when we get to that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** I will save that line until we get to that section. I think I heard the Minister say, shown on page 218, that there are a number of staffing changes that are happening within this activity. I will give a couple of examples. There are two fewer people in headquarters. The Sahtu is losing a position. I think I heard the Minister say, as well, that some other petroleum advisor positions are being phased out. Why are petroleum positions found in this section of the budget and not in the next one, which is called "minerals and petroleum resources"? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is this was historically here because it was under the Economic Development Diversification Fund there, so maybe that's something we can look at going down the road. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, it might be kind of an academic discussion because I think these positions are disappearing. I'm just kind of surprised that you've got positions that are related to petroleum in an economic diversification and business support section, rather than in the minerals and petroleum resources. So are there any other staff that do work on oil and gas that are in this activity area for ITI? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The short answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** That's interesting to hear. So can I ask just about, while we're on fisheries revitalization, what is the department doing with regards to commercial fishing on this side of the lake, Yellowknife in particular? Is the department doing anything to help support the fishing industry here, in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When you read the strategy, the strategy is for all of Great Slave Lake; it's not just for Hay River, but, in particular for the Yellowknife Member, we're looking at one of them being the pick-up point here, in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I'm not a fisherman, so what's meant by a "pick-up point here in Yellowknife"? Is this a place where the product can be directly exported overseas, or is that the extent of the support from the department? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So this will be a new collection station, which we don't have right now on the north side of the lake. Once this thing is established, we can have fishermen fishing out of, particularly out of, Yellowknife, to access the zone on this side of the lake and be able to contribute to the new power strategy going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So is this a new fish plant for Yellowknife? What does the physical infrastructure actually look like? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't think we have that totally sorted out yet, but I suspect it will be something that will be able to hold the fish in a safe manner so that we'll be able to transport it to plant in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's interesting. So people here are catching fish, and the fish are going to have to be transported for processing before they can come back here, to Yellowknife? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

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

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** That's all I've got for now. I'm just a bit surprised at the last one, but I'm sure I'll have a chance to chat with the Minister more about it. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Hay River is a lot closer than Winnipeg, at least. Next, I have Mr. McNeely.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm looking at page 216, the fur program. Are there any intentions because of the low activity in the central Mackenzie area? Everybody knows that the best sable comes out of the Colville Lake area. Are there any additional resources that could be put into the marketing of the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program for that product harvesting area, considering the low activity in the region? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Now, when people start talking fur, they get things a little bit confused between ourselves and ENR, but, on our side of it, we look after the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. At 155, you see there is a line item for marketing and promotion of the Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. MCNEELY:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I understand that's the marketing program. I guess what I'm trying to say is: are there going to be any additional resources, considering the cost of everything keeps going up here and if there are going to be additional resources here to market the sable harvested in the Colville Lake area, considering the prices keep going up? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know the Colville Lake guys produce a large number of sable there, and we continue to help market them and promote them in the marketplace. I think we even had our staff lately promote a sable fur coat at the Chinese Fur Show, competing with the Russian fur. We will continue to market that as a Mackenzie Valley fur product moving forward. As the Member is asking about supporting the industry a little bit further, that's something that we ought to continue to work with our colleagues at ENR on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. So, nothing further from Mr. McNeely. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There are just a couple of points that I'd like to raise. With regard to the nominee program, I recognize that the federal government plays a certain role in that, but we play a significant role as it relates to the investment attraction piece. I appreciate that the Minister had shared previously with us in this House some statistics about how many folks have applied to the nominee program. It just seems to me that something is not attracting enough attention towards this program. We see a number of tourists of various kinds here, in the territory, getting exposure to Yellowknife and the NWT. I would think that there might be more opportunity to have more uptake on this program. So I just wonder if the Minister can maybe first start by letting us know what the department's views are in terms of the success of this program. We've been observing it now for a few years. Are there some tweaks or changes that we have to make to be able to attract more people to apply to the program? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the Member asked us some of these questions in the House. First of all, this program is not very old. It's only been around since 2015, and I get the Member's point on how do we track and make this even a better program, considering some of the successes that we've had with some of the

other stuff that ITI has done. We're working on a few different things. As I've said in the House, we launched a new website. Going forward, we've tried to streamline and simplify our process to make the process more clear and more user-friendly going forward. We're getting information kits out to N. Good Consultants, and stuff; and we will continue to work on that.

As I said in the House, myself and the deputy and the department are having different conversations about attracting immigrants to the Northwest Territories. Maybe one of the conversations we have to have -- and I'm glad to have it with any Member on the other side of the House. I mentioned in the House that we start to look at, possibly, immigrants inside the country, who are coming to the Northwest Territories, these sorts of things. I think when I answered in the House the other day about the question around the amount of money to be invested in the Northwest Territories versus British Columbia, it was \$300,000. One thing, once I went back and read my notes on this program, I learned that that only applies to Yellowknife. Anything outside of Yellowknife is actually \$150,000. We've had a little bit of uptake of people that are applying, particularly in Hay River and Inuvik, and possibly one other community. I can't remember what it was right off the top of my head. There is a different approach to it outside of Yellowknife, just because of the size of the regions and the investments are lower, but I'm glad to continue to have these conversations because we all know in this House bringing anybody into the Northwest Territories is going to do nothing but help us. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the insight that the Minister has shared. I also appreciate that there's some focus from the department being paid attention to this. I think that it has lots of room to grow and improve.

One other thing: I also respect that there needs to be some degree of certainty with regard to immigrants providing investment, but maybe it does have to be a little bit more appealing. I appreciate that, other communities outside of Yellowknife, the investment might be \$150,000 and Yellowknife is \$300,000, but, if we are trying to compete with other jurisdictions around the country, then Yellowknife has got to be appealing, as well. Frankly, if Vancouver or the better part of BC is at \$200,000, then, I would strongly suggest that the department should look at lowering Yellowknife's to be competitive.

One thing that I'm curious to learn a little bit more from the department, and tell me if I'm wrong in

terms of what activity we're in, but I can't seem to find it anywhere else, and that is, what is the role of ITI as it relates to its support for the knowledge-based economy? I respect that this is a multi-departmental undertaking, but certainly ITI is going to play an integral role as it relates to the development of our knowledge-based economy. It's a critical piece to diversification. I know it's again a relatively new initiative to our mandate, but I'd like to learn from the department what kind of investment that we're going to make in bringing on a knowledge-based economy and having it lead to diversifying the economy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Mr. Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it's fair to say that at this time with respect to the knowledge economy and innovation as it relates to the knowledge economy across the Northwest Territories government that we're very much in a forming stage right now. We have a number of projects that are going on that are going to benefit, say, for example, from the new fibre optic network. For example, the Inuvik satellite station is a place where we can start to look at a cluster of activities around the fact that that data will be downloaded. So other departments that we are connected with will have a project on a geoscience project. Geospatial data project, I think it was canvassed with the Minister of Finance. There is a project that has been moved forward on there.

Right now, I would say we've got projects. Other departments are looking at research facilities, but I think, to be honest with you, it's fair to say that we don't actually have a focus right now in ITI that is looking specifically at the innovation and knowledge agenda. What I will say is that, certainly within the department, we are seeing that there's activity. We see that there is a capacity with the fibre optic, and we're now looking at if there's a way that we can look at building a framework. What does the knowledge economy actually mean in the Northwest Territories? What do we mean when we are looking? What kinds of things need to happen in a geographic area like this, in the North? What do we bring to the table in terms of a knowledge economy? At the end of the day, knowledge economy is about creating knowledge, a new knowledge, but it's also about getting that to a marketplace where it's commodified, so it's actually an economy. I think it's fair to say that we're in the very early days of that, but it's very much on our radar in terms of what we'd like to do working across departments as part of economic diversification. We don't have a specific budget item for that at this time, either.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Vanthuyne?

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the deputy minister for his reply. I appreciate and I indicated in my comments that we kind of are in early stages. If that's the case and we're both recognizing that, then I think it's also important that we take the next steps in developing that, making a fairly serious commitment and investment to developing the broader scopes of what's expected in an NWT knowledge economy. I also forewarn that we don't have to look for perfection, either. Take small tiny steps. There are a lot of avenues that we can start to go down and invest in prior to knowing and understanding what the big picture is.

I gave a couple of examples just the other day, just very small ones, when I spoke in the House in a Member's statement about maybe a young woman in a remote community developing an app, and that app would teach her traditional language to the world because the app is downloadable. I talked about a young man being able to learn from an elder about traditional teepee building, and then using those skills as a motivator to maybe become an engineer or an architect that might go on to build housing that respects modern technology as well as traditional Indigenous lifestyles. Those are things that we can do now. We don't have to wait to and reinvent the wheel on a knowledge-based economy to contribute to those kinds of things. I'd like to see us make a commitment in that regard as soon as we possibly can. For this activity right now, Mr. Chair, that's all I have for questions. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Next, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just following up on my honourable friend's comments on the knowledge economy. I'm just wondering what programs the department has to support innovation in the Northwest Territories? I know there is significant effort and money available in the federal government across all provinces and territories for innovation. Do we have any innovation projects or strategies in the works? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Between the two Members, the comments that are stated, moving forward we might have a specific line item for the knowledge economy, but those things could be supported through the SEED initiative. I agree, the knowledge economy is in its early stages. I've been to the innovation table with Minister Bains, and they're working on their initiatives moving forward. We're trying to find what we can do to line up with the federal mandate to take best advantage of that. We have a number of things that are working right now. I think we have to

figure out as a territorial government how we're going to pull a knowledge economy all together under one roof, I guess I would say, and which department would take the lead on that because there are so many different initiatives and different things that could be spread out amongst different departments. I think this is one of the ones that we as a government has to have a serious look at and have one department lead this program. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate that this is a relatively emerging section of our economy, and it's not something that we traditionally thought of as a strength, but I don't want to see this department be in a position where it's waiting for the knowledge economy to come about organically, and that it's actually finding ways to stimulate knowledge economy, investments and development, and an innovation strategy that rewards private sector investment in innovative solutions. I think it dovetails quite well in the coming reality of carbon pricing and green economy solutions to Northern mining and manufacturing. I guess I just want to leave that as a comment. Let's build it so it's present in our economy, we're not waiting for it to catch up, because innovators will move to jurisdictions that support innovation, and that will be my final word on that, and I will invite the Minister to comment on it.

I did want to just discuss the BDIC as the next point. There is quite a substantial cut being proposed to BDIC, around just over \$900,000. Is this a one-time deduction? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a phase 2 reduction of \$925,000. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister, I believe he was asking if this was an ongoing cut, or is this a one-time cut? Thank you.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** This is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. The last budget, there was a cut in that budget to BDIC. Now, we're seeing a second year of cuts. Is this an ongoing reduction to the BDIC? Are there going to be future-year cuts moving forward, or is this the final round of cuts to BDIC? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ongoing from this point forward. After this, I don't anticipate that happening. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Again, we have seen the significant cuts to the BDIC over the last two budgets. What is the long-term vision for the BDIC? Are we developing the new strategic plan? Are we just going to reduce the overall financial resources they have to use and transfer the support into the department itself? There are a lot of rumours on the ground, but the Minister could put some of that to rest with a clear vision for the future of the corporation. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do not envision BDIC going away. I have met with them a number of times. We have our five-year program review that is going to be taking place right now. We have met with them, and they are quite excited about doing that.

Times have changed since BDIC was incorporated, and the business community has changed significantly. We anticipate doing a review and coming back to committee on how we can see this thing operating in the future, going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding from stakeholder engagement is that the program review is not really the issue. Most clients are satisfied with the level of service of the programs the BDIC offers. The issue the government seems to take is the operational side, that the appropriation to BDIC is in excess of what it needs to do its job. Is the Minister also undertaking an operational review to restructure the corporation to be more cost-effective? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The program review will look at the operations review, but we are building a terms of reference, and we will probably share that with committee once we have them done. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have spoken about this before, but BDIC performs an important role in supporting businesses in the Northwest Territories, providing advice to those companies and those individuals who are interested in getting involved and, of course, through its lending programs.

Looking at the information item, which is included later in the business review, on page 227, we see some of their operating results, and they seem to generate a significant amount of surplus. My understanding is that they cannot access that surplus under the terms of the current legislation. Is the Minister planning to do anything about that? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is one of the things that we are looking at, and the Member is onto it. There is money that they can use right now for certain things and money that they cannot. That would be the proposed legislation, once we do the review, that we would want to come back to the Assembly and change so that they could do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** That money the Minister just referred to or those financial resources, does the BDIC have access to those own-source revenues, essentially, to plug the gap that has been created by successive years of cuts to their appropriation? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes. Right now, they have access to their excess gas for operations. We would have to come forward for the legislative change to be able to use the interests. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. The legislative change that is required, when does the Minister anticipate bringing that forward?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The May-June session. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. The Minister also mentioned a program review and that the review would help identify the need to change legislation and other issues. Is the review going to be completed before the legislation comes forward in May and June? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The regulations that we want to come forward in the May-June sessions, the regulations have not been updated for a long time; we want to be able to make this change so that they can use that going forward. As far as the program review and the operations of that, we don't need to have that done to be able to do that, so they can continue to operate. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Regulations and legislation are of course different. I am just wondering: are we talking about legislative change or regulatory change? The Minister can change the regulations today if he wanted to. Can the Minister clarify? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We were talking about the act. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am satisfied that the BDIC will have the resources they need to continue to do its work, but it strikes me as odd that we have done two years of cuts now to BDIC without a program review and without passing legislation to allow them to do things. It just seems like the cuts are coming ahead of other work that needs to get done, and the Minister is, in fact, relying on these program reviews and legislation in order to continue to support the operations of BDIC.

It just seems odd that, again, we are cutting first and fixing the cuts afterwards. It seems like those things should have been done first, but we will see where this goes. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Next, I have Mr. Blake.

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of questions here under the fur program: in my riding, we are seeing more and more young trappers getting out on the land here, and I know that there was a concern this fall that we did have a

trapping workshop held in one of the communities but with limited amount of space available.

I think that would be a big benefit, if we had at least two of these workshops in each community that is interested. It would be beneficial in the future. There is a lot of interest in trapping. We have good examples in both Aklavik and Fort McPherson. We have a lot of youth who are finished school and are going out trapping and making a living here, and we need to encourage that and have more workshops available to them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have stated before, our fur program is for the Mackenzie Valley Fur Program for marketing and promotion, and I believe those questions would probably be better directed to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources when he comes up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Well, I think it is kind of shared between the two departments, because I know, under the Mackenzie Valley Fur initiative, that they do take trappers down, whether it's to North Bay or other auctions throughout Canada. This is all a part of it, encouraging more trappers. There is huge demand out there. This fall, there was an ad out for 20,000 muskrats. It is pretty tough to get up in our area at the moment because of population, but I think it is a responsibility between both departments. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I have said, we are in charge of the marketing and promotion of this, but we can certainly have a discussion with the Minister of ENR, working cohesively together to be able to help the trappers in the best way that we can to support their marketing and selling their furs. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Under "commercial fisheries," is this available to, say, folks up in the Beaufort Delta region, or is this specific only to Yellowknife and Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe he is talking about the line item on page 216 for commercial fisheries, and that is a support program that we have there for freight and production costs of fishing in the Northwest Territories. I know our department has been up to the Member's region and had a workshop there to see who was interested in getting into the commercial fishery in that region. We had a number of stakeholders participate in that.

I have recently had a chat with the chief of Tsiigehtchic, actually, around the discussion of how we can continue to promote that. We will continue to work towards that initiative going forward. I'd gladly sit down with the Member any time he wants and see how we can support the commercial fishery in his region. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. The Member's question was: the money under that line item, is that available to people from his region? Thank you, Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, although I think that's the point I was trying to make. There's no commercial fishing that has been done in that region yet, but, if it was, that money would be there for them. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Nothing further from Mr. Blake. I see no further comments on this. Everyone in the committee spoke on the activity once. Everyone has spoken to this activity. I will call this activity. Economic diversification and business support, operations expenditures summary, \$17,313,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Next, mineral and petroleum resources. This is found on pages 219 to 222, with the expenditure summary on page 220. First, I have Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A while ago, I was talking to some representatives from maybe even the Minister. I might have brought it up during business planning, a program that I was getting fairly excited about. It was called geoscience field assistant. I believe that was the name of it. It was a program that was being proposed by Aurora College. It was proposed by Aurora College along with the department and Mine Training Society and industry, in fact. We're all going to be collaborators on this program. This would be a program that would be part education and in part field training.

I'm wondering if the department has any information that they could fill us in on with regard to that

program. I understood it was something that we were going to try to promote and undertake this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. To update the Member, I believe Aurora College and the Mine Training Society hope to deliver this program in the spring. That's going to be moving forward. I think there have been a number of sponsors who are willing to take part in this going forward. Hopefully, we are going to have a number of students enrolled in this thing going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** That's good. It seems like we're going to be moving forward with the program. I just want to confirm, though. Has uptake on enrolment been positive, and are we in fact going to have students who are going to enroll at Aurora College for the program and then go on to take the hands-on practicum piece in the field later on? I just want to confirm that we actually are going to roll that out this year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Five employers have indicated a commitment or a strong interest in offering traineeships to seven students going forward. I will have to find out if this has been rolled out yet and see what the uptake is going to be on it, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I'll get back to the Member.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. All right. That seems to at least have some positive uptake, which I appreciate. I look forward to the update. This is also the activity where we can talk a little bit about oil and gas. I appreciate that there's been some attention drawn towards oil in particular lately as it relates to the Beaufort Sea and as well as the declining oil reserves in the Sahtu region. That leads us to maybe look at some other areas. An area that has been drawing more attention recently has been the kind of high Arctic inline gas fields.

I'm just wondering: can the Minister provide us some detail on what the department is expecting to do in the coming months and years to exploit this potential opportunity? This is an opportunity where we can maybe capture some gas that can be utilized in the northern remote communities rather

than having to truck LNG all the way from southern Canada. I just wonder if the Minister can share some detail with us with regard to inline gas. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, this last calendar year, we gave some money to help IRC with an initiative to study the feasibility of regional natural gas reserves in that region, along with the federal government. Canmore chipped in, we chipped in, and the IRCs participated in doing this. I believe that study is coming forward, is going to hopefully have a report to you by May, is my understanding on that.

When we come forward with our petroleum, oil, and gas strategy going forward, there's going to be a portion in there where we want to concentrate on how do we export using our resources for our own people in our own regions. We can't continually just focus on how we were going to constantly export this. We don't know when the price of commodities will come back up and the number of infrastructure dollars that we need to invest in our territory to make this stuff a reality. As we all know, the APG is on hold with their certificate due to low commodity prices and again because of a lack of infrastructure in these regions that make us less competitive. That well said though, we need to focus territorially on how we're going to do that. There are a number of proponents already after we went to the Arctic Energy and Emerging Technologies Conference in Inuvik. They are having a hard look at that region, how they can maybe tap into one of the wells in that region. That's all due to the fact just because of the new Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik Highway that has opened up that area that makes the cost a little more attractive and maybe bring the price of LNG down, either decompressed or liquefied versus shipping it all the way from northern BC up to there at a competitive price. Those people continue to work on that and update me on their projects, on how that's moving forward.

Member Thompson has asked me lately in the House, as of a couple of days ago, how we can maybe look at how can we use the natural gas in the Cameron Hills. These are the sorts of discussions that are going on. A lot of these are driven by industry. They are not driven by us. We are there to try to support them in the best way we can to be able to lower our costs of living for residents in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that full answer from the Minister. Most certainly, I think we need to exploit this opportunity, if anything, for our purposes as a territory. You shared that industry is driving a lot of this discussion. There is the upcoming Oil & Gas Symposium in Calgary. I just wonder: is the department going to be attending? Is the Minister attending? Maybe just an update on that so that we can learn a little bit more from industry. I would think that, if we are having critical discussions here about oil and gas in the Northwest Territories, then we might want to have some representation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I, myself, am not attending the oil and gas show this year. I did go last year, but we are sending staff to participate in this year's conference. We'll see what comes out of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the chair of EDE didn't get an invite to that either, so he won't be going either.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is also where we talk about, and correct me if I'm wrong, the secondary diamond industry. This is an industry that we've seen come and go over the years. Not long ago, we thought with the coming of Almod Diamonds that we would start to see another uptake in the secondary diamond industry again. I am just wondering: can the Minister provide us with an update on Almod Diamonds, if he can let us know what stage they are at? What, if any, other interests have there been from stakeholders or investors who want to invest in the secondary diamond industry here, in the North? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I will update the House a little bit on Almod. I had a conversation with him. Maybe some Members don't realize that, when the hurricane season hit the Caribbean, he has a number of stores down there that got either totally wiped out or severely damaged. A number of his staff had their homes totally destroyed. In one particular case, he had staff guarding his safe where the whole building was gone, even though their house was totally wiped out. He had significant challenges over the course of the hurricane season. I still believe they continue to do so. They haven't got all their operations up and running.

I phoned him after that just to have a conversation with him and see how he and his staff were doing. They are trying to keep things rolling. They are rebuilding as they go. The challenges that they are having around the Yellowknife operation comes back to Member Vanthuyne's comments around immigration. The federal system is slow and cumbersome. They are trying to bring their trainers to Yellowknife to be able to open this facility. Almod has a patented cut called the "Crown of Light," which is a 90-some facet cut compared to a 54. He has a unique type of diamond that he sells as a product. He needs a certain type of people to be able to train people to be able to do this.

The immigration process is holding him up. He has already, like I announced in the House, purchased the facilities. He has purchased a residence for his staff, and he is eager to get going. We are totally in support of him trying to get through the immigration process so he can get these people up here and get this thing going. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. Vanthuyne, your time has expired. Next, we have Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Looking at page 221, I would like to ask some questions about the Mining Incentive Program. This program was increased in last year's budget to a million dollars, more than double. I am just wondering if the Minister can speak to whether all of this money got out the door last fiscal or this fiscal year. Did all the money invested into this fund get used? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. For 2017-2018, we anticipate spending \$991,055 of that million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is a significant amount of the total used. I am pleased to hear that. Has the Minister received any feedback from industry on this program and the increase to it that he can share with the House today? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can't remember specifically who the individual was, but I remember they sent me a letter saying they wouldn't have been able to do their program in the Northwest Territories without this program. While we were at Mineral Roundup at the AME, I had a couple of people come up to me who thanked

us for having this program in place and the other initiatives that we have to promote the mining industry in the Northwest Territories.

I don't have to tell the Members of this House that there is a lot of interest in mining in the Northwest Territories. As things start to come together, if we get some infrastructure funding to help promote some of these things, I believe we are going in the right direction with the programs that we have in place. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to the Minister for that update. I am a great supporter of this important subsidy program to our mining industry. I wanted to also turn to secondary diamonds. My honourable friend from Yellowknife North was just scratching the surface of some of these issues. The Minister announced the establishment of a new secondary diamond operation with much fanfare. We haven't had many updates since then. What action is the department taking to help move this process along and eliminate this immigration roadblock? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said, the holdup with this whole thing is around the federal immigration process. We as a department sent a letter to their agent saying we are supportive of their application for their immigration process. We will continue to monitor that going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have our territorial nominee program. Is there any overlap with the territorial nominee program administered through Education, Culture and Employment that we can use to expedite this process? Thank you.

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

**MR. JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The individuals who are coming to work with Almod are coming here on a temporary basis to be able to get the plant up and running and also to start to train local residents of Yellowknife to be able to learn how to cut the diamond the way they need to have it cut. They are coming here through a program. I think it is called expedited economic immigration. It is not through the nominee program. It is through an expedited program that the federal government offers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you for that clarification from the witness. Since the Minister announced the Almod deal, has there been any actual work at these facilities? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Northwest Territories geological survey has a significant decrease in its budget. Can the Minister speak to what that represents? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is primarily due to a sunset from the federal government for a cost-shared agreement for the Slave Geological Physical Surficial Materials Permafrost Study. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe those are my only questions for this activity. Thank you.

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

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mine is more of a comment to identify and compliment the department's maintaining of some additional resources for petroleum resources. Although the commodity prices are way down and the market demand is way down, the resource is still here. I think it is comforting to know that the department is still maintaining some allowance for presence.

If we were to view a couple of the advocating trips that I made in promoting our Northern resources by assisting in support of the application for the repair program of the pipeline repair in Fort Simpson, which has a budget of \$53 million, now, given the fact that it is looking like it is going to be approved and everything looks fine with the permitting regulatory process, then you come back and say, "Okay, well, look at the numbers on the program detail." You have allowed quite consistently, based on the mains of 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, of 1.4. I would say that is a pretty good return to promote your northern resources, given the fact that some

presence from the Inuvik Petroleum Office was there in Fort Simpson doing the same thing.

I would just point that out to say that I think we should maintain some sort of petroleum allowance, whether it is having staff here in the North and whether it is going to the petroleum show in Calgary. As long as we are maintaining a presence, I think it will show industry that we are in support. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Member for his comments. We have seven positions right now in that division, and I do not anticipate us cutting any of them. We have a number of things moving forward wherein we have to have people in these positions. We are going to be coming out with our strategy here very shortly on the Petroleum Resource Act. We have the Oil and Gas Operations Act that has to be maintained, as well, as the Member has said, with line 21 possibly coming on. I think, with this shutdown, it has made us kind of open our eyes and ears on the reclamation side of things, and we have got to start thinking about that stuff going forward as well. The department has a number of things that we have to continue to work on, and we will keep the staff accordingly, as we have in place right now, going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. McNeely. No further questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I was just wondering if the Minister could tell us whether he has got a cheque from Mactung yet. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, I don't. No.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Well, that's an honest answer. What is happening with the property? Are we actually trying to market this property yet, or what has happened? We have had it now for probably, what, two years, so what is happening? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the Member knows, Mactung is probably one of the

world's largest undeveloped concentrations of tungsten in the world. We are working on a marketing plan going forward right now, and we are anticipating having that ready by the summer of 2018. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Could he share that marketing plan, then, with standing committee? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, when we have it completed, we can certainly do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That's great. I know the Minister is really anxious to look at the oil and gas legislation, as well. Are we going to be considering the royalty regime during the review of that legislation? He promised to do that with the mining legislation, but it has been pushed off now until the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Are we going to be looking at the royalties with regard to oil and gas? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, a comment on the Mineral Resource Act royalty part of it. There were two discussions in our public engagement, and, once we got to the intergovernmental council, that is where the decision was made to put that on hold on the royalties.

As far as the Oil and Petroleum Resource Act going forward and the Oil and Gas Operations Act, we will have our public engagement sessions as well. The demand we will be meeting is probably exactly the same thing with the intergovernmental council, having those discussions with them. I couldn't comment at this point if the royalty part of this will be going forward as that initiative, not until those conversations take place. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I would hate to think that we are going to get all the way through that one, too, and find out that royalties for oil and gas are going to be hived off to the next Assembly as well. Let's talk, then, about the royalty regime from mining.

The Minister has said that it is the Indigenous governments, themselves, that have been pushing our government to delay review of the royalty regime for mining. Can the Minister share some of that correspondence with committee, then, so that we can see that for ourselves? I am aware that there were several organizations that actually pushed the government to review the royalty regime in light of our poor international standing on capturing revenues. Can the Minister share some of this correspondence from the Indigenous governments with standing committee, where the governments have asked that this be delayed? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will have to look into that and get back to the Member if we are able to do that at all. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks. I appreciate the Minister undertaking that commitment. I want to turn to page 221. It shows that there is a contribution ongoing to the NWT Chamber of Mines, \$30,000. It looks like it is some kind of a core funding. Can the Minister comment on this? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is not core funding for them. This is for them to be able to attend various things, like PDAC and AME Mineral Roundup. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. If other organizations wanted to obtain this kind of funding - I'll just give a couple of examples, maybe the Council of Canadians or Ecology North -- they could apply to the department and get this type of funding as well? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If they were to send me a request, we would have to take it into consideration, and then we could put it in our next budget. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Is this just a general pot that is available for different

organizations to apply to obtain funding to go to these sorts of conferences? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is a specific line item for them, but there could be possibilities of other sources of funding where we could look at doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. What other financial support does the department give in this activity or other activities to the Chamber of Mines? Are there contributions to the Geoscience Forum? Are there additional delegates that are funded in other parts of the ITI budget to allow Chamber of Mines staff or individuals to go to conferences and so on? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. If you look in the grants and contribution report, we reported on the results for 2016-2017, and, if you go to page 45, it will have everything listed there. We have expenditures and results for the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is not shown, though, anywhere in the main estimates or the business plan? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When the Member goes there, to the grants contribution page, and sees what we contributed to, that amount also came out of page 221 in the business plan. It is the very first line, Aboriginal Mineral Development Program, and then some of it came from Other Contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. In fact, I'm furiously trying to flip through the business plan to find out what page he's talking about. I'm looking at the public version, which seems to only have about 50 pages for ITI -- 51 pages, in fact. So is it a schedule in the business plan that I should be looking for? Thanks, Mr. Chair. Oh, maybe it's schedule 4.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's under the business plan. Sorry, Member O'Reilly, page 221, main estimates, the ones that we're going through today.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. I'm going to stop the clock here for a minute. So we're going to figure out what we're looking for here. In what document is the Minister referencing? Is it the main estimates, or is it the public business plans? Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Main estimates, page 221, first line, Aboriginal Mineral Development Support Program, and then "other contributions," as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Page 221.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Okay. Thanks, Mr. Chair. So is the Minister then telling me that there are additional contributions to the NWT Chamber of Mines that are found in this Aboriginal Mineral Development Support Program of \$100,000? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Not all of it, but some of it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So can the Minister provide to standing committee, then, a list of the financial support that's provided to the NWT Chamber of Mines, say, for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018? I can't determine how much support has been given, so could the Minister put those figures together and just provide it to the standing committee? That's probably the easiest thing to do. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, we will do that for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Maybe just one last question: the oil and gas strategy, when is that going to be made available to standing committee? It's been a long time since we commented on some earlier versions, so when is the next version going to appear? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As things are rolling out, we plan to try to have that in front of committee by early April. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly, time for one last question.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. No questions. Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This could probably be a short one here. In regards to the Oil & Gas Symposium in Calgary, I realize the Minister is not going and staff are, have they reached out to some of the Aboriginal communities and invited them to go to that conference? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, to answer the Member's question, specifically, we haven't reached out to bring them like we normally would, like we did last year, or go to the AME Roundup type of thing that we just did in Vancouver.

In this particular case, we haven't done that because of the state of the oil and gas economy in the Northwest Territories. We're going to be coming out with our petroleum resource strategy in the near future, and, as I've said in this House, we're looking at concentrating on how we're going to use this resource locally the best we can and, at the same time, figure out how we can use the strategy to find a way to market and get infrastructure and investment so we can market this to a broader audience. At this particular time, with the downturn of this particular industry, no, we have not reached out to take participants to it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess I know in my riding, especially the Fort Liard area, in the past, the government has invited them to go to the conference, and it's been big, I guess, very supportive for the community and something for the future. So I guess my question is, I understand, you know, that we're doing a plan and a strategy and that, but would we not want to invite or engage the communities that wish to be down there and support them to go there, presently? So will the

Minister look at potentially working with Fort Liard to send somebody or a contingency down there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing's stopping any of these people to reach out to us and see if we would be willing to assist them to do that. There are our regional offices that they can approach for support to do that. My concern on this initiative, as I've said: let's take the Liard Basin for an example. Petronas has walked away from the LNG plant on the west coast. There seem to be significant challenges on getting this product to market, not just for us but for all of Canada.

The commodity price went from \$11, at one point, down to \$1.90. It's fluctuating in a zone there where it's very unattractive for investment in our region right now. We continue to monitor these things, and, when we roll out our strategy, we're still trying to figure out how we can market this. A lot of these things are out of our control. They're a global entity that's going to control how we get these things to market. So there's a lot of challenges around that, but there are some opportunities.

Like I said, maybe, going forward, how do we get these things to regional centres and use it the best we can for Northerners. We will continue to look at that, but I know that's a long-winded answer to say that the people in Fort Liard can reach out to our regional staff to see if there's a way for us to support them going to this show. That's the short answer, I guess. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thought this was going to be a short Q&A here, but it got a little bit longer. I appreciate the Minister providing that opportunity, and I will pass that on to the leadership in Fort Liard, that they can reach out to the regional staff there to see what can be done. So I thank the Minister for that. I understand the challenges that we see, but, again, that community needs to find work and they're trying to get this done, so I greatly appreciate it. It's just more of a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Everyone has been given an opportunity to speak to this. I will now call this activity. Minerals and petroleum resources, operations expenditure summary, activity total \$15,780,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Moving on. Tourism and parks. This activity begins on page 223 and continues to page 226. Does committee have comments or questions on tourism and parks? Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate seeing and hearing that the Yellowknife Visitor Services is going to continue to get a contribution of \$161,000 this year to not allow for any gap in visitor services, which is appreciated. I respect that there are other initiatives being undertaken by the government as it relates to legislation that will be coming forward to help support the City of Yellowknife with regard to enabling them to allow them to establish the organization, OBM -- sorry, I forget the acronym now, but anyway I'm thankful for the government's contribution to the city as it relates to visitor services and tourism.

With that said, I would like to ask the department: we have a considerable uptake right now on tour operators in the city. It has been brought to my attention recently that out-of-town operators are exploiting this opportunity. Can the department maybe let us know: is there some kind of inspection and/or maybe application process or what have you that an operator has to undertake in order to do business in the Northwest Territories or the City of Yellowknife, for that matter, as it relates to being a tour operator? I guess, more in particular, the Aurora viewing tour operators was the specific concern that was raised with me, that there are Alberta companies coming in and conducting business. The concern is that (a) they are maybe not members of the NWT tourism and (b) they might not have the appropriate licences.

Is the department aware of this, and is there anything that we can do to make sure that, if you're going to come and do business here, then you've got to be established and fulfill all the proper requirements? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well, we do have our regional office that does out and conducts our inspections. The other one that we've talked about in this House beginning in April is the tourism operators are going to have a safety plan going forward. Every one of them is going to have to be able to produce that. As far as outside operators, particularly if it's, as the Member said, from outside of the territory, nothing like that has come to my attention. I would gladly sit down and have that conversation if that is taking place in the NWT. Maybe it's something that's going to have to happen if they are operating here without the proper certificates between ourselves and the City

of Yellowknife. We're going to have to have a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I mean it seems to me that the Minister might not be aware of this fully. Frankly, it's just recently been brought to my attention, as well. Maybe I'll ask: if the department is going to be working a tourists safety plan with each of the operators, how do they know which operators -- you know, the Minister said all of them are going to have to take this training. How do we know who all of them are? Is it because of some kind of registry, or is it just because they've taken out business licences, or is it just because they're members of NWT Tourism? How is it that they're going to be able to determine who all of them are? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** Mr. Chair, certainly we have a list of all of the tourism operators who have a licence with us. We require that they have safety plans as part of that. There's a safety guidance document that's available.

In terms of are there operators who are operating in the territory that are unlicensed, well, we have officers who would hopefully hear about that. We have actually heard from other licensed tourism operators if there is an operator who is operating who is unlicensed. The community knows who they are. They know each other. We have certainly have examples of hearing from legitimate licensed tourism operators who know of some that are operating without a licence, and we have acted on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Okay. Well then, I appreciate that. Then I guess the question is: if they're not registered and if they're not going to take the safety plan, what are the repercussions for an operator who is going to be providing tourism services in the Northwest Territories that -- and I'm not talking about just someone from down South now. I'm talking about anyone who might not be registered and might not take the safety training. If we've done our inspection and we find some of these operators that haven't undertaken these initiatives and haven't registered themselves with ITI, then what are the repercussions or penalties that one might expect if they're not registered or haven't taken a safety plan? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The safety plans going forward is a condition of your TOL, so, if you don't have your safety plan in place, I suspect that you're not going to get your tourism operator licence and you will be forced to shut down. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I mean that's the point I'm trying to raise. You're saying "forced to shut down." What does that look like? Is this you're asked to leave town if you're from out of town? Your vehicles get confiscated like your tour buses, or you're handed a fine? I'm just trying to understand so that I can report back to those who raised the concern with me.

What are the details, or have we drafted any kind of penalties, or are there any kind of repercussions specifically that someone would be dealt if they weren't registered and didn't take the safety training? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I'll have to go back to the department to see exactly, if you're non-compliant, what would the actions be taken. I suspect we'll be working closely with the City of Yellowknife because most of these guys are going to have a business licence to be able to conduct business in the municipality of Yellowknife as well. There must be some measures in place between the two of us that would shut down an organization, but I'll have to get more details and get back to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** That would be appreciated, as much as you can provide on that. I have a few different operators in my riding who would appreciate knowing that detail. I have no further questions at this point on this activity. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of questions. A lot of people in my riding ask me about why the parks in the South Slave close generally earlier than any other parks in the territory. I was wondering if the Minister could give

me an explanation as to why that is. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I've stated in the House before, this was a part of our normal operations and our seasonal operations and the amount of money that was allocated to it. I made a commitment in the House when our parks went out to tender that we would have an option on there to have the parks operators give us a price for an additional timeline and we would take that as a consideration if we'd be able to extend the hours of operators and the length of time that they would be open. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I noticed those tenders have gone out. Can the Minister confirm that that option was included on there? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will have to follow up and make sure that that was in there, but I can't give the Member a direct answer right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I generally ask the same question in committee that I ask when we're doing business planning, just for future reference. The answer I was kind of looking for is that part of the problem is that there are technical reasons why they don't stay open: it gets cold, and there's infrastructure that can't freeze; they're not winterized, so the plumbing freezes; things like that. I would appreciate an answer like that. Does the department know how much it would cost to winterize some of these properties so that they can stay open even a few weeks or a month past what they are staying open now? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have that type of detail here, but we can have a look at what that would cost. We would probably need more specifics from the Member about the time frame he's thinking. I made the commitment in-House that we would change those tenders, what it would take to keep these parks open a couple of weeks longer at the end of the year because I hear this ongoing concern from a

number of people, and particularly both our ridings of Hay River, of wanting to be able to access these things. We can have a look to see what it would cost, but maybe the Member could ask me a specific length of time that he'd want us to consider. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess the issue is that the campgrounds are built for summer. They aren't built for winter. What would it cost to get them up to standards where everything's not going to freeze, that we're not going to have all this damage if there's a cold spell a month later. I understand that's technical. I'm not looking for an answer for that right now, but that's the kind of stuff that, looking forward, it would be nice to investigate. I know both my constituency meeting and the constituency meeting for the MLA for Hay River South always end in talks with tourism and parks and why can't get the campgrounds open longer. I'd like a bit of follow-up on that at a later date from the Minister. If you give me one second here, I'll turn to the correct section.

I notice that there's no mention. The tourism industry contribution is for marketing and industry association support to NWT Tourism. Where is that money spent? They say, "We never see the ads for NWT Tourism because they're in Vancouver. They're advertising elsewhere in the country." Can we get a little detail about how that money is spent? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That money is split up between core funding and marketing, and, if you look in a reference to the grants and contribution book again as well page 31, for 2016-2017, page 31 and 32 will lay out exactly where most of that money went. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can tell it's been a long day for the Minister. He's getting quieter and quieter. I didn't quite hear that answer, but I can look at Hansard to find out where that information is. I believe that's all I have for this section right now. Yes, this is all I have right now. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I can vouch for some of those parks on the other side of the lake

because I've stayed in all of them, but there are some great parks on this side of the lake, as well: Fred Henne, Prelude, Reid Lake, all of which our family has used. Where is the department looking at in terms of keeping some of those open longer into the fall? Part of the reason I raise this is they already do it in the Yukon. They have tremendous road traffic through there. I use their parks past the usual closing date, and, from what I've seen and understand, they get great usage of those parks even into October. What are we looking at doing for the parks on this side of the lake, and was that included in the tender documents that went out as an option? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is my microphone working? Can you hear?

First of all, we have to take this into context because, if we go down this road, this is going to cost the territorial government a significant amount of money. We have a limited amount of capital within the ITI budget to do this across a territory-wide initiative. One of the things I think that we'd have to even consider before we end up doing this - and we are doing some stuff in the North Slave, around the winter Aurora there, keeping our parking lots open and washroom facilities and such, and that's costing us some extra money.

When you start looking at a territory-wide initiative to do this, we're talking like probably millions of dollars to be able to transition to keeping these things open in the wintertime. These buildings aren't made to winter specification. They're made for seasonal operations but also for value for money. Some of these parks are not going to have any types of visitors, next to nothing probably, in some of them, depending on where they're located. This would be an initiative that would have to have a very serious look at to even consider doing this.

I didn't say we were going to keep them open longer than Hay River region, but I wanted to have a feeling of what it would cost to keep these things open for a couple of weeks, maybe. That's why I asked the Member from Hay River North what kind of a time frame is he talking. Are we talking a couple of weeks here, or are we talking about three or four months? There's a big difference in this type of initiative and the cost that would be associated with it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister's boundless enthusiasm for this idea. Look, I'm not asking for the entire park system to be open

all winter, but maybe you can start with a few pilot projects, having two or three different parks open at least three or four weeks or something into the fall, and then you can look at maybe some other options. Can the Minister commit to come to committee with a few options that might be costed out to look at piloting this idea of extending the season? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I won't agree to that, but I think what I would agree to, I think, because we've already done a pilot project, is on the Deh Cho region. We've just done it in the Blackstone this year. Maybe let the department pull that information together and see what the value for money we got. How many people actually went in the extended season? What did it cost us to do that? It will give us some idea at least on one particular park what it's cost us to do just in one region.

For the north side of the lake, we've also had our North Arm Park engagement process, which is that the department's gone out to get feedback on how we can look at maybe changing how we operate things in the North Slave here, and I think we can probably share that if we haven't shared it already with committee going forward on that one, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Let's start with something really small then. How about keeping the boat launch at Fred Henne open past the Labour Day weekend? It's not even part of the park. There's a separate gate. What about starting with something really small like that? This is an area that's well used by Yellowknifers. Can the Minister look at keeping that open into September, later in September, so that residents of Yellowknife can continue to boat on the lake? That's something really small. I don't think that's going to cost a lot of money, but let's hear what the Minister has to say. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No, we can certainly look at doing an initiative like that. Like I said, we'll post some numbers together on this pilot project that we did in the Blackstone there, in the Fort Simpson Territorial Park, and get some of that information to committee as well, too. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment of the Minister to do that. I just want to turn to Yellowknife visitor services. It's \$161,000 as shown on page 225. That is actually less than the cost of the visitors' centre in Dawson City, Yukon. I don't know how many visitors they get, but we seem to get a lot of visitors in Yellowknife now. Is the Minister looking at increasing support for tourism in Yellowknife and visitor services beyond \$161,000 a year? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think it's a bit early to make a decision on that yet. We are working with the City of Yellowknife to determine the long-term model delivery of the visitors' information centre.

To Mr. Vanthuynne, it's "DMO." DMO is the acronym that he was trying to figure out there. We need to pull all of these things together, and we will be working very closely with the city moving forward to see what supports are going to be needed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think I heard the Minister say that he is open, then, to receiving more information about how the destination marketing organization is going to roll out and what additional support our government might provide to help support the burgeoning tourism industry here in Yellowknife? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said, we are working with the city to determine a long-term model of the delivery of the tourism information centre, and we'll work closely with the City of Yellowknife and keep committee informed on where this initiative is going. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes. I am sure he is prepared to work with his colleague, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, to get that Cities, Towns and Villages Act changed before the House so that they can start to build up the destination marketing organization pot. Maybe the Minister can tell us, too, what is happening with the old visitors' centre that is boarded up, just a few hundred metres from this building? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On the infrastructure side of things, the department is having a look at it. We had a couple of consultants assess the building and develop options for the future of the building. Hopefully, we will have the final reports complete with a detailed review of engineering options and costs related to that fairly soon. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Can the Minister share those reports, then, with standing committee? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll find out. If there are no types of conflicts, certainly we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Anybody who has walked downtown in Yellowknife these days knows how active the tourist sector is. We have tourists walking in our neighbourhood now. I live on Forrest Drive, and they are walking in the neighbourhood, looking for things to do. We have got to find a better way to provide services for the tourists that do come here. We want to make sure that they are made welcome and that they have more activities to do than just walking around in neighbourhoods, which is fine if they want to learn about Yellowknife, but I am sure we can do a lot better. Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is all that I have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Any closing comments from the Minister on that? Nothing from the Minister. Anything further from committee? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Tourism and parks, operations expenditure summary, \$16,290,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Committee, that is the end of our activities. There are four information items on pages 227 to 234. Members can have the opportunity to speak once to these items as a whole. Mr. O'Reilly, you have 10 minutes to speak to the information items on pages 227 to 234.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't think I'm going to need 10 minutes, but I guess some of it is going to depend on the Minister's answers. On

Page 230, the environmental studies research fund, are there actually any oil and gas leases out there that pay levies into this fund anymore? Given the total lack of any activity, are there any levies continuing to come in here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. My understanding is that the levies are still coming in, and the rates are staying at the same as they were last year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I probably should have had a closer look at this myself before I asked the question. On 230, 2018-2019, it shows a revenue of zero or just a line, but the previous two years, either the revised estimates or the actuals, were \$292,000. What is happening in 2018-2019? Have all of those leases been given up or surrendered? Are there any revenues coming in? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. MUJGIN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is basically a timing situation in regard to when the levies are issued to interest holders and when they are reflected in this particular schedule. They are issued in the first quarter of a calendar year. It's basically just a timing situation. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. If I wasn't confused before, I certainly am now. The department, then, anticipates \$292,000 coming in, but it's just going to happen at the end of the first quarter of 2018-2019? If so, why wouldn't the figure be put in here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. As Ms. Mujcin said, it is a timing issue, and we should be able to maybe provide the actual number closer to the end of March, the end of this quarter, what the actual number will be, but we anticipate it is probably going to be less than the \$292,000 you see here because there are less hectares. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks. Can the Minister then commit to provide that information to committee? I am just curious to know what the levy is, how many leaseholders are out there, or the other areas that are under lease. I am sure that stuff could be put together in a table. Could that be provided to committee? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that commitment from the Minister. I have expressed some concerns in the past about how representative and accountable the board is who administers this fund. It consists of government representatives and industry representatives. I think there is supposed to be one public representative. Is all of that going to be up for reconsideration when the Petroleum Resources Act comes up for review? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I believe that will be part of the PRA review. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the commitment of the Minister on that one, and I think that is all I have for this portion of the budget. Sorry, one other, on 227, is BDIC. The accumulated surplus is shown on the bottom of the page there. Is this the amount that the Minister is talking about changing or allowing the corporation to use as part of its program dollars that they are not authorized to do right now? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, that is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. That is all that I have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. There are no further comments from committee on pages 227 to 231, the information items? Seeing none, we can move back to the activity, the departmental

total on page 207. The departmental total along with associated information, including revenues and positions, is found on pages 204 to 209. Do we have comments, questions? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. My questions are on 208, the revenues. Minerals, oil and gas royalties, are there any oil and gas royalties predicted for 2018-2019? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will have to check with the department and get back to the Member on that one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, that would be helpful to know. The "Licenses, rental and other fees," can someone just tell me what those are comprised of? Can someone just explain a little bit more about what that is? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That line item includes revenue from the mining recorder's office of rentals, prospecting licence permit fees, claim fees, and other administrative fees related to the registry documents. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. It has declined precipitously, from over \$20 million in 2016-2017 to \$2.3 million. Does this just reflect a lot less activity that is going on? Are these reduced fees or something here? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That was the bid deposit stuff from the Sahtu that was forfeited. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I think the Minister is referring to the large total for 2016-2017. That was, I don't know, MGM or something that decided not to proceed with exploration, so they forfeited a large amount of money. Is that what that is? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I won't say who they were, but we can give committee a detailed item list of that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess, my last point, I don't really expect a response necessarily from the Minister. I have already said this before. We have raised more revenues now from tobacco taxes than the oil and gas and mining royalties. We get \$16 million in tobacco taxes. For mining, oil, and gas royalties, we get \$13.4, maybe \$13.5. The liquor commission revenues are \$24.7 million, about twice what we get from mining, oil, and gas royalties. This, to me, demonstrates the need for us to examine how we collect these revenues and whether they are appropriate or not and whether we are getting a fair share of the revenues from oil and gas and mining. I don't understand why this is being delayed to the next Assembly. Then again, I don't expect a response from the Minister. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I will take it as a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Mr. O'Reilly, no more? Thank you. Mr. Simpson.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 208, there is a line item, "Egg marketing levy." There is no money attached to it this year, but in previous years, I see in 2017-2018, there was \$35,000. For those people who don't know, the commercial egg market is supply-managed. That means commercial production is regulated federally. Producers are allocated a quota through a designated body, the egg producers of Canada. In the NWT, the GNWT is actually the holder of that quota. They don't produce eggs, though. They allow other producers to produce eggs.

This line item here is the egg marketing levy. As the name suggests, that money comes from the egg producers in the territory through the Egg Farmers of Canada back to the holder of the quota, the GNWT, and is supposed to be used for marketing made-in-the-NWT eggs. In the past years, it has just gone into the GNWT's general coffers. I am not quite sure why this is because we do produce eggs in the territory. There is a farm. There is an egg supplier. There is a board. Everything is in place here, yet this money, even though it is not much money, goes into the general coffers and does not go to the egg producers board so they can actually

advertise made-in-the-NWT eggs. That is why you never see a made-in-the-NWT eggs advertisement anywhere, you don't see stand-up posters in the grocery store, you don't see ads in magazines unless people have paid for them out of their own pocket.

This year, there is no money attached to this. I am of the understanding that that is because the Agricultural Products Marketing Council has been reinstated by the GNWT. In regulations, this marketing money, for some reason, goes to this Agricultural Products Marketing Council, which is a body that I believe was intended to settle disputes in the industry. I am not sure if there are disputes, but this is all something that can be clarified here once I am done my question or the setup. This money that is coming from the egg marketing levy is going to fund this board instead of going to promote NWT eggs. I guess my question is: why is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member stated it was for marketing. This money is not for that. With the re-establishment of the Agricultural Products Marketing Council, which oversees the system in NWT and ensures that it's arm's length and objective of the council, this money is for the operations of that council. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. It is a marketing council. The only money they are getting, I believe, is from the egg marketing levy. Other agriculture producers, are they contributing to this, as well? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't have any other producers, so it is all coming from the egg producers board. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is an egg producers board who is producing a product. What the GNWT did was create another council that would do the marketing for the egg producers board. Why doesn't the egg producers board just do the marketing like they have been asking to? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. Jensen.

**MR. JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I think there is a bit of confusion around the term "marketing." This Agricultural Products Marketing Council is set up to oversee the system in NWT to ensure it is arm's length and objective. It is an oversight board as opposed to, I would argue, a direct marketing responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Jensen. Mr. Simpson.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. Once again, if this board isn't for marketing, why is the money for egg marketing going to support this board that's for oversight, that it's the GNWT board and I believe there's ITI employees on there, as well. It's not even at arm's length. Why is the money from the egg producers paying for the GNWT's board, I guess, is my question? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. JENSEN:** Mr. Chair, it's a board that independently oversees the operations to make sure that the system we have here is objective and that it's transparent. The NWT Egg Producers Board gets in place to promote and market NWT eggs, not just those of one producer. It is responsible for marketing. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Deputy Minister Jensen. Mr. Simpson.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, the NWT Egg Producers Board is responsible for promoting made-in-the-NWT eggs, as I stated. There happens to be one producer, but they still can only promote made-in-the-NWT eggs. It's still confusing why the money for the egg marketing levy is not going to the egg producers to market their eggs. It's going to a GNWT oversight board. It's from regulations from 1999, 20 years ago almost, so maybe it's time to look at those regulations and look at how the industry has changed and maybe those need to be changed, as well. What's the Minister's take on that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. One of the things we have to take into consideration here, this is early days for this arm's-length board. They're just convening here. You know, just lately, we've just put these people in place. I'm sure as these things come up, they will come back to us and we will have a look at it and what role we can take and play to try to maybe

correct some of these things going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that it's sort of early days in terms of the agricultural strategy and when we're trying to get everything all set up and move forward with this. Perhaps the Minister would agree to sit down with me and members of the egg board whenever he's back in Hay River and we can sort of discuss this issue and maybe figure out collaboratively a way to come up with a solution. Would the Minister be open to that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I would gladly do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Schumann. Anything further, Mr. Simpson?

**MR. SIMPSON:** Nothing further.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Further questions? Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm just looking at page 208, the revenue summary. I'd like to ask just some questions with some of the lines we see here. First, on the nominee program, in the 2016-2017 actuals was that \$42,000. Now we see the proposed budget in the last fiscal year was near half that amount. What explains the drop from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Minister.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The fees have remained a historical budget at our current plan. Nominee program revenue is for the application fees, and the budget is based on an estimated number of applicants in any year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In 2016-2017, we budgeted double the amount of applicants. Sorry, those were the actuals, okay. Again in 2016-2017, we had nearly twice the amount that we budgeted for in the preceding year. What explains the drop in that number of applicants? That's what I'm looking for. How do we understand? I understand how the budget works or how the budget works for this program. Why did we lose so many applicants when the program was doing so well?

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. These are just estimates, and we are glad to see these numbers exceed the forecast. The actuals in that particular year for \$42,000 were the actuals, but we continue to forecast \$22,000. If these numbers continue to climb, well, maybe we'll look at raising that actual number. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Onto the tourism operator licences, it just seems odd that this number isn't growing with the success of the tourism industry and the number of operators. I often hear that there's a lot of competition out there for new operators who are coming in to take advantage of the tourism market. Are we not predicting any new operations applying for licences? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This line item is very similar to what has happened with the nominee program. It's a historical number, but we're looking at increasing that because then the number of applicants has actually gone up a little bit here already, and we will continue to revise these numbers as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Can the Minister account for the difference in mineral, oil and gas royalties? I know some of these issues were raised, but if he could just clearly account for the difference between the 2017-2018 revised estimates and this year's estimates. Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. These numbers are done on a quarterly basis. We based the royalty forecast referred by the Diamond, Royalties and Financial Analysis Division. The model uses the mining regulations, uses historical data and forward-looking information from companies based on publicly available information, forecast changes in the market, and mine plans change including rough diamond prices and foreign exchange. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you to the Minister for providing the technical details of how it's calculated, but I'm looking for the reasons why there is a drop from \$31 million to \$13 million. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can't talk about any specific operation, but I can say that it's bringing forward eligible expenses all in one year instead of having to spread out over a number of years. That's what was the big impact on that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want to speak to an issue that I unfortunately wasn't allowed to or wasn't able to ask questions on in a previous section, but I'll just flip over to 207, the departmental total, and just ask about the manufacturing strategy. What money has been attached to the manufacturing strategy in this budget? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We've been currently funding that from within the ITI budget. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** By how much? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't have that detail in front of me. I'll have to get that information for the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I find it difficult when this is responded in this manner, to say, "Well, we have money, but I can't tell you what it is or where you can find it." I would hope the Minister would have a more satisfactory answer, but I will remain unsatisfied.

On the manufacturing strategy, what is the progress-to-date on the consultation engagement and drafting of that strategy, the progress made to date? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We went out and did our public engagement in a number of communities across the Northwest Territories. We are going to be pulling together a What We Heard report. Hopefully, that is going to be done in the very near future, and we will be able to table that probably in the up-and-coming session or post it online before the next session starts. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was involved in that process, and I appreciate the work that is going into that. One of the areas that is up for discussion in the strategic discussions around manufacturing is converting the current list policy, where you have to be registered as a manufacturer to receive the preferential purchasing, shifting that to a labour market subsidy so that you actually subsidize manufacturing operations to encourage employment. I think that is a viable option that is perhaps preferable to the current system.

If that example were undertaken, it would require an additional source of cash. There are a whole host of other options that might require additional funding as well. Is this funding from within that the Minister spoke of able to account for any of those kinds of changes that we might roll out with the manufacturing strategy? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is right. That is one of the initiatives that we are looking at. The money that we are using currently within ITI is funds to do the survey and how do we promote the industry. Moving forward, if that is a path that we end up taking on labour market subsidies, we will have to come back to this Assembly and figure out how much money we are going to need to do that and which department will be leading that initiative, if it's a labour initiative through Education or if it's through business promotion through ITI, but that is something that is going to have to be costed out and figured out if that is the way we go with this strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you. Given the fiscal challenges presented in this budget, is the Minister anticipating that there will be an opportunity to bring forward a supplementary appropriation, or are those resources spoken for? Thank you.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Chair, it is probably too early to make a commitment on that. We depend on where this whole strategy ends up and how it rolls out. I couldn't comment if that is how we would roll it out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Testart.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Blake):** Thank you. Seeing nothing, I will call the departmental total. Industry, Tourism and Investment, total department, \$57,420,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Industry, Tourism and Investment?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you, Minister, and thank you to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Testart.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion to report progress. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

**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 Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019, and would like to report progress, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

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

---Carried

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

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Minister's Statement 1-18(3), North Slave Correctional Complex Inmate Concerns
  - Minister's Statement 19-18(3), Aurora College Foundational Review Process
  - Minister's Statement 32-18(3), Update on the Northwest Territories Disability Framework and Action Plan
  - Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

