



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, March 1, 2018**

Pages 3595 – 3638

**The Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Monfwi)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, March 1, 2018****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Green, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. McNeely, Hon. Alfred Moses, 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, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**Ministers' Statements**

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 44-18(3):  
FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES,  
ASSESSMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Francophone community is a vibrant part of the multicultural mosaic of the Northwest Territories. As we move into the 20<sup>th</sup> Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, we have some milestones to mark and events to celebrate.

According to the 2016 census, there were 4,280 French-speaking residents across the Northwest Territories, nearly 10 per cent of the total population. While the majority of the Francophone residents live in Yellowknife, there are also large numbers in Hay River, Fort Smith, and Inuvik. This is why, Mr. Speaker, when the Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services launched in 2012, the focus was on the significant demand in the communities of Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Inuvik.

The strategic plan was developed in partnership with the Federation franco-tenoise to improve the Government of the Northwest Territories' delivery of French-language communications and services. The plan relies on the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and Services TNO, our French-language single-window service centre, to help departments, boards, and agencies ensure that programs and services are delivered appropriately and meet Official Languages Act obligations.

The strategic plan is currently being independently evaluated to determine if the requirements of the Standards for French Communications and

Services are being met at targeted points of service, for example, general medical assistance and tax and legal assistance. The overall success and value of the strategic plan will also be evaluated.

Extensive engagements were held with stakeholders from across the Northwest Territories, both within the government and within community and representative groups. The evaluation results will be made public in the coming months. The results will inform the development of the next five-year Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services for the years 2018 to 2023.

Mr. Speaker, 2018 marks 10 years since the Government of the Northwest Territories established Services TNO. Services TNO provides information and a variety of government services to members of the public. Since 2008, this agency has received thousands of requests from French-speaking residents looking to receive quick and efficient services. We will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary through the month of March.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the construction of the addition to Ecole Allain St-Cyr remains on schedule, with full completion by the end of November 2018. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has worked collaboratively with the Commission scolaire francophone, the territory's Francophone school board, to ensure that the needs of this school's Francophone students are being met. Once completed, the addition will feature one multi-purpose classroom, one instructional classroom, special needs spaces, and a full sized gymnasium with change rooms and a stage for school plays.

Mr. Speaker, over the next three weeks there will be more than 3,000 activities taking place across Canada as part of the Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, including community gatherings, multicultural meetings, ceremonies, shows, and educational activities, a whole series of events celebrating French culture. We in the Northwest Territories will also be celebrating with our rich and thriving Francophone community that only continues to grow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 45-18(3):  
UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL AT ASSOCIATION  
FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ROUNDUP AND  
PROSPECTORS AND DEVELOPERS  
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, nearly \$1 billion of our economy comes from mining and exploration. It is the primary generator of wealth in the Northwest Territories and the reason why our government has made the commitment in its mandate to support this sector.

Mining provides good-paying jobs to nearly 2,000 NWT residents, who spend their paycheques with local businesses and drive opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic diversification. In large part, it is the revenues realized from mining that allows our government to invest in programs and services that are bettering the lives of NWT residents today.

Mr. Speaker, these benefits, which our territory has enjoyed for decades, will not last without revitalizing the mineral exploration in the NWT. To grow and even maintain our economy, we must ensure a cycle of exploration and development so that, as one mine closes, a second and third mine are entering into production.

In only six years, one of our largest mining projects will begin to wind down, and with few new projects on the horizon. We need to restore and enhance the investment climate that existed in our region prior to the downturn in the commodity markets. In January, our government took the opportunity afforded to us by the AME Roundup in Vancouver to advance the message that we need to grow the territorial economy, especially in communities and regions, so more people can have good middle-class jobs and incomes. We showcased to investors what we are calling the NWT Difference.

While many jurisdictions have immense mineral potential, Mr. Speaker, few can boast the holistic, inclusive approach we take to managing and encouraging responsible mineral exploration and development in our territory. The Northwest Territories' diamond mines have provided over 25,000 person-years of employment to residents since 1996. They have spent over \$13 billion on goods and services from NWT businesses. More so, mining has created ways to foster local economy, build a skilled workforce, and empower communities. It has enabled a host of NWT residents to gain valuable and transferrable education and experience across a multitude of sectors, sciences, and trades. With the growth of our world-class diamond mines has come an explosion in local businesses providing the expertise and skills to service them.

Indigenous governments have invested in and grown a multitude of NWT-based companies, some of which have now outgrown their territorial beginnings and are expanding to service projects around the circumpolar Arctic and into Alberta. Mining companies can be proud of the legacies they are contributing to when they invest in our territory. That is the NWT difference that can set us apart for investors. It is one that we were able to demonstrate in the united front provided by our government, Members of this Legislative Assembly, and our Indigenous partners at the AME Roundup.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend we will build on our work in Vancouver at the annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada trade show in Toronto. Like the AME Roundup, it is a key event for the mining industry, and one at which prospective developers, explorers, and especially investors and the financial sector will gather to foster new relationships, build on existing ones, and seek out new projects and partnerships.

Once again, the Premier and I will have a full slate of meetings and networking opportunities to promote and talk about our territory's vast mineral potential and the NWT Difference. Mr. Speaker, we cannot ignore the need for exploration and development in our territory. Our government's role is to foster a strong economy. That means aggressively and strategically marketing our territory's assets in a crowded global industry. We need to encourage new exploration to assure ourselves of a strong economic future. We need to make sure the NWT is front and center to responsible investors, developers, and explorers.

We need to demonstrate to industry that, when responsible development companies come to our territory, they have the confidence, knowing we are interested in moving world class projects forward at all levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HIGH SEAS FISHERIES AGREEMENT

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about the agreement on the prevention of unregulated fishing in the high season in the central Arctic Ocean. Mr. Speaker, the High Seas Fisheries Agreement aims to prevent unregulated, unreported commercial fisheries in the central Arctic for an initial period of 16 years, followed by five-year renewals thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, the motivation for this agreement emerges largely from the gradual increase in

access to the Arctic regions due to reduced ice coverage, and shared interest in Arctic states protecting fragile ecosystems. This agreement is particularly ground-breaking due to its collaborative nature. The agreement includes five Arctic states, in addition to China, Japan, the European Union, and South Korea. Most importantly, however, Inuit from three countries were represented at the table.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important agreement for Canada and its Indigenous peoples as an unprecedented international agreement that not only considered traditional knowledge, but included Indigenous groups right at the negotiating table. Mr. Speaker, this agreement shows progress in the recognition of Indigenous rights and the role that Indigenous peoples have in the drive to self-determination at the international level.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is a leading jurisdiction of Indigenous rights in Canada. Kudos to the Premier, and I encourage the GNWT to continue working with Indigenous governments. For instance, the GNWT included Indigenous governments at the devolution agreement, and committed to sharing royalty revenues from development projects, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, however, there is always room for improvement, and I would like to see the GNWT give more authority and control to Indigenous groups in the co-management of all matters that affect their traditions and cultural well-being. For example, I would like to see more involvement in the co-management of caribou, given their migratory nature, and their base cultural importance to many of our peoples.

Mr. Speaker, the High Seas Fisheries Agreement is one amazing example worldwide, and has included Inuit in its decision-making core. Its development is a testament to collaboration and inclusion and a lesson to be learned, and a meaningful participation of Indigenous groups as the current federal budget wants to focus on co-creation with Indigenous leaders and their people in their drive to self-determination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
STATUS OF NORTH SLAVE METIS ALLIANCE  
CLAIM

**MR. TESTART:** The North Slave Metis Alliance represents Indigenous rights-bearing Metis people of the Northwest Territories who primarily exercise their Indigenous rights north and east of Great Slave Lake. The NSMA's mandate includes the assertion, protection, and implementation of the Aboriginal rights of the North Slave Metis people,

and the exercise of Metis responsibility to protect the environment and promote and enhance economic, social, and cultural development. Mr. Speaker, the NSMA is located in my riding of Kam Lake, and today I rise to address the ongoing concerns they have been brought to my attention.

In Tom Isaac's report, A Path to Reconciliation, released in March of 2017, recommendation number 5 states that Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories, and I quote: "Reconsider their positions on section 2.5.1(b) of the NWT Metis Nation Agreement-in-Principle, and in particular, the use of the words 'eligible to be' set out in the last clause therein, so not to have any final agreement with the Northwest Territories Metis Nation automatically affect any Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the North Slave Metis Alliance and its members."

This recommendation is almost identical to a Federal Court judgment from October 2017 that rules that the NSMA's submission were reasonable and should have been reviewed once submitted.

It is disappointing to know that the government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government have not attempted to respect this ruling, nor the ruling of Mr. Isaac's report when it was released in March. It is time for both governments to clearly recognize that the North Slave Metis Alliance does not want to be in the same claim as the NWT Metis Nation and instead wants to assert and be given respect for their individual Indigenous identity as per their constitutional rights under section 35.

Mr. Speaker, the Powley test lays out the criteria to not only define what might constitute a Metis right, but who is entitled to those rights. Every member of the NSMA meets the Powley test, and they have a history in this territory for being Metis for over a century, thereby establishing a unique culture and identity, the same as any other First Nations group.

There is a strong argument that the NSMA be given the same consideration and accommodation. I cannot understand why this government has not undertaken a strength-of-claim assessment for the NSMA. They produced membership lists for over 290 members to be vetted by the Crown and its governments, where the Metis nation has neither been asked or required to do so. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Premier on why we are still asking questions about strength of claim instead of moving on with reconciliation for the NSMA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
YOUTH APPREHENSION POLICIES

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past fall I ran into a very unique situation. A youth was sent out to a treatment facility where there was an incident. After a number of phone calls between me and the family, we brought the situation up to the Minister and the department for their help. To the department's credit, there was quick action taken and they were on top of it. Unfortunately, the process that is usually used to share what happened did not work this time. There seems to be a huge void when it comes to youth in care. It seems that nobody could sign the consent form, leaving a lot of questions left unanswered and a lot of people left in the dark.

Mr. Speaker, I was informed that the Child and Family Service Act set out many legal obligations regarding the care and well-being of the children. The act also sets out, under various circumstances, who is the legal guardian of each child. It seems that, depending on the situation, they will decide who can or cannot be the legal guardian, even if the person has assigned that right previously. I can tell you that there were a lot of frustrated people and a lot of tears dealing with this situation.

Later on, another situation happened with the same individual, and again we were relying on the information from the individual instead of the normal communication system in place. There was a lot of running around to get information and share what we had. I have to give credit to the department for making sure the person was looked after and safe. They reached out to the family and explained everything they could without breaching the individual's confidentiality.

The sad note, though, through this is the youth did not feel their voice was heard, and this is what I am trying to do here today. I want to assure that person that we have heard what is going on and we are fighting for that person's voice. Please believe us, your voice is very important for all the parties involved, and I encourage the youth to continue to speak up. Personally, I would like to thank the staff who dealt with both situations. They did a great job in speaking with the youth, reaching out to the family and me as we moved forward. Mr. Speaker, later today I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
SMALL COMMUNITY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many residents, including youth, want to maintain their chosen lifestyle in their home communities. One of our biggest challenges as a territory is to support a small population in many communities across a vast area. How do we provide employment and create prosperity? Our small communities face high unemployment. There are some government jobs and often not too much else. Government programs can help, but people want independence. The real issue is the lack of jobs.

Our mandate directs us to diversify the economy, and good work is happening around new strategies in areas like agriculture, tourism, knowledge, innovation, and creative arts. Today's youth will benefit from this diversification in just a few years, but we need to think outside the box to provide more opportunity. Youth need support, training, and encouragement to move into trades and life skills, entrepreneurship and business, academia, and even the sciences.

No doubt we live in an interesting time. A few years ago, we talked about the information age. Now it is becoming known as the age of acceleration. When I was in school, I could spend days, even weeks, researching a certain subject. Today the world's knowledge is at our fingertips and can be searched in seconds.

Mr. Speaker, a few days ago in my Member's statement I imagined a young woman who thinks up an app to teach her traditional language, and I suggested that she might earn an income from that idea. The challenge is: how does she get from here to there? She has talent, creativity, and skill. She has all the information in the world on her smartphone, but how does she gather, select, and apply that knowledge to build something, Mr. Speaker? This young woman might know how to write code and create an app, but does she know how to write a business plan to share her idea with the world?

Mr. Speaker, we are opening new areas in our economy. For that to pay off, we must find ways to support our young people. We need to help them overcome barriers that are holding them back. We need to facilitate networking and partnerships to build on knowledge and new technologies. That young woman's concept needs our support to grow into a full-fledged creation. Mr. Speaker, I started out talking about creating jobs in the small communities. I am ending with support for young people. Why? Because supporting young people and their creative ideas will help our communities develop and prosper. Later, I will have questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ARCTIC ENERGY ALLIANCE FUNDING  
SHORTFALL

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. With the approach of spring, another annual tradition is upon us: Arctic Energy Alliance has run out of money to fund popular and progressive programs that help our residents reduce their energy costs and cut greenhouse gas production.

According to a message posted to the alliance website on January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program has been fully subscribed for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and rebates are no longer available. The notice tells people that, if they have purchased an eligible product, they can still go onto a waiting list, but that waiting list is not carried forward into the new fiscal year. Also this year, the alliance is fully subscribed across its programs, so no internal reallocations are possible. I have had at least three Yellowknife residents contact me regarding the lack of alliance funding for 2017-2018, some after they had already made investments in energy conservation, only to discover that no funding was available, partly due to poor communications.

Regular MLAs in this Assembly have consistently pleaded with Cabinet to increase alliance funding but to no avail. The draft energy strategy makes no promises about increased alliance funding other than a vague commitment to enhance and review alliance programs. It is not clear whether the GNWT is seeking any additional federal funding to increase the alliance's budget and programs. We cannot wait for federal dollars to rain from heaven. We need to get ready now. The Minister tells me that a comprehensive review of alliance programs is now in its final stages and recommendations are expected for improvements to enhance its effectiveness. One key need is to align the design and delivery of improved programming with the priorities and actions of the new energy strategy, especially if it is improved, as I recommended earlier this week in the House. Before we leave this fiscal year, though, I wonder whether there may still be an opportunity to assist with those who have been placed on the waiting list. As we get close to the end of the fiscal year, are there any surplus funds within the Department of Infrastructure that can be re-profiled into the alliance? Also in the expectation of increased federal funding, I would also like to see the current waiting list of application approvals carried over into and funded with 2018-2019 funds. I will have questions for the Minister of Infrastructure on improving funding to the Arctic Energy Alliance later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AND  
RESOURCES FOR CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the legalization of cannabis is now just a few months away. The question is: are we ready? My fear is that we will not be, and it is young people who are most at risk. There was a high degree of interest on the public engagement on cannabis legalization last summer and fall, with one in 10 households responding to the GNWT's online survey. There was near-unanimous support for government spending on public awareness and education focused on youth that would provide evidence-based education on the risks related to cannabis use.

Mr. Speaker, those who responded to the survey want to see a full-court press with ads in mass media, social media, posters, pamphlets, and mandatory education in schools. Many people want teachers to take a leading role, and no doubt they will, but, Mr. Speaker, there is no substitute for the conversations parents and caregivers can have with their own children and youth. They have a unique position of authority and trust to help teens understand the risks.

I recently reviewed an excellent resource to use as a starting point for these conversations. It is called the Cannabis Talk Kit, and it is produced by Drug Free Kids Canada. I liked it because it provides signs to watch for that may indicate your teen is using and information about the effects of long-term use. It provides sample conversations about drug use and anticipated responses. It anticipates the way in which teens will minimize their use. There are no scare tactics here. This guide is based on being positive, active listening, and asking open-ended questions. It also offers guidance on what to say when your teen says, "You did it at my age," or they know that you still do.

These conversations are vital to help our teens understand the risks of cannabis, which they may underestimate. Mr. Speaker, this guide is focused on harm reduction, and that's an approach I support. I think demanding abstinence from teens is tough, and it will be even tougher when cannabis is legal and they are old enough to buy it for themselves. A common sense approach that focuses on facts is likely to be better received and more effective. Of course, the same could be said for alcohol and tobacco use, as well.

Mr. Speaker, the government didn't include money for public awareness about cannabis use in the

budget. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, colleagues. Barring an unforeseen hitch, cannabis will become legal during the next fiscal year. Northerners have clearly said they want a robust public education plan. I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services about what that is going to look like. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
HOUSING INITIATIVES UNDER THE SAHTU  
DENE METIS COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIM  
AGREEMENT

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Housing is a much-needed and challenging program for all communities in the Northwest Territories. Families need stable homes, the foundation of an environment, and social community growth. Mr. Speaker, the Sahtu, Dene, and Metis land claim under the permitted activities chapter disallows for options to these very principles on capitalizing for a joint housing initiative. Through conditions of forced growth and conditional spending, this is a prior step to addressing the core need for housing demand in four of the five Sahtu communities.

Mr. Speaker, there are many housing initiatives under both levels of government. However, if this information is not shared, it only becomes a lost opportunity and our communities are back at the starting gates of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, to overcome these community challenges with solutions for leadership considerations, I strongly feel a Regional Round Table on Voices for Housing, Step Two, must happen. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, given the developed plans and strategies, I will later have questions to the Minister of Housing on action planning. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
EULOGY FOR HANK MARK LAFFERTY

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak about the passing of one of my constituents, Hank Mark Lafferty of Ndilo. He was commonly known as "Qui." [English translation not provided.] And grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Qui was raised in Ndilo and was the fifth in a family of eight growing up. He enjoyed playing hockey and loved going out in the land with his dad who taught him how to hunt, trap, run dogs in his youth. Throughout his life, Qui loved to play the guitar, sing, and even wrote his own songs. Qui also had a good sense of humour and loved to joke around and poke fun at people around him. Qui was a working man. He liked to keep busy, so it's no surprise that he had many a number of jobs in his life, including worked as a diamond driller, a wood cutter, a wood salesman, and a garbage truck driver, although his favourite work and pastime was being on the land with elders, family, and friends. He always tried to pass his knowledge on to a newer generation in order for them to carry traditions he learned in his life.

As a man who was raised with traditional values and beliefs, Qui was also very spiritual. He was a sun dancer and a pipe carrier. I'd like to share one short story from Qui's family that was told to me. In his youth at age 13, upon becoming a hunter, his father told him that, to truly become a good hunter, he needed to go in the bush overnight for at least one night by himself, so he did that. He took off in his snow mobile and was crossing a lake and the machine went through the ice. Qui was not deterred. He managed to pull himself and the snow mobile out of the water and follow through with his coming of age quest. He came home the next day unharmed.

Qui was a strong man, who will be dearly missed. He always protected the family he liked, the people he liked. I personally knew him for many years. Hank Mark Lafferty was a cousin of mine. His mother and my grandmother are first cousins. In addition, Qui is a first cousin to our honourable Speaker, Jackson Lafferty. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my condolences to Qui Lafferty, friends, and the people at Ndilo. Marsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Our condolences to the family members, as well. Masi. Masi for being here with us. Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the members of the family of the eulogy that I just did. With us in the House is mother, Vitaline King-Beaulieu Lafferty; son, Fenton Lafferty; son, Justin Lafferty; daughter, Alexandra Lafferty, who was named after her grandfather; her sisters, Francis Riggs, Margaret-Ann Migwi; sister, Maryann Lafferty; and cousin Marilyn Erasmus; and my CA, Pascal Erasmus; and

I see Carl Yakeleya in the House, too. I'd like to recognize them. Thank you.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. Bill Enge, president of the North Slave Metis Alliance, Mr. Mark Whitford, vice-president of the North Slave Metis Alliance, Mr. Alan Harman, secretary-treasurer of the North Slave Metis Alliance, and Mr. Arnold Enge, director with the North Slave Metis Alliance. Thank you very much for being here today.

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

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you. I'd like to recognize Carl Lafferty, who is Carl Yakeleya. Sorry, I should know better. Carl and I went to residential school in Inuvik there back in olden days. Now Carl is an excellent proposal writer and using his schooling talent as a student engineering and helping out the community development progress. Mahsi.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize the North Slave Metis Alliance, the board of directors, Mr. Bill Enge, personal friend, Mark Whitford, Arnold Enge, and Alan Harman. They were strong supporters through my campaign and they are still strong supporters to this day. I appreciate all you've done to support me. I wouldn't be here without you.

I also want to recognize some personal and family friends who are in the audience; Ms. Francis Lafferty, I apologize if you have a different last name, I've always known you as Francis Lafferty; Cindy Jeske, I saw, and Marilyn Erasmus; and I can't see behind me. I apologize if there are other members in the audience who I cannot see who I know as family friends. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge my constituent Arnold Enge and thank him for all the work he does on behalf of the North Slave Metis. Thank you.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to recognize and welcome the members here from the North Slave Metis Alliance, but also recognize one of my life-long friends, Arnold Enge. Welcome and thank you for being here.

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

**MR. SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank two of our Pages this week, Jed Mitchell and Joel Rhymer from PWK School in Fort Smith, and recognize Clarence Rhymer, their chaperone who is in the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery, it is always great to have visitors as part of our gallery. Masi. Item 7, oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 189-18(3): PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AND RESOURCES FOR CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, Northerners have clearly stated that they want government to take an informed and active role on cannabis awareness, particularly for youth. My question is: what efforts is the Minister making to ensure various kinds of cannabis education materials are ready to go when legalization happens? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of things happening, both at a national level as well as the territorial level. There are a lot of good documents out there that we are looking to find ways to share, distribute, and make people aware of. At the same time, we have started developing a campaign within the Department of Health and Social Services focused primarily on the impacts of cannabis on the developing brain.

We have developed a proposal and submitted it to the federal government asking for \$2 million over the next five years to do this work and get that information out. Obviously, we are not waiting for that to be approved. We are trying to compile other information sources, other data sources, and other ad campaigns that are out there to make sure we are getting as much information out as possible. We haven't rolled out a significant amount at this point, but we are planning to do more over the coming months, up until the time it goes live, and obviously after, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** I thank the Minister for that response. Has the Minister considered using materials from other sources such as the one I referenced from Drug Free Kids Canada?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** As I said, there are a lot of organizations out there like Drug Free Canada who have already done really, really good work as far as putting together information in a readable, usable format. The materials that the Member has referred to are actually available on the Drugs Free Kids Canada organization website where you see the brochure, but you can also order it online and get copies for yourself.

I do have a copy myself. I have talked to the department since the Member and I have talked to see what we can do to get a quantity of those materials to distribute among stakeholders throughout the Northwest Territories. I don't know what the catch is. I know it is free. Hopefully, we will be able to do it. We are exploring that, as well.

**MS. GREEN:** I wonder if the Minister can tell us what role his department will have with schools and teachers in cannabis education.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** When it comes to public health and prevention, encouraging people to live healthy lifestyles, it is certainly a responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services. As we have moved forward with other initiatives like Healthy Family and those types of things, we have worked with our partner departments. We see an opportunity here and a need, obviously, to work with Education, Culture and Employment to get that information out to youth and others. We will certainly be working with Education, Culture and Employment.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for that answer. The Minister mentioned that there was an application to the federal government for \$2 million over five years. Is there any additional money being budgeted for public education in the next fiscal year, or is everything dependent on Canada saying yes to this proposal? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We have estimated some costs for enforcement-related activities that Health and Social Services are responsible for, complaints-based reviews of cannabis use in communities and whatnot. We believe we have enough money in our existing budget to do that work. If the demand proves higher than we expect as far as complaints, we will certainly have to explore new options.

When it comes to advertising, we do have the application out to the federal government for \$2 million. The federal government announced in their budget that they do have some money available for this type of thing. We are hoping to get that money.

If we don't get that money, or don't get all of that money, we will certainly be having discussions with the FMBS and Members to see about exploring new opportunities for revenue. At this point, I believe we are on the right track. Should we need more, we will certainly be looking for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### QUESTION 190-18(3): YOUTH APPREHENSION POLICIES

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in my Member's statement I talked about some unique challenges of what happens with youth who become wards of the department. I have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. My first question: when it comes to treatment programs, why would we send youth down south instead of using the resources in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for youth who may require treatment services, every youth will be assessed on their individual needs. There is a care plan that will be developed for every youth based on those. We try really hard to match their needs with a range of programs and services that are available. This includes services that are both available in the Northwest Territories but also services that are available in the South. If the needs can be met in the North, we send them to programs in the North. If they can't or they don't believe that they can be met with programs in the North, we send them to programs in the South. It is a bit of both, and it is based on the individual and their care plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. Like I said, we had some challenges in trying to find out information with youth who are involved with the department. Can the Minister please tell us what policies are used to deal with youth who are the ward of the department? In other words, if the department has to step in and take the child, what policy is in place to ensure the parents, legal guardians, grandparents are informed of any decisions and/or issues that involve the youth?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** With Building Stronger Families, which is our new approach on Child and Family Services, our first priority is really to try and keep families together and not result in apprehension situations. We have already started to see a decrease in the number of apprehensions, more voluntary agreements, more mediation, and

fewer families being taken apart. However, yes, from time to time, we will still need to bring children into care.

Our work is directed by the Child and Family Services Act and all of the relevant standards within. Our focus is obviously in the best interest of the child and protecting children, as well as providing them with the services for the children as well as the families. The level of engagement with the family is really dependent on the many dynamics that may exist that are considered by all of our professional childcare protection staff as part of the assessment that I previously mentioned, as well as in the development of the care plan.

Our preference is always to work with the families as well as the kin, extended families. Sometimes there are reasons why doing this is not seen to be in the child's best interest and where sharing information could possibly create a risk of harm to the child. Those things must also be considered. I would be happy to read out the sections of the legislation that outline this exact information. It is in the Child and Family Services Act, in sections 71 through 74. I imagine that would take me longer than the time we have. I would encourage the Member and anybody from the public who is interested in the legislation to check out those sections.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I again thank the Minister for that answer. I appreciate that, and I will be able to get that information to the parents and guardians in future. Mr. Speaker, if a youth becomes a ward of the department, can the youth sign the third-party consent form so information is shared with their legal guardians, parents, grandparents, and the person's MLA? Presently, we cannot seem to understand who can get this information out there.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I wish there was a really simple answer to this one, but there is not. It really is dependent on the individual and whether or not they have the capacity to understand the consent that they are signing. A youth can sign their own consent when it is deemed that they actually have the capacity to understand what they are signing and the ramifications of signing, and so, when a youth does need support through an independent voice, we can and we do utilize the children's lawyer to help determine whether they have the capacity to do that. If the capacity is there, absolutely, they can sign their own consent. If not, then we would engage the child's lawyer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement, I raised some concerns I have heard from the North Slave Metis Alliance. Just to summarize, Mr. Speaker, the courts have found in favour of the NSMA many times, and it is clear that the issue of their constitutional rights needs to be settled clearly once and for all with a strength-of-claim assessment from this government and from the federal government. So I would like to ask the Premier in his capacity as Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs if a strength-of-claim assessment could be brought forward for the North Slave Metis Alliance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the Member that yesterday the North Slave Metis Alliance filed their statement of claim to the Government of Canada. It is our government's position that all Indigenous Aboriginal peoples of the Northwest Territories should have their Aboriginal and treaty rights clarified and confirmed in modern agreements.

**MR. TESTART:** I think that is a sound policy position for this government to take on this issue of reconciliation, but, you know, it is fairly self-evident from the court cases that have gone on from the position of the North Slave Metis Alliance that they are very distinct from the NWT Metis Nation. They are two different entities and should be given equal treatment from both this government and federal government in the Metis agreement-in-principle. So is the Premier willing to open up those discussions and allow the North Slave Metis Alliance to pursue their own approach rather than being forced into the AIP as it is presented?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Both the governments of the Northwest Territories and Canada participated in a recent meeting involving the North Slave Metis Alliance and the Northwest Territories Metis Nation, and both the North Slave Metis Alliance and the NWT Metis Nation advised both governments that neither group would stand in the way of the other confirming their Aboriginal rights in a modern agreement, and I cannot see why we would stand in the way.

**MR. TESTART:** I just want to clarify so the Premier understands me clearly, but currently there has not been a process launched for the North Slave Metis Alliance. They have been asked. The only avenue for them forward is to join the Metis nation AIP. So what I am asking the Premier is if he will start the process of fully recognizing their rights with a strength-of-claim assessment so that they can move on with any claim they might make to their own agreement, their own self-government, agreement, their own deal?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Once again, I reiterate that the North Slave Metis Alliance filed their statement of claim to the federal government yesterday. As well, the Government of the Northwest Territories has completed the preliminary assessment of the North Slave Metis Alliance asserting Aboriginal rights claims and is in the process of disclosing these findings to the North Slave Metis Alliance.

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

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and that is good news. What is the government's position on the statement of claim that the North Slave Metis have filed with the federal government? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** It would be premature for me to disclose the findings before we disclose them to the North Slave Metis Alliance, but we are certainly, as I said, supportive of all Aboriginal groups having their rights clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 192-18(3):  
ARCTIC ENERGY ALLIANCE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure. There has been an oversubscription in many Arctic Energy Alliance programs for years, and now there is a waiting list. As we enter the last month of the fiscal year, can the Minister swiftly determine whether there are any unexpended funds across his department that could be re-profiled into the alliance budget to fund those applications on the waiting list? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Member that Infrastructure does not have any available funds ourselves, but, as of such, I have had a few emails lately about this program, and I have asked the department to check with the Arctic Energy Alliance to check within if any unsubscribed funds from any other programs would become available. We are also checking with other partners and other departments if there are any other funds that might become available that we can use to meet the needs for this fiscal year.

**MR. O'REILLY:** That is a good response. I thank the Minister for that, and, if he could let this side of the House know if he is able to come up with any money, that would be great. The draft NWT energy strategy paints a hopeful picture of future access to federal funds. I am concerned that, when federal

funds are on offer for this essential need, we do not leave them on the table for lack of matching funding from our government. Sometimes federal dollars provide a convenient excuse for our government to cut its appropriation, as we have seen with boreal caribou monitoring and other programs. Can the Minister tell us whether there have been any approaches to the federal government to increase alliance funding, by how much, and when we will get a response?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, I can update the House. We have applied under a federal program. It is called the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund. Under this fund, we want to be able to enhance the Arctic Energy Alliance. We are going to hear back on this program here very soon. What we have asked for out of that fund is \$7.5 million, and we will match \$2.5 million, which will double AEA's profile of money for the next four years if we were to be successful on this application.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I seem to be on a roll with the Minister, so I will keep going. I am sure he will let us know when we are going to get a response from the federal government. The Minister informed the House of an alliance program review which is nearing completion. Can the Minister tell us when this completed review will be available for study by the standing committee and how the Minister will work with the committee to incorporate Members' input into the proposals for a redesign of alliance programs?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, we are currently reviewing them. We have almost done our first draft of this report. It is going to be completed shortly, and we will probably be sharing that later on this spring. 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 that. Hope springs eternal. Finally, I mentioned the waiting list for alliance programs where some residents already made investments and were then denied rebates. Will the Minister allow these applications for alliance rebates to be carried over and funded using 2018-2019 funds? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The Arctic Energy Alliance relies on annual funding approved by the Legislative Assembly, and that is how we bring this forward, but we are doing our review. As we said, we are going to have a look. One of the things that we are looking at is how we optimize the program delivery, which will include whether we need to change the level of funding on some of these programs. Maybe we get rid of some programs, maybe we add some programs, but there are no

plans to stray away from the fiscal year approach to how we do our programming and apply the money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 193-18(3):  
INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION ON CO-  
MANAGEMENT BOARDS

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I already spoke about conservation and the roles of Indigenous people, and my questions are for the Minister of ENR. Mr. Speaker, my first question is: how does ENR ensure that relevant Indigenous parties are represented at the table when establishing co-management boards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is committed to an inclusive and collaborative approach to wildlife management, and we are considered leaders in wildlife co-management. ENR has actually written a book on how to manage wildlife collaboratively, and we continue to work with our partners to refine and improve the process. In settled land claims area, renewal resource boards have been established as a main instrument of wildlife management, and representation is defined in the land claim itself.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us of an example which his department gave Indigenous groups authority to jointly create collaborative decision-making instruments such as co-management boards or any types of agreements?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I have a number of examples I can use. The barren-ground caribou are one of the most important species for NWT residents. That goes without saying. The GNWT has worked incredibly closely and collaboratively with communities and renewable resource boards and Indigenous governments and organizations. The four renewable resource boards in the settled land claims area are the main instruments of wildlife management, and play a leading role in caribou management and recovery effort.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response. My statement earlier likely involves the federal government, and as well, collaboration with the GNWT on high seas fisheries. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is: what are some of the concerns and/or benefits the Minister sees with this new agreement coming into force this year with

respect to the protection of marine ecosystems in the Northwest Territories?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Fisheries is currently a federal responsibility, and the GNWT has yet to negotiate a co-management of the Beaufort offshore, which remains a federal jurisdiction. However, I can point out that we have had exploratory discussions with the federal government on that. We are one of, I think, only two jurisdictions in Canada that have yet to negotiate that with the federal government. I will keep the Member in the House informed as to the discussions we have with the federal government as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 194-18(3):  
SUPPORT FOR YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke about the need to create jobs in the communities and the need to support our youth so that they can become the true incubators and facilitators of opportunity in the small communities. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

We keep talking about the need to diversify our economy, and I think we are doing a lot of good things in different areas to do that, but the challenge as I see it is still: how are we going to get many of our young creative thinkers in the communities to bring forward their ideas and have them supported and nurtured? Can the Minister tell the House what programs or initiatives his department has that can help young entrepreneurs in small communities turn their ideas into reality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to what other questions the Member is going to have here on this as well, because this is something that has always been very important to me. Being a small business guy myself and how I got to where I am, this is a conversation that I am glad we are going to have in this House today.

The department has a number of things. We have our SEED program and these things as such, but to get young people involved in the business community and to become entrepreneurs in our society is not just my role as the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. I think a big part of it is with the Minister of Education and Employment.

I continue to harp and bring to the table around the SNAP program. I think that's one of the best programs that we have within our government to get young people involved in business and find a career that they might be interested in. I can say, as a Cabinet Member travelling around the Northwest Territories, I want to commend and thank the school of Fort Good Hope because, when we went there, they have a bagel program, which doesn't sound very complicated, but when you stand here and think about it for a second, a principal there took on a bagel program that takes them to the young students to that school right to the whole step from ordering their own flour, to buying their machines, to producing the product, to packaging it, to marketing it, to bringing it to the stores, and setting up deals to be able to sell these sorts of things. These are the types of programs, I think, as a government as a whole we need to promote as leaders in this Assembly, and leaders in the communities need to focus on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Yes, concept to completion and getting it out to market is key, and it is well appreciated. I am happy to hear that this is going on in our communities. That is what the line of questioning is about today, and the old saying is that two minds are better than one. I would like to ask the Minister: how are we connecting youth in our communities with other like-minded people so that the collaboration can take place, and fostering of ideas can be grown upon? In other words, what types of networks are available for young entrepreneurs or young entrepreneurial-minded people?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** A couple of examples that I just talked about. The SNAP program is very important, I feel, especially for young people who want to go into not just business but a career. We have the Future Entrepreneur Program within the BDIC that they do. The Member is well aware of that. I think he has actually spoken at some of those sessions, but that is focused more on people 18 to 39 years old, which is very important for entrepreneurs because that is the age that you are probably going to start thinking about, or go into business. My point being, though, today was: how are we going to get even younger people involved in this, and how do we get them thinking about that? One of the magazines, and most Members in this House don't know that I read, I read Success magazine all the time. It is something I just talked about recently with my wife that I want to talk to the Minister of Education about, they have under there, the Success Foundation. This is based on teens. It is an eight-principle pillar thing, and it gets the creative mind going for young people. What it takes to achieve goals, pursue a career, become a more productive citizen, and stuff, and I want to have a

conversation with the Minister of Education of how we can maybe incorporate this into some of our schools in the Northwest Territories to create the next version of entrepreneurs for the Northwest Territories.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Yes, these are the kinds of answers that I'd like to hear. I appreciate the Minister giving that reply; building connections and building networks for young entrepreneurial-minded people to grow their ideas is very important.

Let's go back to the communities. If someone has an idea, what availability do they have in terms of access to those who might know a little bit better who can support them in development of safe business plans or for support for their financing the idea or that sort of thing? Are there any kind of mentors or programs of that nature that are accessible at the community level?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** We have ITI staffing in most of the regional centres. Some of the smaller communities, that's going to be a little bit tougher. They are going to have to reach out to the regional centres to be able to do that, but we are willing to assist in any way we can. I know BDIC has their online programming, as well. Like I have said, though, future entrepreneur and these sorts of things tend to focus on 18 to 39 year-olds. Entrepreneurship is for everybody who wants to enter it. There are people who want to become entrepreneurs later in life. We are out there to help them, and my best suggestion is, depending on the age, you might want to reach out to the principal of your school, or your councillor, a local businessperson. Where do we go to help you to move this centre and find a mentor, possibly, to help you deal with that? It is a complicated maze of things that you have to do to become an entrepreneur, but the number one thing that I always promote to any youth who I'm talking to is always do something that you love doing and it will not be a job.

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

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for his reply. Now, let's say somebody has the good idea of let's say they have done the plan. Let's say they have the funds. Now they were about ready to make the product, but they need a market for that product, Mr. Speaker. What are we going to do to help promote and market products that are coming out of the North? There is a lot of creativity. There are a lot of different ideas, but we need exposure. I'd like to know what our government has in terms of program services, any kinds of resources that a young mind in the community can take advantage of to expose

their product to the market outside the borders of their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Within the SEED program, there is a marketing component that the entrepreneurs can reach out to. I know it's one program that's not used widely across the Northwest Territories, because when I was in business, I know I used it and it was something that was very undersubscribed. There is an opportunity there for entrepreneurs within our territory to be able to reach out to the department to access this money. It's used for a number of things. You can go to conferences to learn about our trade shows, to learn about the product that you're moving, or equipment that you need to buy to produce a product. There is a program there and it is undersubscribed, and I would appreciate if people would use it a little more so they can get their markets to other markets. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 195-18(3):  
GROUND AMBULANCE AND HIGHWAY RESCUE  
SERVICES

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to return to an issue that I brought up many, many times in this House: ground ambulance and highway rescue services. As we all know by now, the responsibility for the provision of these services is in a regulatory grey zone. Essentially, no one has been assigned responsibility. That's why we hear stories about people being injured in vehicle accidents who get transported to the nursing station on a quad.

When you consider that 27 communities, last I heard, don't have any type of ground ambulance and that the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway recently opened and that there are more highways on the horizon, it's time that we have a plan, and one that is adequately funded. Luckily, I've heard that the department is taking these issues seriously and there is probably more work being done now than there has been in quite a while.

I have some questions for the Minister of MACA. I'll just start with a simple one: what work has been done on the plan to address this issue as of now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I concur with the MLA that highway rescue is an area that we need to put a lot of focus in. This government is actually focusing on it and looking at drafting a plan for the future. What have

we done so far? We have done extensive consultation with key municipal bodies. We have done consultation with other governments of the Northwest Territories, with departments, with law enforcement stakeholders. We've research the standards and best practices throughout different jurisdictions. We've looked at comparative models that are being utilized throughout Canada. We've identified gaps that we notice are happening and we're now in the process of looking at possible solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SIMPSON:** It sounds like the department is doing a lot of work. When can we expect to see something either brought to this House or committee?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Right now, we're looking at hopefully the completion of a baseline report by the end of March or early April, we're shooting for. There was some difficulty in completing the research, so I'm going to state it here. We have had trouble determining the true costs of doing business on the highway rescues, and that's because, for some of the communities, not all of them, but some of the communities that we are funding to provide this service recently, or over the years, they haven't tracked the ambulance costs separately in their financial reporting, nor did they separate the costs for the equipment and the calls related to ground ambulance or the cost recovery. This made a little bit of a glitch in our research. We're trying to work with that, looking at different methods and trying to figure out calculating what that true cost would be. That is something that's a little bit of a difficulty, and it's really critical in actually ascertaining what the costs in the future will be. We're looking at different research models to be able to give a good estimate of what that will cost. Then, like I said, we're hoping that preliminary findings will be done by the end of March or the beginning of April.

**MR. SIMPSON:** The Minister was questioned on this at the recent NWT Association of Communities meeting in Hay River. She admitted that the funding that's currently provided is inadequate, and it's too late, I guess, going forward to change it for 2018-2019. What would the Minister suggest is adequate funding?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I want to start talking about the NWT Association of Communities. When I said that the funding was inadequate, I did also state that some municipalities were really good at getting the cost recovery back. The City of Yellowknife is a prime example. They have not experienced a shortfall. They are actually really good at getting their cost recovery back. The Municipality of Hay River, on the other hand, does have difficulties with that; they were the ones that

brought it to my attention that we need to do some work on that.

When I talk about inadequate funding, that is because, I mean, we have a highway to Tuktoyaktuk now. We're building a highway to Whati. Those weren't considered, so those need to be considered with that.

What will be an adequate level of financial provision? That is to be ascertained when the findings come in. Like I said, it's been really difficult to find out what the financial costs have been because some communities haven't separated that. They've just put that into a general pot. We are in the process of trying to figure that out now. As soon as I find out, I'm hoping that I will release it to my colleague on this side, and we will hopefully present it to the standing committee as soon as possible, hopefully this spring.

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

QUESTION 196-18(3):  
YOUTH APPREHENSION POLICIES

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up some questions with the Health and Social Services Minister in regard to the comment he said in regard to lawyers: does each child who is apprehended, do they get appointed a lawyer all the time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's too bad the red light didn't stay on as I was sitting down after I answered that last question. I said the child's lawyer in the last response, when I was actually meaning to say was the children's lawyer, which is actually a position that exists in the Department of Justice. It was created to provide support to youth so that their voices could be heard, whether it's through a family law case going through the courts, but also for Child and Family Services. To make sure the child's voice could be heard when necessary, they can access the child's lawyer. That wouldn't be a child's lawyer. A child could get a lawyer through other means if they choose, if they have the capacity to do so, but a children's lawyer is something that actually exists to make sure that their voices are heard through court proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I appreciate the Minister for that clarification. It does help a bit. In regard to this children's lawyer, are the youth able to communicate with this lawyer to say that they can share their story with their parents or their guardian?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** For specifics on what the children's lawyer does in the Northwest Territories, I would suggest that you're best off asking the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for that position. It's not a Health and Social Services position. I do know from time to time, when there are Child and Family Services issues before the courts, the children's lawyer can be accessed to provide some support to the youth to help them make sure that their voice is heard in the court of proceedings.

When it comes to the question that the Member asked previously about the ability of a child to sign a third-party consent, if a child is deemed to have the capacity to understand what they're signing and the ramifications, they can sign. If there are some question about whether or not they have the capacity, we can engage the children's lawyer, who can work with the youth to help us determine whether the child has the capacity to understand what they're doing. If they do, they sign. If not, they wouldn't necessarily be able to sign consent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. The question comes down to: when we are talking about "capacity," are we talking about mental capacity, or are we just talking about age capacity? Sometimes, you have to be 14, 16, or is it mental capacity we are talking about?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** It is more focused on the ability of the child to understand exactly what they are signing. Sometimes, a young child will understand. Other times, they will not. The same is true for an older child. Sometimes an older child, depending on a number of issues, may understand, and others may not. It is a difficult area. You want to be careful. You want to make sure you are being fair to everybody. That is where the children's lawyer can really help out.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that explanation. It does help. It gets that information out there so people understand it better. I guess my last question is: if the youth's parent/legal guardian can't sign the consent form and they don't use the children's lawyer, can the department sign the consent form so the information can be shared with the guardians and their MLA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The question is a little confusing insofar as, if the system is the guardian, the system is the guardian. If it is parents, if the parents or the legal guardians are the guardians, they would sign consent. If the system is the legal guardian, the director would be the individual who

would be responsible for signing. There are times that the director can sign consent, but it really depends on the nature of the discussions or information that are being had.

For instance, there are lots of times the consent can be shared or signed or provided by the director to share information around things like treatments or trips or other general information. There are other times when it may not be appropriate. In the situation of a child who is under the care of the director, the director is in a sense their parent and guardian. There are different situations, different scenarios.

In Child and Family Services and Building Stronger Families, we are really trying to work with families and keep families united and try to keep them informed. There are some challenges and limitations there. Once again, I would encourage the Member to review sections 71 through 74 of the act, which outline some of this information. Once again, I would read it, but I see we only have 18 minutes left on the clock. I am pretty sure nobody wants me to do that, so I won't.

I am happy to meet with the standing committee to have some conversations about this type of stuff and the limitations that are on it, as well as provide an update at any time on Building Stronger Families. We will be tabling the director's report this session. It might be a great time for us to get together and have another conversation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 197-18(3):  
NORTHERN SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Premier. I apologize that I didn't give him a heads-up, but we still have time on the clock. It is about his statement yesterday on reporting on the intergovernmental council meeting that was held in December. In his statement, he talked about a Northern Summit on Economic Development that is going to take place later this year. I am wondering if the Premier can tell us a little bit more about this summit on economic development, particularly the purpose of the summit. Can the Premier tell us about the purpose of this summit? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of the summit is to seek input into the writing of the NWT chapter of the Arctic Policy Framework. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I would like to thank the Premier for that. Now I understand a little bit more about what this summit is going to be about. Can the Premier tell us anything about the date and location of this Northern Summit on Economic Development?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We have yet to confirm the date and location. Because of the fact that we are working to a timeline set by the federal government, the most recent timeline that we know we are working towards is they are looking for a draft by July of 2018. I expect within the next couple of months, somewhere in there, would give us enough time to organize. I would expect probably within the next couple of months.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I would like to thank the Premier again for that. I understand now that it is perhaps a tighter timeline than I thought it was. In the statement the Premier made yesterday, he says, "Invitations to the summit will be extended to a range of partners, including industry and representatives from the federal government." I am just wondering: can the Premier tell us whether those invitations will include civil society or other orders of government, say the Northwest Territories Association of Communities? Can the Premier confirm that this is going to be an inclusive approach that will include civil society and local governments?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We want to be very inclusive to the extent where I think we alluded to it when we were defending our budget for paying for experts in different economic sectors to participate, because we are realizing that to diversify our economy is not as easy as it looks or sounds. We need input from every sector or every possible source so that we can come up with a plan that will work. Just relying on our traditional sources to come up with a vision and a new economic diversification is not as easy as it sounds. We want to be as inclusive as possible.

Also, the Aboriginal governments that participated in the intergovernmental summit, some of them have also indicated that they want to have their own internal meetings so they can get their group's input worked out. That is the kind of environment we are working under.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to sincerely thank the Premier for that. It sounds like a good approach to me. I am very pleased to hear that response. Last question on this topic for now: would the Minister consider inviting MLAs from this side of the House to this conference? It sounds like an interesting event. I

am sure we would be happy to provide some input. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We would be pleased to discuss it with committees certainly, if it is appropriate. I am just wondering. Our experience has been that sometimes it affects the input from people who are there, but certainly, I have no problem with it. We should at least have a discussion on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 198-18(3):  
CHANGES IN THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC  
GUARDIAN

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. They follow on from my statement yesterday about the Office of the Public Guardian. The Minister received a report and a stack of recommendations about the office about 18 months ago. Regional and central audits of this office haven't taken place in 20 years. The report writers say this oversight may raise liability concerns. What is the Minister doing to reinstate audits in the office? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our priority is obviously stabilizing the Office of the Public Guardian, which includes rewriting the policies and procedures manual and ensuring that the office is adequately resourced, staffed. We are looking at different possible models based on the recommendations, which could be a decentralized model. That is our first priority, but the Member has a point, and I agree with the Member that audits are necessary and required. I have given the department direction that, moving forward, an audit plan will be developed and implemented once the foundational work is complete.

**MS. GREEN:** I take from the executive summary I read from this report that the business of doing audits has some urgency related to it, so I would like to hear from the Minister when he thinks this audit plan will be in place and operationalized.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I understand the urgency, and the Member is not wrong. However, until we get an idea of what this office is going to look like and how it is going to be structured, and we are doing that work right now so that we can include it in the next round of business planning, it is a little awkward to say, "Go out and do the audit," when we do not have the resources or the design

that will actually support the work getting done. It is necessary. I am committed to making it happen. We will be coming forward during the business-planning process for more discussions around the auditor's office. Like I said, there are a couple of things that we would still like to figure out, whether or not we go with a decentralized model or a more centralized model, recognizing that not all of the cases are in Yellowknife. This is important work. It will help us to have an audit mechanism that can be successful, regular, and efficient, so there is work that needs to be done. I have made that commitment to the Member already, and I will live up to it.

**MS. GREEN:** The report writer said this: "The budget for the OPG is just under \$300,000 a year. Actual expenditures for the past four years have ranged from 8 to 40 per cent over budget. Projected expenditures for 2016-2017 are close to 50 per cent over budget."

So, given the extent of overspending in this office, I am unsure why the Minister feels he needs to make a business case to supplement funds. Can he explain why the budget has not been increased to cover the costs of these overruns before now?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The report and the Member's comments are contingent upon doing things the same way, which obviously does not work. We need to do the work to review the office. It will change in its operations, its design. We will find efficiencies, and, once that work is done, we will have a better sense of whether or not we are spending our money wisely and getting good value for money. We anticipate that there is going to be some changes. Those changes will help inform what our true costs need to be as opposed to what they would be. If we keep doing things poorly, we will keep getting poor results. We are looking at doing things better.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, it is often said that social services is the poor cousin in this department, and I am sorry to say that the treatment of the Office of the Public Guardian reflects that. It is also true from a legislative point of view the Guardianship and Trustee Act is 20 years old. It is out of date with respect to what the best practice is in this field now in Canada. Can the Minister tell us what his plan is to update this legislation? Thank you.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I think our actions on this file since it has come to our attention show that we do take this seriously, that we want to make changes. It is not particularly fair to suggest that this office has been ignored. If it was being ignored,

we would not be having this discussion today. We are making the changes that are necessary to make the improvements. As far as the legislative changes, let us finish the work around the operationalization, which may address the issues that are out there. We are not a hundred per cent sure that they will not. Let's do the work. If legislative changes are required, we will make those legislative changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 199-18(3):  
MEDICAL TRAVEL

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke about the challenges of medical travel, and I have some follow-up questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Yesterday, the Minister said that the department does not track flight cancellations, rescheduling, rerouting flights as part of the medical travel for people who are going out for appointments and that. Will the Minister direct his staff to start doing this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At a territorial-global level, no, I will not. We have a lot of people doing a lot of work, and I feel like this would be something that would take up time. However, when issues are raised, as they have been in the Deh Cho, yes, absolutely, we will contact the provider to try to figure out what is happening. We want to make sure that we are providing quality services to our residents. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we have relationships with airlines. We have standing offer agreements. They have scheduled flights. We book based on scheduled flights in good faith, expecting that the airlines will live up to their obligations. There are many things that would sort of interfere with that: weather, mechanical, flights, those types of things. When that happens, we work with our patients to rebook them as quickly as we can to get them the appointments they need.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for the answer. I heard that yesterday. It is about patients. It is about their care. That is my concern, is that I understand we rebook, we reschedule, but the thing is that I have people who go out for appointments who miss. It could be a week, a month, it could be two months, three months down the road, and this is a huge concern for these people. They brought this concern to me, and I appreciate the Minister is going to look at it for the Nahendeh, but can the Minister tell us if he has contacted the Department of Infrastructure, who is responsible for providing

this contract, to see if they can look into this concern, as well?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Once again, the Department of Health and Social Services' responsibility is to provide care to residents of the Northwest Territories. Medical travel is an incredibly important program, and we rely in good faith on airlines who have scheduled flights. We have to make choices about when to book people and how to move people into their appointments as quickly and appropriately as possible. If appointments are cancelled, we take immediate action to rebook and to arrange flights accordingly. If there is urgency, there will not be a three-month delay; we will find ways to make it happen as quickly as possible. If there is less urgency, we will work with the patient to make sure they get the service in a timely way. I hear the Member. There is no question that, you know, there have been some impacts on residents of the riding due to a number of things that the airline has experienced over the past year, but, frankly, I am not sure what to say. We do not control the airlines. We are not an airline provider. Can the Member tell me what he thinks we need to do?

**MR. THOMPSON:** I appreciate the Minister actually asking me a question. That is kind of a new role for me today, so I appreciate that. So I guess the thing is that I would actually reach out to the contractor to see how they can alleviate these concerns and not put our patients out and put them into disadvantage. Because I know in my riding, in Fort Simpson, the airline contracted who has the bulk of this, is changing their flights. It is a regular scheduled flight, but it seems that sometimes we have got to go from Yellowknife to Hay River to Fort Simpson. Sometimes we get the unique flight of going from Edmonton to Fort Simpson to Inuvik to Yellowknife. So I guess will the Minister reach out to the contractor to see what they can try to come up with to alleviate this situation?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We have already done that. I have already said that. We reached out to the airline based on the fact that the Member had brought this to our attention. We were told by the airline that it has been a very difficult winter. There have been a lot of weather issues. They have had a couple of mechanical issues. They need to make sure that their planes are flying safely. If there are changes in one community, it may affect their ability to get to the communities that are originally scheduled, so they change their structures accordingly. We have registered our concern. They are aware, but they have to run a business, and they have indicated to us that they have set scheduled flights, they try to maintain them, sometimes they have to change. When they do change, we work with other airlines if necessary, other providers, and we try our best to get our

patients to their appointments as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess this is just going to go around and around in circles here, but, again, my constituents are not getting a fair treatment. We are seeing this, and it is consistent, so maybe the airlines are out on mechanical and they are having that problem. So, if this service continues, will the department look at alternate solutions to provide these services, i.e. local airlines or another airline company? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** We have a standing agreement with an airline to be the first airline that we go to in cases of medical travel. That airline has provided good services. We have a really good relationship with them where we get discounted rates and, if flights are cancelled at the last minute, we don't hit a financial penalty on that.

Recognizing that, we know that it doesn't always work, and we have the freedom to go to other airlines, but our priority is to go to the airline of our standing offer agreement. We do use other airlines from time to time if we see these cancellations occurring, because our priorities are to get the patients to their appointments as quickly as possible. 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. Item 14, tabling of documents. The Honourable Premier.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 104-18(3):  
REVISED MINISTERIAL MANDATE LETTERS  
FOR 18<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL, DECEMBER 5, 2017

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Revised Ministerial Mandate Letters for 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly Executive Council, December 5, 2017." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Finance.

TABLED DOCUMENT 105-18(3):  
FOLLOW-UP TO ORAL QUESTION 82-18(3):

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Follow-up to Oral Question 82-18(3): Economic Opportunities Arising from Legalization of Cannabis." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Member for Frame Lake.

TABLED DOCUMENT 106-18(3):  
UNDERMINING SUBSISTENCE: BARREN-  
GROUND CARIBOU IN A "TRAGEDY OF OPEN  
ACCESS" BY B. PARLEE, J. SANDLOS, AND D.  
NATCHER FOR SCIENCE ADVANCES

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I would like to table the following document, "Undermining subsistence: Barren-ground caribou in a 'tragedy of open access' by Brenda Parlee, John Sandlos, David C. Natcher, as published in Science Advances." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Member for Frame Lake.

### Motions

MOTION 10-18(3):  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO  
MARCH 6, 2018

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on March 1, 2018, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, March 6, 2018!

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to March 1, 2018, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice;

AND THEREUPON, the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Justice.

## Second Reading of Bills

BILL 6:

### CANNABIS LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION ACT

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 6, Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Implementation Act, be read for the second time. This bill enacts two new statutes relating to the legalization and regulation of cannabis, the Cannabis Products Act, and the Cannabis Smoking Control Act. The bill also amends the Motor Vehicles Act to provide for prohibitions and enforcement measures related to persons who operate motor vehicles while their ability to do so is impaired by alcohol or drugs or by a combination of both, and to ensure consistency with the proposed amendments, to the Criminal Code included in the Federal Bill, C-46, an Act to Amend the Criminal Code for Offenses Relating to Conveyances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to see this legislation before us today. It's been a long time coming. Since the election of the federal government in 2015, it's been very clear that the agenda of this new national government has been to legalize cannabis. It's something that Members on this side of the House have raised a number of times, both on the floor and behind closed doors, that this was an important issue of public policy that needed to be taken with the utmost seriousness by this government. It took a long time to get there, Mr. Speaker. It took a very long time, and finally consultations were held. Just the other day on the floor of this House, we heard that there were concerns around these consultations. The government has said that the consultations were as good as they could be in the short time made available. I continue to hold the position that the shortness of time was a decision of this government. The consultations could have taken place farther, and now we have a bill before us that addresses many of the key issues that this legislation needs delivered, but it is also silent or unclear on a lot of areas that need to be addressed.

I want to talk briefly about the economics of cannabis in this country. In 2017, about 4.9 million Canadians aged 15 to 64 spent an estimated \$5.7 billion on cannabis for medical and non-medical purposes, the equivalent to around \$1,200 per cannabis consumer. The majority of household spending on cannabis, over 90 per cent was for non-medical purposes. By comparison, in 2016, household purchases of alcohol, beer, wine, and

other spirits were \$22.3 billion, and household purchases of tobacco were \$16 billion.

Household spending on cannabis has increased since 1961, which is the recent subject of a study that tracked cannabis spending from 1961 to 2017. Spending on cannabis rose an average of 6 per cent per year while domestic product grew an average of over 7 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, these results or these early assessments speak to a growing industry that has developed while this product was prohibited, while it was illegal in this country. The results when you look at the share of consumption amongst Canadians is quite alarming, when you think of this being an illegal drug. Forty-two per cent of Canadians will consume cannabis in their lifetime.

Amongst young people, the results were quite alarming. Around 43 per cent of young men and young women are using cannabis. We know now that cannabis has significant effects on developing brains. This system of prohibition simply isn't working, and yet at the same time it continues to be a key economic issue for our economy. We're at an interesting place in between two public policy objectives; one, to provide enhanced public safety and community wellness, and another, to address the economic opportunities that are inherent to cannabis.

I've been to many of the consultations. I've spoken to many Northerners, my constituents, and it's very clear that this is a divisive issue. With the high rates of substance abuse in the Northwest Territories, many Northerners do not want to see another narcotic made into a recreational substance. That decision is not in the hands of this government, but our government has an obligation to respond to that in a holistic and comprehensive way.

This legislation brings us closer to that point. I want to commend the government for the hard work they've done producing a very lengthy document. Many of the areas are addressed, in my opinion, adequately. The age of consumption is set at 19. This is a key step in fighting the continued illegal markets where cannabis thrives and it supplies organized crime. If we raise the age limit too far, we're going to be in a situation where bootlegging will continue, or where the black market will thrive.

Again, to the economics. This is something I've heard from many, many people, obviously not too loudly. People are less vocal when it's an illegal product, but there's a sense of entrepreneurship that is emerging as more and more people get used to the idea of legal cannabis. It is a sense that we see reflected around the country. Cannabis stocks soared in the early days of the announcement that legalization was going to come about. Many people

are seeing newfound economic opportunities and entrepreneurialism as they approach this issue. I think that's a good thing, and we need to be a government that supports that. We need to support economic diversification and more business opportunities for Northerners. This is, again, not a brand new substance rolling into the market that nobody's heard of. This is something that Canadians have been using openly for a very, very long time.

When this legislation does not clearly address that issue, it leaves me with concerns. It is currently formulated that the Minister of Finance will have an exception power to give one-off deals with retail stores as they arise. I think it sends a signal that, although this government may be open for business for cannabis retail, it is not coming anytime soon. I think, and I think many Northerners share my opinion, that we need to embrace that opportunity right away. We can't leave the economic opportunities solely in the hands of government. We need to expand those opportunities to entrepreneurs, to the private sector, and allow them the opportunity to open their own retail outlets and to become experts in this soon to be recreational product.

There is going to be a huge need for public education. My colleague the honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre spoke to that earlier today, but part of that public education is also how to safely use a recreational product. That is not the public health concerns that we have around young people smoking. This is about adults safely using a recreational product. The best people to provide that information are those in private retail, people who have an expertise with products. People who have a stake in that market, and we need to be able to empower them and work with them in that community. My fear is, if we do not contemplate it in the legislation on day 1, we will be in a situation where southern Canada develops rules, regulations, and business models that swallow the market whole, and the North will not be able to compete fairly. It won't be able to compete at all.

I know there is some hesitancy from people looking at the existing systems of regulation around liquor and tobacco, and how that works, and we should replicate that model, but those models are old, and we have already heard criticisms around our model for liquor regulation and enforcement. I don't understand why the approach and those models are being reviewed. Why is the approach to use those models instead of developing something from the ground up that is going to support the economic opportunities that cannabis represents? That is one of the areas this legislation needs to improve upon, Mr. Speaker.

The legislation that controls the public use of cannabis, the workplace, all those issues, I'm glad that there's a framework, but there are still some unanswered questions. We are not sure who will have the authority to actually do the investigations. We are not sure how those inspections will work. Who those inspectors will be? Those are details that need to be clarified, and perhaps they can be clarified in regulations, but it is a concern when you are looking at the legislation that there may be those unanswered questions at this stage. The way forward documents and talking guides that the government has produced have not answered those questions yet. That is something we need to understand because we need to understand how this is going to be regulated, how it is going to be enforced on the ground.

The most important thing: even though I just spent a great deal of time talking about economic opportunities, the public policy objective of this legislation and of the changes to the Criminal Code are to keep people safe. It is to keep cannabis products out of the hands of kids, to starve organized crime of a narcotic that they have been exploiting for generations, and to end a system of prohibition that simply doesn't work.

I will just comment that, even though those things will be happening in many communities, there is still the option in this legislation for communities that don't want cannabis to make that choice. I think it is important to be sensitive to those communities who want to make those choices, and to empower them to make those choices, and I support that that's something this legislation will create.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, although I have deep reservations around portions of this legislation, it is a step in the right direction. It is a necessary step, and it's the accumulation of a great deal of work on the part of this government, so I will be supporting this bill, and I look forward to its review by both Standing Committee of Social Development, and Standing Committee of Government Operations, and the coming consultations on the bill itself. I do support this bill, and I thank the Minister of Justice for bringing it forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I will keep my remarks very short. I would like to encourage the Minister to put together a comprehensive set of cost estimates for the implementation of this bill. That is something that this side of the House has yet to see. We don't know the cost of putting together this robust public communication that's been promised, additional enforcement, and so on, the predicted revenues. We don't even know what the predicted revenues

are going to be as a result of this bill. For this side of the House and the public to truly understand the implications of the bill, I want to encourage our Cabinet colleagues to put together that information so that we can have an informed debate. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the principle of the bill, I guess the first thing that comes to mind is: where are we going to sell this product? Right now, we are putting it into the liquor stores, but that gives the liquor stores a step up. Who is going to cover these costs to do the renovations? The liquor stores that I've talked to, they have concerns about that, which then has an impact on the businesses, as well. I am concerned that we haven't reached out to the businesses that have already done the work to get licensing to grow the product. We haven't talked to them, nor have we reached out to the people who have the right to sell medical marijuana right now, who have done the work and done the homework, and we haven't done that. My concern is in regard also to the black market. We have already put a price out of \$10 per gram, but have we done a business case? Have we looked at what the actual costs are to make it? The black market, how are we going to stop the people from actually coming out and selling their product at a cheaper price? These are the concerns that I have heard, and I am looking forward to the consultation process that we are going to do. I would like to thank the Department of Justice for doing the work they did, but we need some work done on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill. Minister of Justice.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important to remember that the federal government only introduced the legislation changing the law last April. This omnibus bill is a very ambitious piece of legislation touching on several departments; Health, Justice, Infrastructure, and Finance, among others. There has been a large-scale public engagement, and I believe, with committee's help and input, we can craft a made-in-the-North response to this change in the law, so I look forward to hearing from standing committee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 6 has had its second reading. It is now referred to standing committee. Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act; 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, with 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. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019, continuing with the Department of Health and Social Services. Also, time permitted, committee would like to move to Committee Report 5-18(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on Bill 1: Western Canada Lottery Act, and also Bill 1: Western Canada Lottery Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** I will call committee back to order. Carrying over from yesterday on the Department of Health and Social Services. Does the Minister wish to bring in witnesses?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Yes, please.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With me today on my left is Bruce Cooper, who is the deputy minister of Health and Social Services, and on my right, Jeannie Mathison, who is the director of Finance.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. We have left off and today we're going to start on pages 187 and 188, the Department of Health and Social Services

diagnostic and therapeutic services and operations expenditures summary, \$26,103,000. We will proceed to questions on these two pages on this activity. Any questions? Recognizing Mr. R.J. Simpson, and next, Mr. Thompson. Proceed, Mr. Simpson.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry if this is not the correct section. I hope we don't have a repeat of yesterday, but I see that this is where audiology is contained. I want to make sure that this is the funding that would make the audiologists from Yellowknife to Hay River to perform services, generally for seniors in relation to hearing aids and what not. Is this the correct section?

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Yes, Mr. Chair, this is the section where audiologists fall under. This is the area that funds them. Thank you.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see that there's a significant increase in therapeutic services. I wonder if that is going to have an effect on the audiologists and their travel schedule to Hay River. I probably, almost as much as any other issue I hear from seniors, is it's about the audiologists and the frequency of the visits. I believe it's every six months or thereabouts that the audiologists travel to Hay River.

What that means is that, in that interim, often people have issues with their hearing aids and they have no one to help them resolve those issues. Often, these hearing aids just go to the drawer and they're sitting there for a few months. I mean, they are expensive devices, too. These hearing aids are very expensive and we have seniors who can't use them for months on end, which really affects quality of life. I'm hopeful here. I see an increase, so are we going to get more audiologists visits to Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I hear the Member's concerns and I'll certainly raise those with the department for a discussion moving forward. The increase in this area is for enhanced rehab services for children, which includes a speech language pathologist and occupational therapist, an audiologist, and an admin, but these are designed and being put in place as a result of the Early Childhood Development Action Plan, so not focused on the clients that the Member is referencing. These positions won't necessarily increase the number of trips to Hay River, but I hear

the concern. I recognize it. I'll certainly raise it with the board and CEO and the department.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. I believe there's also a service where people can send in their hearing aids for repair, but from what I've been told, it can take up to months to get them back. What people have started to do is just go south, like they do in Hay River for sorts of medical services, actually. They go south and have their hearing aids fine-tuned in the South. I hear people talk about they go down to Edmonton for the week. They drop their hearing aid off. Somehow it gets either fixed there or sent to Ontario, fixed, and sent back in time for them to pick it up Friday after spending the week there and they head back home. It's possible to have these things expedited. Is that something that the department has identified as an issue? Is the speed or, you know, the time it takes to get these hearing aids fixed when they're sent in? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the situation has been raised with me. I appreciate the Member raising it. I do hear the Member. I will bring these concerns to the department. We'll have a discussion to see what we can do to help our residents who are frustrated by this. I don't have an answer for the Member. I don't know enough to say for sure exactly what timelines are, or those types of things, but I hear the Member's concerns. We will raise them, absolutely.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. I'll follow up with the Minister so I can get a little more information and let my constituents know what's going on with this issue and let them know that the Minister is actually looking into it. Thank you for the answers, and nothing further. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to autism and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, where would we find that increase in the budget? I know it is in this area, but where is it? Which line item is it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is the right section of the budget, and it falls

under the line item "therapeutic services." Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I have to congratulate the department for doing this. I think it is a very good, positive step. So what are the plans for doing this? Is this going to be regionalized, or is this going to be based out of Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there are currently some services being provided out of Yellowknife, but we recognize that we need to do more at a territorial level. There will be the new child development team coordinator position that will be located in Inuvik, that can help us with the northern part of the territory. It's all currently being delivered out of Yellowknife at this point. There is also the new FASD family liaison, who is going to be located in Yellowknife, and the ASD program coordinator, who is also going to be in Yellowknife, but these will be providing services at a territorial level.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, and I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess my big concern is that I know, in talking with teachers and parents, we are seeing a higher increase of autism in my riding. Actually, my sister who lived down south is actually highly involved in autism and works with an autistic child, and so my concern is: how can we actually do justice to this if we only have a position in Yellowknife that is looking at the southern part and a position in Inuvik looking after the northern part? Because this is going to be a huge demand, and how can the department guarantee that we are going to see better service in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these are coordinator-type positions that are actually trying to coordinate the services. They are not necessarily a frontline provider, but they are helping individuals get to where they need the assessments, do get the services that they require. They are also helping coordinate individuals coming in to where different assessments could be done and helping, when appropriate, having some of our professionals go out to do assessments, as well. They are providing territorial services. It does not

exist today to this degree. It's certainly an enhancement to services. We will continue to monitor as we roll out to make sure that residents across the Northwest Territories with the multi-regional approach as well as the new positions we are putting in are getting the service they need and getting the coordination they need. We see a demand not just in the Deh Cho but other regions across the territory, so we want to make sure that we are in a position to provide that coordination as best we can to all residents of the Northwest Territories.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am not asking just for the Nahendeh riding and the Deh Cho. I totally understand that. My biggest issue, though, is we are starting to see a huge number of children being diagnosed with autism, and it is a lot of work. I mean, I know down south they actually have a person who works one-on-one with the child, whereas we have classroom assistants and people out there. I applaud the department for providing this service. I think it's a great first step. However, we need to get more positions in the communities or regional centres, anyway, that we can spread out the workload. I understand having a coordinator here, in Yellowknife, for FASD and autism is great, but we are talking a huge number. As more people become aware of these situations and diagnoses of our youth, it's a big demand, and I think we are going to overload the two or three positions. I honestly believe we are going to see a huge increase in that, so I understand the department is looking at it, but are they looking at potentially building up the capacity of these teams? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I hear the Member. I agree with the Member. It's not just these individuals who are providing services, but there are lots of other groups out there that we will be partnering with. The disabilities council has different programs, there are other partners we will be working with, so there are multiple teams involved in this. This coordinator is helping people make sure that they are getting the services. I hear the Member, and, as part of the Early Childhood Development plan, moving forward, there is an enhancement in this area in subsequent years, so we will be coming forward in the business planning process with more information on future expansions, keeping in mind that it all needs to go through our normal budgeting process and whatnot, but the plan calls for more enhancement in this area over time.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the Minister and department looking at that. I understand the process, and I totally agree with you, and it could not happen sooner. I honestly believe, if we could get it going into the next year's budget, it would have a huge impact. Like I said, in my riding I know in one classroom that there were three or four who have been diagnosed, and it's kind of a different range within autism, and then FASD is huge across the territories. So I would just encourage the department to look at implementing it next year, and I can guarantee I will be supporting something like that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Comments from the Minister? Nothing from the Minister. Anything further on this activity? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. So, because the therapeutic services are located here, in this section, I am wondering if the Minister can tell us what the plan is for these services in Yellowknife, moving forward with the new Stanton hospital? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. A bunch of the moves obviously are going to happen in subsequent fiscal years, given when the hospital intended to open and the transition supposed to happen, but, ultimately, what we are looking to do is there are going to be a number of positions in the new hospital that are in-patient OT/PT and other therapeutic services. Outpatient therapeutic or other outpatient therapeutic services such as OT/PT are intended to be in the old Stanton building. We will have to go through a transition phase as that building is renovated to meet the needs. I have had the opportunity to visit OT/PT as an example in the existing Stanton, and, in my opinion, it is sadly overcrowded and entirely too small to provide the high rate of services that I know are our residents' due, so I really applaud the people who are in there because they do amazing work in what I would consider adverse situations. They do good work. We are going to fix their space.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. I will remind the Minister to let us know when he is done talking so the sound team knows when to change the mics. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I appreciate the response from the Minister. So I heard him talk about physiotherapy and occupational therapy. There are a number of other areas of the

therapeutic services, such as audiology, speech, and so on. What is happening with those parts of rehab services in Yellowknife with the new hospital? Are they going to be in the old hospital, or are they going to be moved off site? What is happening with those? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I believe the information is online, but I will verify that for the Member. We are looking at using basically all the space in the old Stanton facility. Level 1 is going to be extended care. It's also going to have some other transcription services, primary clinics, food and laundry services for extended care and long-term care. It's also going to have the outpatient rehab program, which includes occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech-language pathology, and audiology. Levels 2 and 3 are going to be long-term care.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am pretty sure I heard the Minister say that all of these rehab services are going to continue to operate out of the old Stanton Hospital. What happens, though, in the interim when the old hospital is being retrofitted to better accommodate those services? Where are they going to go? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, currently, speech and audiology are actually in the Stanton Clinic. I think it is called the clinic. It is the one beside McDonald's. They will stay there during the retrofit. Physio and occupational therapy, obviously, we are going to have to find alternate space during the transition phase. That hasn't been finalized as far as I am aware. I haven't been briefed on that in a couple weeks. When I know, you will know. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have asked the Minister before about this, what the transition plan is for these services while old Stanton is being remodelled, and so on. The Minister seemed to be reading from some sort of list, and then he hasn't been briefed on this for a bit. Can the Minister then commit to give that information to committee, or at least what the current state of knowledge is on these services that are currently within the old Stanton and what is going to happen with them

during the transition, and maybe a timeline that would go along with that? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I can provide a list, or the Member could read Hansard. I have just listed off all the services that are going to be in the old Stanton building. The only ones that are going to sort of need to be relocated because they don't exist in there now are extended care, physio, occupational therapy. The rest of them don't exist in the building now, so they won't be affected. We will be looking for temporary lease space to accommodate us during the retrofit of the old Stanton building. I don't know what that location is yet. That lease hasn't been let. I couldn't tell the Member what that location is going to be because it hasn't been selected yet. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I guess I am looking for more than just a list, something like a Gantt chart that shows each of the services, where they are going to be located where that is known, and the timing over the transition period. I guess that is what I really want to know. I think, as we get closer to when that transition happens, the public is going to need to know that information, as well. Can the Minister commit to give us that kind of information? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we will provide some level of detail, recognizing that it hasn't all been finalized at this point. We are over a year out of this type of thing even starting. We are doing initial work. We are figuring those types of things out. I am happy to provide the Member with additional information as I become aware. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I understand this is in flux, but I am getting some questions about this. It is for members of the community, as well. I think we need to ramp up our communications as we get closer to that transition time, as well. I will just leave it at that. I understand the Minister has made the commitment. He will give us more information. I understand it is still in flux, but we need to start to think about how we are going to communicate this with the public, as well. That is all I have on this section. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Any closing comments on that line of question? Nothing from the Minister. I have no one further on my list. I will call this activity. Diagnostic and therapeutic services, operations expenditure summary, activity total, \$26,103,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. The next activity begins on page 189, nursing inpatient services. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regard to this here, I think there is one on page 190. Is this the section where we talk about chemotherapy? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I spent a significant amount of my life standing in front of an incredibly loud speaker. I didn't have the microphone in my ear. Rock and roll kills. Can I get the Member to repeat that question?

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** I can't hear you. I think I was listening to hard country music, so my hearing is going, too. I wanted to ask you about chemo. Is this the section on it? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Sure. Yes. Nursing touches all areas. Nurses are involved in chemo. Yes, let's do it here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. I will allow the Member to pursue this line of questioning. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess this is going to be the area where I am going to go with it. We have heard about chemo, the treatment here being changed and to update our staff. Now we are looking into April, from the last thing I have seen in the news in here. Can the Minister please provide us an update on exactly where we are going on it? Because I have a number of constituents who have to make the trip to Edmonton. They are concerned. They would like to be able to do it here. Can the Minister please provide us an update on the status in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to start off, I just want to be very, very clear. Not all residents of the Northwest Territories who require chemo have received care or chemo in the Northwest Territories. Many of our residents have always gone south for chemo, depending on the nature of the cancer, the type of treatment they receive. We did provide chemo services in the Northwest Territories, in Stanton in particular, for certain types of cancer and certain types of treatment.

Since we have come to a single authority, we have been reviewing operations and delivery of services in different areas. We did have a review done of our chemo services here in the Northwest Territories. When that review was done, there were a number of recommendations on how to make improvements to Stanton; better training, some other operational things, some current modern standards. This field is changing all the time. We need to be able to keep on top of it.

As a result of the recommendations, there was a decision made that the best way, the quickest way to get this work done would be to actually temporarily shut down the chemo unit. That would allow us to do the training. The other day, in oral questions, I went through some of the detail on the types of training that are happening. There is some onsite training, book-learning-type stuff, and then there is some clinical practice in Alberta that our staff are going down to participate in and then some practice so that they can consolidate learning.

There are a number of things that are happening. We decided it was best to shut down; send our staff to where they are going to get the best training possible; work on our guideline; make sure that our guidelines are remaining current, remaining fresh; have the mechanism to update appropriately. In that time, we also recognize this is actually an opportunity for us to refresh some of our equipment that we are using in the chemo unit.

As a result of the time it has taken to train our staff and get these regulations done, we felt we didn't want to rush back before we are ready. We are taking a couple of extra weeks over what we initially planned of four to eight weeks, and we are looking into April before we go live. When our patients who can receive chemo in the Northwest Territories come back, we want them to be getting the same high-quality professional services that they are receiving at the Cross in Edmonton today. We have received a lot of feedback from our residents who are going down there about the quality of the service they are receiving. We want to make sure that we can provide the same thing to those residents who will receive chemo in the North.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I understand that chemotherapy, depending on the cancer, goes back and forth, you know, down to Alberta. I guess, fortunately or unfortunately, my constituents who seem to have it were able to do it in Yellowknife. That was the big thing, as they recognized the service that was here was great. They said nothing but positive stuff about it. Then when they went down to Edmonton, they didn't see any difference. They didn't see any difference in service and that. They were informed that it was going to January; now, we're looking into April, so when can the department say firmly that we're going to have the service back here in the Northwest Territories? Is April going to be it? I guess we just need a true deadline. When is it going to be happening? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, when we shut down, we indicated that we were hoping to be back late January or early February. We're working really closely with the Cross in Alberta to make sure that what we're providing is as high-quality as possible. I'm happy to hear that some of our residents felt that there was no difference between the two. I've also heard personally from Members who think that there was a significant difference. That doesn't matter. What matters is we need to make sure we're providing high-quality services to our residents. We're going to work with the Cross. We're hoping and targeting in April, but barring any unforeseen changes that we can't predict now, that's what we're targeting for, is late April.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that answer. Again, I can speak on what I've been told. I just have to tell you what I've been told. The praise from the constituents who have gone out for the treatment didn't come here. They've been very supportive of it. If you can pass on the message to the staff and say that they're going out and getting the training and tell them they're doing a great job and that. When you talked about replacing the equipment, was it a huge cost to be replacing this, or is this going to be a capital item that we will be seeing in the fall? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we're getting a proposal from the NWTSSA right now on what they think it's going to cost to upgrade some of the equipment. I will certainly pass along through the deputy and the CEO the support that the Member has given for our staff. I agree. We have amazing staff doing amazing things, and I don't think anybody should think that the problem we have or the improvements we're trying to make are based on the quality of the staff. It's policies. It's procedures. It's guidelines. We need to make sure that we are always offering our employees the training that helps them be as good as they can be as far as meeting program needs. Thank you.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With NWTSSA getting the quotes back to the department, is that information going to be shared with committee? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Sure, absolutely. Once we get it and we have an idea of what the cost is, and what we will actually be purchasing, and what we won't be purchasing, I'll be happy to share that with committee.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you. I guess my last question, I hope, is just in regard to the communication strategy that we're going to get out there. Does the department have a communication strategy going forward and that we're able to share with the constituents out there? I mean, again, I think the Minister has heard some of the concerns. Previous people were saying, "Why are we doing this and that?" When we are going to be doing these enhancements, are we able to communicate this information and it's just not going to be confidential? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, quite honestly, our first priority has really been the patients who were affected, and helping them understand what's changed and make sure that they are getting the care that they need. As we get closer to rolling out, we'll certainly be rolling out some information on what's changed and what's improved so that residents are informed. That will absolutely go to committee, as well.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Mr. Thompson, your time has expired. Anything further from committee on nursing inpatient services? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I noticed on page 190 that the actual expenditures here are lower on the previous year. I'm just wondering, this is probably the section where overtime for nursing at Stanton would be part of this budget. Is that correct? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Overtime for front-line nurses would be in here, yes. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Thanks to the Minister for confirming that. What are we doing about overtime? Because that continues to be a problem in terms of burnout of our nursing staff and additional costs and so on. What is the department doing to try to deal with that situation? Thank, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The department has certainly been making the authority aware of the fiscal challenges that we're having and the demands that the authority is putting on us financially. Right now, we know that we're running about a \$60 million deficit. We know that's going to increase. One of the major, well, I wouldn't call it the major driver, but certainly one of the drivers is overtime. The territorial authorities, CEO, board chair, board, and senior management have had a number of discussions about what they need to do to help control these costs. To make sure that they, frankly, control these costs, they need to understand these costs. They're trying to do an analysis on where they're bleeding on the overtime so they can make some informed decisions. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that. Yes, I recognize this is not something that perhaps the department itself can control, other than perhaps in sending some service standards and making sure that the health authorities have the resources that are needed to carry that out. The Minister said that there is some study or something being done. Is that by the department or by the Stanton? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the cost drivers are occurring in the authority, but the department is working with them to identify those cost drivers and trying to put some scope on the things that are driving costs to help us better understand the deficit so that we can get efficiencies and make improvements to get maximum bang for our dollar. It's kind of a cooperation. It's working together. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that from the Minister. Is there a specific study being done on overtime relating to nursing, or is this just kind of broader effort to look at efficiencies as part of transformation? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The second one the Member described. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** A broader effort, okay. Is there anything specific, though, that the department is looking at doing to address overtime in nursing? Are we looking at setting service standards? What is it that the department is doing to try to address this problem? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The setting of service standards is part of the work that the department is doing with the authority, given that we've moved to a single authority. This is real opportunity for us to set those standards. That's part of the important work we're doing to try to help us control costs.

Stanton is continuing to do some work around scheduling and trying to improve their scheduling so that they're minimizing double shifts, triple shifts, those types of things, and hoping to control some of their costs that way, as well. There are all sorts of things happening. One of the big ones is, obviously, standards. The other one is individual regional operations, looking at how they're scheduling, in particular, Stanton.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't want to seek another commitment from the Minister on this, but I just want to give him a heads up that this is something I am going to ask again in the business planning for next year, so I am hoping that we've moved beyond just talking about some of this stuff and that the Minister can discuss it in a little bit more detail about what we're actually doing to address this issue, but I will leave it at that for now. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Anything further? Seeing none, I will call this activity. Nursing inpatient services, operations expenditure summary, total activity, \$34,108,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Moving on to supplementary health programs, beginning on page 192. Comments or questions? Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, during the business plan process, we talked about how the department was negotiating with Health Canada around the new terms and conditions for the NIHB agreement, and I am wondering if the Minister could update us on the status of those negotiations? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Work continues in this area. I am not participating in negotiations, so I would like to go to the deputy minister for some detail. Thank you.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Yes, we have been having ongoing discussions with the federal government around NIHB. We supported and co-hosted a round table before Christmas that looked at improvements, the administration of the program that we may have to undertake together, and I know that it was very well-received. We had leaders from all over the NWT come together and provide this feedback, and learn about how the program operates.

With the report out of that work which is going to help us improve the program delivery, we are moving to finalize some of our work on any changes that might be coming in NIHB, and we expect to be in a position very shortly to be able to announce what direction that's taking.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the answer from the deputy and look forward to the decision. Did these negotiations also include adjustments to the formulary? I note the deputy talked about service delivery, but are they also about the formulary? Thank you.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We don't as much negotiate the formulary as provide input, sort of trend data that helps inform the NIHB in them developing the formulary, so it's not really a matter of negotiation. It is their formulary. We run the program on their behalf, or we administer the program on their behalf. Data that we gather in terms of both utilization and also demand for certain drugs and so on that are in demand can help the program determine what should go on the formulary next, but I think, if I'm not mistaken, I believe the NIHB are actually aligned with the Ontario formulary, so the real work on that list takes place out of Ottawa and in line with the Ontario approach.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is more of an encouragement than a negotiation when it comes to the actual formulary. Thank you.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, in the last few weeks I have had occasion to talk to the Health Minister about conditions that are not covered under extended health benefits. In one case, Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS; and in the other case, I addressed here in the House, which was the provision of family planning aides and medical pregnancy termination. The Minister has said that there is a review going on here, but I don't think we have very many specifics about the plan going forward with the review of the supplementary health benefits, so I would appreciate some detail on that now. Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, there is no question that there is pressure on the extended health benefit and supplementary health benefit programs that we provide here in the Northwest Territories, and there is the gap that has been identified in the low-income families that do not have insurance. Currently, what we are doing with the first part of this work is we are out doing cross-jurisdictional analysis and research to see what other jurisdictions are doing and how they're working to

cover some of those groups that may or may not be covered, trying to get a good sense of what's out there, doing a review of our programs, where the challenges are. From there, we intend to develop a discussion paper that we can make available to the public to begin the conversation here in the Northwest Territories on where we need to go, what needs to be done. We will be seeking recommendations, input from people across the Northwest Territories, and obviously MLAs and committee as well, to help inform the direction we need to take and how we need to get there, recognizing all the challenges that face us. From there, we will work together to determine next steps. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I note that some of this work like the cross-jurisdictional scan was, I think, under way during the business plan review in November. I am wondering if the Minister can be any more specific about when all that information is going to be fed into the discussion paper, and what the timing is for putting the discussion paper out? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are hoping to have a document prepared to have discussion with committee in the next three or four months; hopefully, three months. From there, we will have a discussion with committee on how to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, a number of years ago, the Health Minister of the day attempted to change the supplementary health benefit program without very much success. How will the Minister do differently than was done at that time? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, when that occurred, that review occurred, I was sitting beside where the MLA for Yellowknife North is currently sitting, and it was my opinion of the day that one of the problems was, when that proposal was brought forward, it was brought forward as a solution without doing the upfront work. They didn't engage potentially affected stakeholders. They didn't go out and talk and have those discussions throughout the Northwest Territories, seeking ideas, input on how

to resolve the problem. A couple of problems: it's very expensive, is one problem. The other problem is that we have a gap. There are low-income families without insurance that aren't covered. Recognizing our challenges, how do we address those problems, and we need to have that conversation. We don't need to go out and say: we are going to do X. That's the big difference of what we're doing this time, is we are going to pull together the data, identify the problems, go out and have conversations, talk to people, seek meaningful input on how to address those problems, and work together on solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you to the Minister for that response. At the end of the day, if and when a solution is found, does it require legislative change? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, honestly, I can't say. That would be presuming a solution. I don't think we have reached that conclusion. I think we need to do the work. Conceivably, yes, but let's do the work and figure out what we can do to address our challenges and develop a plan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I will make this my last question. Given the timing of where we are vis-a-vis the 2019 election, does the Minister anticipate completing this work through to public engagement and identifying solutions prior to the next election? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is my plan. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Follow-up from Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** No. Thank you to the Minister for his responses. Nothing further.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Anything further from committee? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I don't want to jump ahead to page 198, but that is where the non-insured health benefits are found, the funding that we get from the federal government for that. It is in the neighbourhood of \$14,473,000. How is that amount reconciled against the amounts that are

expended here on page 193 which show extended health benefits, indigent health benefits, medical travel, Metis health benefits? That money that we get from the federal government, how is it expended within these areas? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Chair, they don't. Really, the only link between the supp-health benefits, extended health benefits, indigent health benefits, Metis health benefits, and NIHB, is that we mirror the program. Our programs mirror NIHB. NIHB, we administer on behalf of the federal government. It is a federal government program. We administer it on their behalf for our First Nations residents. Extended health benefits, indigent health benefits, Metis health benefits mirror that, but it is a program that we fund as the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The only way in which the NIHB really affects the section we are talking about now is it does help offset some of our medical travel costs, because First Nations and Inuit residents who are travelling, obviously, some of their medical travel costs are covered by NIHB. That is kind of the only offset in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I am not sure I understood all of that. Maybe I will just switch tactics for a moment, and then I might come back to that. Metis health benefits line here, there was a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that Metis people are now to be considered Indigenous people under the Constitution and entitled to the same rights as other Indigenous peoples. Has there been any progress on discussion of Metis health benefits funding from the federal government? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. No. Every opportunity I have or every time I meet with the federal Ministers, I mention it. I indicate our desire to have them come to the table and cover the Metis health benefits. There has been no official response to date. I will continue to raise it every opportunity I get when I am in Ottawa or when I am meeting with federal Ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I support full coverage for our Metis residents, but does this

come up in other jurisdictions? Does it come up at FPT, federal-provincial-territorial meetings of the health ministers? It is not being discussed or addressed in any way? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I have had the conversation with my FPT colleagues, as well. They obviously would like to see it happen as a result of the Daniels case. We are in a slightly different position, given that we are already expending money in this area and they are not. We are the only jurisdiction in the country that provides NIHB-equivalent services to Metis people. I just remind the Member the case wasn't just about healthcare. It was about Metis services and all that. We are just a part of that. We raise it all the time, and so do the other PT ministers. Thank you.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the response from the Minister. Is there any likelihood that we are going to be able to recover any of this funding that has been expended over the years from the federal government, or is it too early to say? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would love to say yes, but honestly, we have had no indication at this point. I will continue to bring it up. If the opportunity presents itself, I would be happy to explore or discuss back pay on that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I have no further questions on this section. Thank you.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just have something I would like to clear up. Following up with Mr. O'Reilly's line of questioning, non-insured health benefits and the Metis health benefits, it is my understanding that, while they are almost identical, there are differences between the two when it comes to what is covered, things like certain dental procedures. Am I correct in this assumption? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, our supplementary health benefit programs are intended to mirror the benefits provided by NIHB exactly. That is the extended healthcare benefits, the indigent health benefits, and the Metis health benefits. For us, in these areas, Alberta Blue Cross does administer our supplementary health benefits on our behalf. We do provide to Alberta Blue Cross our NIHB fee schedule. We give that to Alberta Blue cross every time it is updated, which is about once a year. We gave the most recent updated schedule in February of 2018. Alberta Blue Cross moves and acts on that fee schedule. I am not aware of any individual drug or coverage or any discrepancies that exist. If the Member has examples of discrepancies that exist, I will look into that to figure out what is going on, but the program is intended to mirror NIHB.

I will say I have had some people approach me who have had some level of confusion. We need to remember that our programs are paving the last resort. There are a large number of people out of there who are getting more than what is available through our supplemental health programs, but they are getting it through their private insurance provider or, if they are a GNWT employee, their GNWT employer, which is quite a bit different than what is available through NIHB. We need to make sure we are talking apples to apples when we are having this conversation. If the Member is aware of specific cases, please let me know. Thank you.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is what I was trying to discern. Exactly what I said, the non-insured health benefits and the Metis health benefits compared equally if they are exactly the same because I hear anecdotally issues about, for example, things like dental work is the one that has come up. If that is the case, if there are things like that, I would assume the department would be on top of it and look into this type of stuff. I would like some confirmation from the department. Do they look for cases like this? Is it possible that a case like this exists where someone with NIHB and the Metis benefits would receive different coverage? Is that a possibility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Never say never, right? By design, the answer is no. Our supplemental health programs mirror NIHB. We share the NIHB formularies with our provider, which is Blue Cross, so that they can ensure that they are providing services that are consistent. From time to time, is it possible that something sneaks through? I cannot say that it does not, but

we are not aware of any at this particular point. So what I am asking is, if Members are aware of a case where something is provided by our supplementary health program as opposed to an another third-party insurance, please let us know and we will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Anything further, Mr. Simpson?

**MR. SIMPSON:** Yes, one. I will follow up with the Minister. One final question; this might be more for the Department of Justice, but: are extended health benefits extended to people who are remanded or incarcerated in territorial corrections centres? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of things: our territorial corrections facilities have nurses on staff who provide some level of services, but, if they need services that are not available by the corrections system, we do work with those patients. The guards will often bring them out so that they can attend their appointments and whatnot. All the services that we provide to residents are the same for our inmates, unless they are federal inmates, at which point they are covered by Correctional Service of Canada. We do have federal inmates in the Northwest Territories, but, if they are NWT territorial inmates, it's the same as residents. Thank you.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. So, just to clarify what he means by "residents," before I was an MLA, I did not have health coverage, I did not have private insurance, I was not covered under any Metis benefits or NIHB. So if I was incarcerated or remanded, would I be covered by extended benefits or would I just get the same non-coverage that I had as an un-incarcerated citizen? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as a Canadian citizen, you are entitled to health services for all acute and primary care services. The difference is obviously drugs or dental. We do not have pharmacare or universal dental coverage in Canada, so that is what NIHB provides now, and we match it for extended health benefits. If you are not a resident of the Northwest Territories, you are not carrying a healthcare card, and you have not registered as a Metis, you would not obviously get that, but you could register and make sure that you filled out the appropriate

paperwork. If you fill out the appropriate paperwork and you are eligible, then the answer is yes. Thank you.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. So, just to clear this up, just a yes or no answer: if you are incarcerated, you have the same benefit that you had before you were incarcerated, is that correct? Nothing more than that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Minister Abernethy, yes or no?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** [Microphone turned off] eligible for supplemental health benefits, the answer is yes, it does not change whether you are in jail or not. Thank you.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** If you were not eligible for supplementary benefits before you were incarcerated, would you be then provided with supplementary benefits during your incarceration? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** There is no such thing as a yes or no answer. This is not: is the orange orange? Yes it is. Or is a red apple red? Yes it is. If you were eligible before, you are still eligible. If you were not eligible before, you are not eligible. Thank you.

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

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

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a question on indigent health benefits. I am trying to figure out why the number is so low, but I kind of have an idea. I was wondering if the Minister could tell me if there is an income limit on the benefits accrued to this group. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this is one that we work closely with Education, Culture and Employment on because this is for individuals who are on income support.

This is more of a one-time hardship program, so it's not something that is used for everybody. It's more when situations are unique or beyond normal and we need to work with them to make sure that our residents do not go into a new hardship. Drugs are part of income support, so people who are on income support are covered that way, as well, or, if they are Indigenous, they are covered through NIHB, so this is a small group of people who are impacted here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so this is a group of low-income, non-Aboriginal families or individuals who have no extended health benefit but they are under 60, they are not Metis, they are not treaty. I guess that is correct? I just ask for confirmation on that from the Minister. Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not exactly; this is for any resident who is not working, who is receiving income support, who might be faced with a condition or a drug cost that would cause undue hardship, so we are trying to be available for those individuals who could be in a very, very difficult place if they are not covered. So it's not just non-Indigenous people. It could be Indigenous people, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, then there is no other area where there is something called "catastrophic drug coverage?" Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. There is no program called "catastrophic drug coverage." This is certainly an area that is in need of some discussion, and this, I think, can form part of our conversation during our supplementary health programs review.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nothing further, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Any further questions from committee? Seeing none, I will call this summary on page 193. Health and Social Services, supplementary health

programs, operations expenditure summary, \$32,393,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Agreed. We shall proceed on to questions to the information items starting on page 195. We will go page by page to the end, which is on 201. Any questions to the information items on 195? Mr. Thompson, go ahead.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On page 195, it shows that the NWT Health and Social Services Authority and the Tlicho service authority are seeing increases in their budgets, but I did not see Hay River Health and Social Services Authority get an increase. Can the Minister explain the rationale for this? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is because the Hay River authority got a bunch of money as part of the transition into the hospital, into the new hospital, and the fact that Woodland and the old hospital had to be opened to cover the long-term care for a period of time.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. So will we see an increase next year for the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority, once it's all in one package? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we have not gone through forced growth or business planning for the next fiscal year, so it's kind of difficult for me to say. Yes, I cannot say for sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we talk about the deficits from amalgamation and that, it being a large amount, so is this deficit associated with Health and Social Services, the territorial Health and Social Services authority, or is this going to be something that is in our deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The territorial health authority has a deficit about \$67.3 million. That deficit is the territorial health

authority deficit, but the territorial authority falls under the Financial Administration Act, so it ultimately is a GNWT debt. The Finance Minister has told me I have to pay it back. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank the Minister for that. I guess I'm trying to understand this debt because I keep on hearing numbers, \$67 million. Now I'm hearing \$67.6 million deficit. Is this \$67.6 million debt the most current accurate picture of where our situation is in regard to this authority? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, as of March 31, 2017, so just shy of a year ago, the deficit was officially \$67.3 million for the three authorities combined. As of today, we're actually projecting a March 31, 2018 of \$92 million, but it's not official until March 31. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you. I guess I'm just looking at the audited financial statements. It says it's about \$67.1 million in 2017. Where are we getting the information? Is the financial audited statements where we should be getting the information, or does the department have different numbers according to the books? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, what audited financial statement is the Member looking at? Is it an NWT or NTHSSA audited financial statement, or is it the other books, and what date is it? What date, March 31?

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** NTHSSA financial statement of March 31, 2017. It says \$67.12. I guess I'm trying to get a clear understanding of this because it does have an impact if our numbers are going up to \$92. If it's gone from \$67 to \$92 million, then we're missing this number. I'm just trying to get a clear picture of the amalgamation. We are supposed to be actually saving money in this area, and I understand we're just in the process, but it seems to be our debt is starting to go higher in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'm not an accountant, so I will go to somebody who is much better with numbers than I, the director of finance, Jeannie Mathison.

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

**MS. MATHISON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The numbers that are being referenced in the audited financial statements, I believe, include the liability for employee leave and termination, and the numbers that we are referencing here do not include those. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank Ms. Mathison. Now I understand the better picture. It is very clear, because in the new auditing process, we need to show that as a debt. I greatly appreciate that. When will we start to see some savings? Because right now my understanding is that we're \$92 million projected by the end of this fiscal year. When will we start seeing savings with this transformation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In terms of the question regarding when will we start to see savings, this is an issue that ourselves and the department and the NTHSSA and the Department of Finance are seized with. We have a project group that has been established. We have hosted a two-day workshop in the month of January called "A Better Future Initiative." We are preparing a plan for doing a deep drive into the finances of the new authority and identifying efficiencies, ways that we can both find savings and also address quality of care at the same time.

This is something we're actively developing a plan and to identify options, and I expect that you'll see some tangible ideas in terms of the things that we can do to bend the cost curve within the coming three or four months.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I thank Mr. Cooper for that answer. With this plan being in place, will this plan be shared with the standing Committee on Social Development? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. COOPER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I believe we have a return to standing committee with these questions. We'll certainly be there to share where we are.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a point of clarity. I mean, there's a significant amount of work we have to do here to control costs. As we move to a single authority, we were always very clear that this isn't about saving money, but we do believe strongly there's an opportunity to have better control of costs, control of growth, and an opportunity to make sure that we're getting maximum value for dollar, and spending it appropriately. It doesn't necessarily mean savings. It means efficiencies and opportunities to make sure the money is going to the right place to give us the best services possible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Recognizing the time, I will allow one more. Mr. Thompson.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll try to be real quick. I guess I'm a little bit concerned at how we're going to be able to pay the Finance Minister the \$92 million if we're not seeing, I understand the efficiencies and that, but if we can suddenly see this growth of a debt, we're going to be owing that Finance Minister some huge amount of money after a few number of years. Is this part of the plan? I understand we don't want to affect the quality of it, but at some point in time, we need to make some savings so that we can help alleviate some of the costs. Is that part of the process? I understand that, but you can't effect the delivery of it, but are we able to put something in there that we're going to see a decrease in our deficit? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Debt repayment is part of our cost now and will continue to be a part of our costs in the future, so yes, absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe we're on page 195 here. Can I get some detail on the \$300,000 or \$400,000, yes, about \$300,000 reduction for the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and some clarification if it has anything to do with the position change that can be

found on the next page, where I see decrease in two full-time positions and an increase in two part-time positions? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we had some money in the budget last year for transition into the new hospital that was a one-time funding to help us through the transition period. It is now gone. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. That is what I suspected. I will wait until the next page to ask about those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing further.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Any further questions for page 195? Seeing none, we shall move on to 196, information item. Questions? Mr. Simpson.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. I see the increase in two full-time positions in the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and an increase in two part-time positions. Can the Minister explain what is going on there? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. An increase of four positions for maintaining HH Williams, that is a chronic long-term care aide, housekeeping aide, dietary aide, and cook one; and an increase of two positions for Woodland Manor, a dietary aide and a housekeeping aide. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** So there is the loss of two full-time jobs, and there is a gain of two part-time jobs. Is that all explained by what the Minister just said? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, these changes are as a result of having to keep Woodland Manor open while constructing the new long-term care or extended care facility, so we had to double up some of our resources for that period of time. They will be moving in in this fiscal year, so we don't need to continue to double up those positions, but there are some new positions that are required for that. So it's the two new positions that are required for the new Woodland

Manor, but we do not need the ones that were hanging around in HH Williams as a result of the transition period. So it's a move from a temporary situation at HH Williams to a full-time situation in Woodland.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. I am pretty sure that extended care unit has been in HH Williams for decades. I mean that long-term care unit has been there for a long time. It was not temporary. Woodland Manor has been there for a long time. So now we have a new place and we are losing two positions, and so it doesn't sound like anything temporary was happening. It sounds like we are losing two positions as a result of the move. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** So, we had to keep HH Williams open, Mr. Chair, during the transition, which, yes, it always existed, but that building was supposed to be abandoned a while ago, but we did not plan for long-term care in the community and we had to come to the table and fix that problem. We fixed that problem, so we had to keep people in HH Williams for a short period of time, recognizing that we did not want to discontinue the services during the construction of Woodland Manor. So this is to help us transition for that short period of time, where we had to keep the old hospital open, to the point where we could move into a permanent facility of Woodland Manor, and some positions did go over to the new hospital, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Nothing further, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Anything further on page 196? Seeing none, we shall move on to page 197. Questions for 197? Seeing none, page 198. Questions to page 198? Mr. Simpson.

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I see there is non-insured health benefits on here, and so, if you have non-insured health benefits and you go to the dentist and the dentist says you need a crown, there is a good chance NIHB will say, "No, we'd rather pull it," but, if you go and you need a crown and you have Blue Cross, there is a good chance they will approve it. That is the difference, and that is what has come up in my constituency. NIHB, I guess there are three levels of appeal that you can go through. The patient actually has to go and explain why they need a crown, you know the

dentist recommended it, why they want to save their tooth as opposed to pull it, and that is the first level of appeal, so that is the issue. From my understanding, it's rarely appealed by people. I think people just either suffer or get the tooth pulled instead, and so there is a bit of a disconnect between the Blue Cross and the NIHB services, so does the department do anything to raise awareness or assist people when it comes to the appeal process with NIHB? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our staff do provide advice, guidance on how to maneuver the system to approach the appeals process. The issue that the Member has raised, I do not know for sure whether that is true. I hear the Member. We need to look into that if that is the issue the Member is talking about. I am happy to look into that to find out if that is happening. We mirror NIHB, and, if Blue Cross is not doing that, then we need to deal with that, obviously. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you. No, the issue is the Blue Cross is offering more or it's a better service, essentially, and so I guess the question was about helping the people who have NIHB, but I don't want a response to that. I will talk to the Minister after. I just wanted to bring that to his attention. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Further questions to page 198? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just want to ask some questions about non-insured health benefits. We have heard some concerns from the other side of the House about how the federal government is now approaching Indigenous governments directly to fund various services. This money here, so we just essentially deliver these programs and then invoice the federal government for it. Is that how this works? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. We pay up front and then seek reimbursement from NIHB. I would suggest that we do not always get everything that we think we should, so we usually end up coming out of pocket for this, as well, to some degree. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Okay, thanks, Mr. Chair. So, because of the concerns I have heard from the other side of the House in terms of federal government sort of going around territorial government to fund Indigenous governments directly, how does this play into that concern, and what is our government doing to try to ensure good working relationships with our Indigenous governments around programs and services and accountability and transparency, all of those good things? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that is specifically what the deputy minister was talking to in response to, I believe it was, Ms. Green's questions. We have hosted a round table working with our Indigenous partners and the federal government to address those types of concerns, make sure that everybody is on the same page and working together and that the issues of the clients are being brought forward to the ultimate funder, recognizing that we are a delivery agent in this one. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I think I understood that. So, at this two-day workshop in January, was more than just NIHB discussed or were there other health and social services programming areas discussed? Thanks, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that meeting was very focused on NIHB. I have been working to set up meetings with our Indigenous partners on a regular basis. We try to do it annually. Last year, it kind of did not happen because we couldn't get everybody together at the same time, but we are planning one for this spring, where we can work on shared priorities, issues that we need to work on together with the federal government but also things we need to do here, in the Northwest Territories. That relationship is very important to us, and we are looking forward to reconvening those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Mr. Chair, I know this has not happened yet, but is the Minister prepared to share some sort of summary or report from the meeting with the standing committee? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Yes, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks. That's all I've got for this section, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, my question is about page 201. I see that the GNWT has an agreement with Health Canada to fund the Toll-Free Tobacco Quit Line. Can the Minister tell us a little bit about usage rates here? Is this a useful way of helping people who are trying to stop smoking? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I don't have the actual usage rates in front of me, but I will endeavour to get that to the Member as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can appreciate that that's a level of detail that he might not have at his fingertips, but it leads into my next question where I note that the agreement to fund this quit line ends at the end of March. Is this agreement subject to renewal? Thank you.

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

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's March 2019, so we have a year to continue to review this program and make sure it is adding the value that we hope it's adding. Look at the usage numbers, as the Member wants, to see to make a decision whether or not we wish to renew it or not. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I asked because this is within the fiscal year that we are currently reviewing, and it has been the desire of the Standing Committee on Social Development to address the smoking rates of young people and people who live in small communities, and that's why I'm interested to know whether this program is providing an effective intervention, in general. In those cases, in particular, I understand the Minister is committed to providing that information, so I have no further questions on this issue. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Would committee please return to the departmental summary on page 167. Does committee have any final comments or questions on this department? Seeing none, I will call this department. Health and social services, 2018-2019 Main Estimates, total department, \$461,000,000. Sorry, committee, I messed up. Let's start again.

Health and social services, 2018-2019 Main Estimates, \$461,563,000. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree this concludes our consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister. Thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Committee, we've agreed to next consider Committee Report 5-18(3), report on the review of Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act. I will go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations for any opening comments he may have. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. With your indulgence, I will also speak to Bill 1, as it is the subject of this report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to report on its review of Bill 1: the Western Canada Lottery Act.

Bill 1, sponsored by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, repeals the existing Western Canada Lottery Act, and replaces it with a new act to establish a Northwest Territories Lottery Commission under the direction of the Minister, with the authority to enter into agreements with the Western Canada Lottery Corporation, the Government of Nunavut, and retailers.

The act also establishes a Northwest Territories Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Fund, pursuant to Part 7 of the Financial Administration Act. This special purpose fund, which will form an account within the consolidated revenue fund, will receive proceeds from the operation of lotteries by the WCLC. The commission will be responsible for the conduct, management, and operation of lotteries, while the Minister will administer the fund and distribute proceeds for purposes related to the promotion and delivery of physical activity sport and recreation programs.

Bill 1 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on October 20, 2017, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations for review.

The committee held a public review of the bill on February 7, 2018. The committee received 11 written submissions and heard eight oral submissions. The hearing was extremely well-attended, and the standing committee wishes to thank members of the public for their attendance and input.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations concluded its review of Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act, on February 27, 2018, with the public hearing held here in the Legislative Assembly building.

At this hearing, the committee moved three motions to amend the bill. One of these motions was a non-substantive housekeeping motion; the other two motions amended the bill. One added a requirement for public year-end reporting on physical activity, sport, and recreation fund; the other removed multi-sport funding as an item for which the Minister may automatically disburse lottery funds.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to signal that multi-sport activities will be funded, first and foremost, from the department's budget. This would not prevent the Minister from exercising the authority to supplement such funding with disbursements from the fund in appropriate circumstances.

Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act, as amended and reprinted, as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

In addition to our review, the Standing Committee on Government Operations prepared a substantive report on the public comments that Members heard from the witness submissions, and also the written submissions. Committee members felt it was important to provide the substantive report as the issue of arts funding was a central topic of discussion around Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act.

The scope of Bill 1 did not allow for the committee to make amendments that would open up the lotteries for disbursements to arts programs; however, committee is very sensitive to the concerns of the public around arts funding, and has made recommendations to that extent.

This concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chair. Individual Members may have additional comments or questions as we proceed with consideration of committee's report. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. The general procedure is that committee Members can make general comments if they like, and the recommendations contained in the report will be moved as motions to which motions can also speak. So I will open up the floor to general comments on Committee Report 5-18(3). Ms. Green.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I acknowledge that the purpose of this bill was to provide protection from taxation for the lottery funds, but it turned into a different exercise, and that exercise was really about acknowledging the arts community's desire to have the access to the stable funding that the territorial sports organizations have as a result of lottery proceeds. Of course, this bill does not address that question, but I think it puts us all on notice that the arts community wants to have a strategy that lays out what they contribute to our wellbeing generally and economically and how we as a group of MLAs can help them to further their contributions in this area. I take that big public hearing we had and the written submissions in the back as notice that the arts need to be on the agenda for discussion. I think that has to be the next priority. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. McNeely):** Thank you, Ms. Green. Any further general comments on the report? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I participated in the review of the bill sometimes as an alternate to the committee. I want to thank the chair and the committee colleagues for their hard work on the review of the bill. The chair has discussed how the scope of the bill was really limited to protecting the existing fund from taxation. I know that there was universal support from all the parties that we heard from in the standing-room-only public hearing that was held. I think that is the most people I have ever seen in Committee Room A.

I think, as my colleague from Yellowknife Centre said, this did become a venue for discussion of the needs for both the sports and recreation community and the arts community. I think it is also fair to say that it was a respectful discussion amongst all the parties. That is an important fact that I don't want anybody to lose.

I think we found other ways to begin to address some of the concerns raised by the arts community. I know that the Minister of Finance has made a commitment on the floor of this committee in previous discussion to increase the NWT Arts Council funding by \$200,000. That is a welcome addition to their funding.

There has also been a commitment to carry out a comprehensive review of our support for the arts

that is basically split between Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment and will consider structural changes, as well. Those are two important things that have come out of the budget that will begin to address some of the concerns that have been raised by the arts community. There is more that I think we need to pay attention to in terms of its contribution to wellbeing in all of our communities here in the Northwest Territories.

On the review of the bill itself, the two changes that have been proposed by committee, and I support them, are, firstly, to ensure that there is some greater accountability around the sports and recreation fund itself. That is partly because it is not a revolving fund, but it is a special fund. The current accountability requirements set out in the Financial Administration Act and the policy dealing with these sorts of funds, don't really require full disclosure. I think the committee members were pleased to work with the Minister on this to come up with an annual reporting requirement that is one of the additions that is now in the bill to ensure that there is greater transparency and accountability. I want to thank the Minister and her staff for the collaborative approach on changing the bill.

The other amendment was with regard to the list of designated purposes for the bill. There have been some concerns raised about the inclusion of multi-sport games as one of the defined purposes of the fund. The department also, through its appropriations, has funding for this purpose. Unfortunately, it is declining over the last couple of years and many decline again in the future. That is not something that I support. The removal of that as a specified purpose is something that I can support in terms of the bill itself. I want to encourage the department to stop those cuts, but that is a discussion to be held elsewhere.

The Minister still has the discretion to use the fund itself for multi-sport games. She did commit, during the clause-by-clause review, that the first avenue will be use of the appropriation that the department has. Secondly, she said that the next step would be to seek a supplementary appropriation. Thirdly, if necessary, the sports and recreation fund could be used to support multi-sport games. I agree with that approach. I do support the two amendments that have been proposed. I support the report coming from the committee.

The one area that I think other Members may not necessarily agree with but I am going to say it is: I think there needs to be an inclusive approach to defining the terminology of "recreation." I know there has been some work done at the national level. The committee has highlighted that work in its report.

The Minister has committed to work with the sports and recreation organizations to do some further work on that definition. I think that needs to be a public process. I would encourage the Minister to ensure that there is a more inclusive approach in defining that. Developing some guidelines, I think, around the use of the funds will ensure that they are used appropriately, but we need a more inclusive process for defining recreation.

Those are my remarks, Mr. Chair. Once again, I want to thank the committee and the Minister for their hard work on this bill. I think it has resulted in a good compromise all around. Thank you, MR. Chair.

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

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the committee for allowing me to sit in. I was not an alternate nor was I a member of the committee, but they allowed me to sit in and provide my viewpoints on this. First and foremost, I have to say that this bill with the amendments is appropriate. I think the Minister has been willing to work with the committee and made positive steps.

I guess I have to make it very clear. These are lotteries for the recreation and sports community, which has a primary focus on youth. That has to be really very clear on that. I totally support that arts needs to be funded more appropriately, but not through this fund. I could not, in good conscience, support that. That has to be focused there.

I also have a challenge with the one amendment. I appreciate that we removed the multi-sport games out of the thing there, but the discretion is still with the Minister. However, I would hope the Minister would never, ever use that discretion. I would hope that we would be able to find the funds within the department or within appropriation. I think I made it very clear in my comments, in my direction there. It needs to be focused on that area there. We need to look at the lotteries for the development in grassroots for people, youth.

As for the definition of "recreation," I really have a hard time going back and having people go out there and look for a new definition. This here is the national definition of "recreation" that was developed over two years of people working on it. It is recognized across Canada, the arts, the music, the recreation and sports world. Fortunately, I was part of the process. I saw it. I was there. Again, it took two years to come up with the definition. The government has supported that. The organizations have supported that. I really don't know if, going out for consultation on the new definition, again, we are going to change something that is already recognized nationally. That there is a concern for

me, but I have had a conversation with the Minister on that there.

My colleague talked about the arts world here. I totally agree. We need to put more money into this. The arts world needs to do it. I don't want to have the sport and recreation world competing against the arts world, because that's not what it is. It's about the well-being of our residents. We need to put and find money for that. If we don't, then we're going to have that. If we thought we saw we a lot of people in the arts community into the picture, I can guarantee you if we changed our system of the Lottery Act and allowed it to open, we'd see this whole building filled with the people in the sport and recreation world.

I mean we would see thousands of people coming protesting outside there. I mean we have to be very realistic in the direction. I support the need for putting more money into the arts. I appreciate the Minister for ITI and the Minister of ECE talking about working together and developing and reviewing this. I think we need to put more money in and I thank the Minister for making that first step.

Back to the bill. I support the bill as it is presented, even though there are some things in here I don't agree with. In the overall picture for the well-being of the residents of the Northwest Territories, I have to support this. Again, I'd like to thank the Minister and department and the committee and their staff for doing a good job with this. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 28-18(3):  
COMMITTEE REPORT 5-18(3): STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF BILL 1: WESTERN  
CANADA LOTTERY ACT - FUNDING POLICY  
FOR DISBURSEMENT OF LOTTERY FUNDING,  
CARRIED

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that this Assembly recommend that the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs develop a funding policy which provides clear guidance as to the funding eligibility requirements, to guide the disbursement of lottery funding under the new Western Canada Lottery Act. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is being distributed. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

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

COMMITTEE MOTION 29-18(3):  
COMMITTEE REPORT 5-18(3):  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF  
BILL 1: WESTERN CANADA LOTTERY ACT -  
LIMITS ON ACCUMULATED DEFICITS OR  
SURPLUSES IN THE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY,  
SPORT AND RECREATION FUND,  
CARRIED

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Chair, I move that this Assembly recommend that the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs make a submission to the Financial Management Board requesting that the Financial Management Board establish a limit on any cumulative deficit or surplus in the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Fund and, furthermore, that this limit be made public, shared with the Standing Committee on Government Operations, and reported upon annually by the department in its year-end reporting on the fund. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Do you agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 5-18(3), Report on the Review of Bill 1: Western Canada Lottery Act?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. That concludes our consideration of the report. Next, we have agreed to consider Bill 1: Western Canada Lottery Act. I will ask the Minister responsible to introduce the bill. Minister Cochrane.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce Bill: Western Canada Lottery Act.

The Western Canada Lottery program is managed and conducted by the Concern Canada Lottery Corporation on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Since 2009, the Sport and Recreation Council has had an agreement with the

Western Canada Lottery Corporation and the Government of the Northwest Territories to conduct and manage the lottery within the Northwest Territories and to remit lottery proceeds to the Government of the Northwest Territories to be used for the purposes of sport and recreation within the territory.

In 2014, the Canada Revenue Agency provided an interpretation to the Department of Finance indicating that the proceeds of the lottery may be subject to taxation in its current format. A decision was therefore made to bring the operation of the lottery within the Government of the Northwest Territories as soon as possible.

Bill 1 achieves the goal of bringing lottery operations in-house and protecting them from possible taxation so that they remain available for programs in the Northwest Territories. The bill creates the Northwest Territories Lottery Commission within the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs. The commission will be composed of Municipal and Community Affairs employees and will fulfill the role currently filled by the Sport and Recreation Council.

Together with the Western Canada Lottery Corporation, the commission will mark it and distribute Western Canada Lottery tickets and will regulate and control retailers of Western Canada Lottery tickets. The commission will also enter into agreement with the Government of Nunavut to conduct and manage the Western Canada Lottery within Nunavut. The commission will report to the Legislative Assembly as required under the planning and accountability framework.

The bill also creates the Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Fund to handle the proceeds of the lottery. The fund is a special purchase fund the Financial Administration Act and will be held in an account forming part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The creation of a special purpose fund rather than a revolving fund will ensure that all lottery revenues remain available for sport and recreation and are not considered general revenue.

In order to account for fluctuating lottery revenues within a given year, the bill allows the Minister to take the fund into a deficit or a surplus position, ensuring that funding commitments can be met on a consistent and timely basis. Limits on any accumulating deficit and surplus will be set by the Financial Management Board. The Minister will table an annual report of the fund, which outline payments paid into the fund, amounts dispersed from the fund, and the balance of the fund.

The bill empowers the Minister to disperse money from the fund for the purposes set out in the bill, all related to the advancement of sport and recreation

within the Northwest Territories and in accordance with any agreement with the Government of Nunavut.

Municipal and Community Affairs has consulted with the Department of Finance on the development of the bill and continues to work with the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources on the task of transitioning the operation of the lottery into government. Municipal and Community Affairs is also appreciative of the time that the standing committee on government operations took in reviewing the bill and proposing amendments.

Municipal and Community Affairs hopes to bring the bill into force in the summer of 2018. I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. I will turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations which considered the bill for any opening comments that he may have. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have no other opening comments besides the comments I made in the review committee's report that just occurred. I believe that we are ready to proceed with review of the bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Minister, do you have witnesses you wish to bring to the Chamber?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Yes, I do.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, you may join them at the witness table. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. On my right is deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Ms. Eleanor Young. On my left is Ms. Christina Brownlee, who is legislative counsel for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the witnesses. I will open the floor to general comments on Bill 1: Western Canada Lottery Act as reprinted. Members must keep in mind that comments must remain in the scope of the bill. Do we have opening comments? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Look, I don't want to prolong this, but the Minister did say in her opening remarks that she was prepared to answer any questions about this. I want to speak to the

definitions of the bill. Not what's there, but what's not. There's no definition of "recreation." The Minister at committee had talked about a process for developing a definition in collaboration with a sports and recreation organizations for the word "recreation."

The committee has now reported on this issue as well and notes in its report on page 7 that there is a framework for Recreation Canada 2015, Pathways to Well-Being, Definition of Recreation. Has the Minister had a chance to consider this definition and has she reconsidered her approach to looking at this issue of defining recreation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I did have a chance to review the national definition of "recreation" and I agree with the national definition, but my issue is that it is pretty broad. The framework that goes on to define it a little bit more concise. What I committed to doing was to bring the definition to the five sports and recreation organizations. At that point, we will look at the national definition, decide if we will accept it as is, if we need to expand it, if we need to do more measurable outcomes within that. That process will continue. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate that from the Minister. Look, I agree that this national definition is a good starting point. I'd probably be happy even with this.

She's talked about how she's going to work with these sports and recreation organizations to talk to them about this definition of "recreation." Is the Minister prepared to include others in that process, more specifically, the arts community? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I said in committee that I would bring that to the five sports and recreation organizations. I will put it on the table when we meet with them if they want to open it up to a broader sector. It is important to recognize, as one of the MLAs stated, that this funding is really specifically, and has in the past been specifically, for children and youth within the Northwest Territories. The arts sector is bigger than that and actually tends to be lot more adult-focused.

I will commit to bringing it to this sector to the five organizations. We will discuss the option of opening it up further. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, that's consistent with what the Minister said at committee. Again, I would encourage her to expand the scope of those consultations to be more inclusive and include the arts community. Look, I support the use of these funds for, as one of my colleagues had talked about, youth-focused activities. You're probably going to have to face or deal with this question in terms of the first recommendation from the standing committee. I just want to go on record as encouraging the Minister to have a more inclusive approach in looking at this issue and defining recreation and the focus of how the funds will be used into the future.

I'm not suggesting that they be used for other purposes, but recreation is quite broad. The Minister has recognized that herself. I think that we would be better served by having a more inclusive approach on that, and I want to continue to encourage the Minister to do that. Thanks. That's all I have, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Anything further? Seeing none, we will proceed to a clause-by-clause review of the bill. Committee, we will defer the bill number in title until after consideration of the clauses.

Please turn to page three of the bill, which can be found in your legislation binders. I will read out each clause. If committee agrees, please indicate. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 10 inclusive approved

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Clause 11. Committee, to the Bill as a whole, does committee agree that Bill 1: Western Canada Lottery Act, as reprinted, is now ready for a third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Bill 1 is now ready for third reading. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 1?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you, Minister. Thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that the chair rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

---Carried.

I will now 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:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 63-18(3), Main Estimates 2018-2019, Committee Report 5-18(3), Report on the Review of Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act, and Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act, and would like to report progress that the consideration of Committee Report 5-18(3) has concluded, with two motions being adopted, and that Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act, is ready for third reading; 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 Great Slave. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

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

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, March 6, 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
  - Committee Report 4-18(3), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Adult Residential Addictions Treatment Facilities Tour 2017
  - 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
  - Bill 1, Western Canada Lottery Act
23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.