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The Honourable Frederick Blake Jr, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Members Present

Hon. Diane Archie, Hon. Frederick Blake Jr., Mr. Bonnetrouge, Hon. Paulie Chinna, Ms. Cleveland, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Hon. Julie Green, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Martselos, Ms. Nokleby, Mr. O'Reilly, Ms. Semmler, Hon. R.J. Simpson, Hon. Shane Thompson, Hon. Caroline Wawzonek

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Frederick Blake Jr): Members, I ask that you please remain standing. Since we last met, his Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh, passed away. The Prince had a strong connection to Canada and visited the Territories from Inuvik in the North to Fort Smith in the South. The Prince even visited this very Chamber. On behalf of the Assembly, I offer our condolences to Queen Elizabeth and the rest of the Royal Family. I ask that you please join me in a moment of silence in honouring of his passing.

---Moment of silence

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, colleagues. Please be seated. Members, I also wish to offer condolences on behalf of the Assembly to the family and friends of the Honourable David Searle and Mr. Sonny MacDonald.

Mr. Searle was the first person to fill the role of Speaker of the Northwest Territories of the Legislative Assembly, a prominent lawyer, community leader, and a member of the Order of Canada. Mr. Searle passed away on March 1st, 2021.

Mr. MacDonald, an internationally recognized artist, was responsible for the loon carving that sits here beside me in the Chamber, a recipient of the Order of the Northwest Territories and former Chair of the NWT Arts Council. Mr. MacDonald died on April 20th, 2021. His talent will be remembered both here in the Chamber and in the homes of many Northerners. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families, with their families and friends.

I would also like to acknowledge the resilience of the people of Jean Marie River, Fort Simpson, and other communities, like Fort Good Hope and Aklavik, who have faced or are facing flooding in their communities. Please know that the Members of the

Legislative Assembly recognize the challenges you are facing and are working to help it.

Members, it is my pleasure to welcome you back today. It is an honour for us to be here on behalf of our constituents and all residents of the North - of this Territory.

Colleagues, this will not be a long sitting, but the work to be done is important. The decisions you make in this House have important and lasting impacts on our constituents and all our people of this Territory.

I remind Members to conduct themselves in keeping the rules of this Assembly. Show respect for one another, for this institution, and, most importantly, for those who elected us. This is a place of the people. We are here to serve as their representatives, and we truly look forward to their return. It has not been the same without them here. I look forward to being able to welcome the public back into this building; however, the current Covid-19 situation does not allow it at this time. Although the Assembly remains closed to the public, media are welcome in the gallery; we continue to broadcast and live stream our proceedings. Our people need the opportunity to see and understand the work being done on their behalf.

Colleagues, the days are growing longer and summer is just ahead of us. This is a beautiful time of year, and we are blessed to live in this Territory. I know that many of us and many of our residents have been fortunate enough to be able to get out on the land in recent weeks, and we are looking forward to the summer.

To all Members and all people of the Territory, I want to remind you to be respectful and appreciate our land and resources. As we continue to take care of Territory, it will continue to take care of us.

And now it is my duty to advise the House that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It reads:

Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of

- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 1, 2021-2022;
- and Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2021-2022, during the Second Session of the 19th Assembly.

Yours truly, Margaret M. Thom, Commissioner.
Thank you, Members.

Orders of the day. Ministers' statements.
Honourable Premier.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 155-19(2): SESSIONAL STATEMENT

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by welcoming all my colleagues back to the Chamber for this sitting of the 19th Legislative Assembly. I look forward to providing updates on key issues and mandate priorities, as well as hearing from Regular Members on issues important to residents over the course of the next seven sitting days.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time to talk about community, about how that term has a renewed meaning not only with trying to address COVID-19, but also in the last few weeks due to the impacts of flooding in many regions in the Northwest Territories. It has been incredible to watch residents support one another during such a challenging time.

Hundreds of residents have been impacted by the flooding, some have lost everything, others facing significant repairs and efforts to replace possessions they lost. Some of which -- of what has been lost cannot be replaced.

Mr. Speaker, no matter the challenges we are faced in the Northwest Territories, there is a sense of community that is special and unique to us alone. No matter the emergency we are faced with, a global pandemic, forest fires, or flooding, no one can take that sense of community away from us. Every single person in the Northwest Territories has been negatively impacted by this pandemic, and yet the communities still came together to support others in need.

During the early days of the flooding, residents, businesses, and organizations stepped up and volunteered their time and money to help those who were impacted by the floods.

You opened your doors to your neighbours who needed a warm bed to sleep in since they couldn't sleep in their own. You donated airplanes full of

groceries and hundreds of thousands of dollars to the United Way. Let us not forget the 2,500 pieces of Kentucky Fried Chicken as well, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, People came together to support those who needed it the most.

Our government, Mr. Speaker, was there to provide support however it was needed. Local leadership on the ground with the support of Municipal and Community Affairs Emergency Management Organization and volunteers worked day and night to ensure that residents were safe and had what they needed. A multi-departmental effort helped to provide staff and supplies, including a temporary medical centre to support the efforts on the ground.

The responsibility for managing a community emergency rests with local governments, and when they made requests for additional support, we were there to ensure they were able to take care of their residents. And as recovery continues and the flood damage is assessed, I want residents to know that we will be there to support you in your recovery.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories is vast, twice the size of Texas. Our 33 communities are spread out, and in many instances, separated by great distances. But when one community needs our support, the Northwest Territories stands strong with them.

To everyone who contributed to the flood relief efforts, you are what makes the Northwest Territories such a special place to live. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, the strength and resilience of our communities and residents across the Northwest Territories shines brightly as we continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The response to the NJ MacPherson outbreak in Yellowknife is an example of over a year of work preparing for the possibility of such an event. Safety and preparedness have been our top priorities since the pandemic began, and the response to contain this outbreak is an example of the hard work of so many to protect residents and communities.

The response of our health care and support professionals has been incredible. They have continued to go above and beyond to protect our residents and loved ones from the virus. I am extremely appreciative for their continued dedication to keeping our communities safe.

As well, Mr. Speaker, this response of our whole community has been overwhelming. Everyone worked together to support one another, and those self-isolating or tested positive. This community always comes together when times are challenging, and this has been no different. Because this outbreak impacted our youngest residents, the

GNWT worked diligently to secure doses of the Pfizer vaccine to begin administering to those aged 12 to 17. Our youth were some of the first in the country to get the vaccine, Mr. Speaker, a true testament of our efforts to protect as many residents as we can from COVID-19.

Since the first case was confirmed, a tremendous amount of work has gone on behind the scenes to understand the extent of the spread and to contain it as quickly as possible. Because of this hard work, not only by our Chief Public Health Officer and her team, but by our incredible residents and businesses as well, we were able to prevent community transmission in Yellowknife and surrounding areas.

However, it's important to put things into perspective. While we are encouraged to see residents getting vaccinated at a higher rate than most jurisdictions in Canada, we still have work to do, especially in some of our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, getting vaccinated is the right thing to do. It protects yourself, your family, your neighbours, and those most vulnerable, including our children, and the important knowledge keepers in our communities, our Elders. If we all do our part, we can begin to get back to the things we love, like community feasts, hand game tournaments, and travelling.

Every person who gets vaccinated plays an important part in our effort to beat COVID-19, in our combined efforts to protect the health and well-being of our communities and our loved ones. Please, get vaccinated. The Government of Canada has talked about a one-dose summer, where 75 percent of residents across Canada getting their first dose means things may start to return to normal. We all want that, Mr. Speaker. So let us keep doing our part.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is ready to turn its attention to the economic and social recovery of our great territory. The pandemic has brought into sharper focus the urgent need to act on social and economic development. Like every other jurisdiction, residents and businesses were asked to make great sacrifices to help protect the NWT from COVID-19. While we have largely escaped the worst of the health impacts, residents did suffer economic, financial, and social losses, and the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to helping the Territory recover and come back stronger than before.

The majority of our economic and social challenges are not new, though. Many of the efforts of the pandemic were a result of social and economic gaps and challenges that existed before the pandemic and which the Government of the Northwest Territories,

businesses, and communities were already working to address. Continuing that work and accelerating where it makes sense is going to be a key part of how the Government of the Northwest Territories helps to promote recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we're committed to working on the social and economic recovery of the Northwest Territories so we can emerge stronger, and we have been engaging with multiple sectors on a plan. We'll be tabling this plan later in this sitting and will continue the discussion about how we will work together as a territory to promote recovery over the coming months and years.

Mr. Speaker, the partnerships we have forged during this pandemic have shown us the importance of collaboration and community in a time of crisis. Our success depends on partnerships with all levels of government and working closely with all stakeholders. The support of Indigenous and municipal governments, residents, and businesses has kept the people of the NWT largely safe from the waves of the virus that continues to affect other parts of the country and the world.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate, fortunate to have not experienced the same level of health impacts we see elsewhere. With the guidance of the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, we have been able to keep many businesses open while still protecting NWT residents. At the same time, we know that some areas of our economy have been particularly hard hit and that many residents have been suffering.

As we have responded to the pandemic, residents, communities, and businesses have been very open in identifying the impacts and actions most needed to position ourselves to seize the opportunities that the post pandemic expansion will offer. By working closely with stakeholders to implement our mandate and the Emerging Stronger Plan, we have the opportunity to set the NWT up to be in a position to thrive. This includes continuing to build on our strong relationship with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, Canada understands the impact the pandemic has had on the North. Covid-19 has laid bare the gaps in our society, and the federal budget released in April addresses several shared priorities and reflects that they are listening to what our needs are.

Investments in housing, child care, climate change, the green economy, and job creation are examples of their commitment to closing these gaps and ensuring a prosperous Northwest Territories for generations to come.

Canada's commitment to ensuring people are not left behind as we move forward aligns with our own efforts to create a better future for our territory and its residents.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is investing in areas that are important to our future and will benefit our efforts to meet the commitments outlined in our mandate.

Mr. Speaker, in the federal budget, we were heard. Our government had identified a number of areas for potential funding, including infrastructure, housing, connectivity, health, postsecondary education, climate change, and early childhood education. Working closely with Canada and continuing to strengthen an already positive relationship will help support our goal of social and economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic that we share common goals between our governments, and I look forward to learning more about how we will benefit from the commitments made by Canada in the coming months.

We have faced one of the most difficult challenges our society has faced in the last century. It has not been easy, but I am confident that in the coming months, by working together, we will begin to emerge from the pandemic and return to the things that we love.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Government of the Northwest Territories has been committed to protecting the health and well-being of residents, and to this point, we have been successful.

Mr. Speaker, we are also committed to ensuring a social and economic recovery that will make the Northwest Territories stronger and support the success of residents now and into the future. If we have learned anything in this pandemic, it is the importance of strong and collaborative relationships built on mutual respect, trust, and understanding. We have learned the sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, as we go forward, we will continue to work with Indigenous leaders, community governments, the federal government, stakeholder groups, the business community, and residents to ensure a holistic approach to our collective efforts to emerge from this pandemic a stronger Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Premier. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Member for Hay River South.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FLOODING

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the potential for spring flooding for communities situated along our rivers is a reality. For the community of Hay River, it is an annual event that must be prepared for.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and thank the Town of Hay River, mayor and council, staff, along with the Hay River Community Emergency Management Committee and volunteers for the great work they did to plan, coordinate, and carry out activities to respond to potential spring flooding. The committee, under the supervision of Ross Potter, Director of Protective Services, makes the whole process appear effortless; however, we all know that it is not as easy as that, and for that, I commend Ross and his team for their dedication and the hard work that they do to keep the residents safe while protecting property and keeping us informed.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize and acknowledge the residents of Vale Island for the preparation each made in the event evacuation was required, and this year a temporary evacuation was required, which I am pleased to say went smoothly. It is always difficult to leave your home not knowing whether or not you will have a home to come back to. The residents of Vale Island looked to friends, relatives, and businesses for support, whether it was for temporary shelter, a place to set-up an RV, or somewhere to drop off their pets while they manage the stress of the situation.

Mr. Speaker, it takes a compassionate and well-organized community working together to ensure the safety of those that may be affected by any potential disaster. Hay River has proven time and time again it is that community, and for that, I again applaud the residents, businesses, town employees, volunteers, mayor and council, and all who worked to keep us informed and safe throughout spring breakup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Member statements. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLOSURE OF THE INUVIK HOMELESS SHELTER

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a previous members statement, I stated that housing is a basic necessity that everyone needs, especially here in the North where the temperatures swing dramatically. And at home right now, currently, it's snowing.

Mr. Speaker, I raised the issue on October 28th, 2020, regarding the struggles that the Inuvik Emergency Warming Shelters was having. At that time, the Minister stated her department was working on a homelessness strategy but the draft was still not complete.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister also committed to sending in staff to assist with the operations and staff support. I know this happened, but from what I know, that they came, and they left back to Yellowknife. The Inuvik warming shelter continues to have its struggles to the point where the board closed the shelter again in mid May.

Mr. Speaker, before the COVID pandemic, the shelter did normally close in the summer to overnight shelter, except for last year, due to Covid. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't know why the GNWT is not supporting the emergency warming shelter board and staff this summer as we have not moved out of phase two of the emerging wisely plan. At this point, it feels like we're going to be in the phase for eternity.

Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I the nights in Inuvik continue to get below minus zero. Where are they supposed to stay? Last year the town passed a bylaw about no loitering, no urinating on public streets in Inuvik. So now with the facility closed, down for the summer, where are we like, we're forcing them to break the law. Where are they supposed to use the washroom when there are no public washrooms available? Where can they get a meal and something to drink?

It's time the Minister who is responsible for Homelessness, who is also the Minister of Housing, work with the Minister of Health and Social Services, step up and begin a long-term plan for housing and really, truly assisting our residents with addictions and providing a place to sleep 365 days a year.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital to have dedicated staff to support and fund these NGOs and volunteer boards that are doing the work in each community that has a shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have questions for the Minister responsible for Homelessness.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Members statements, Member for Thebacha.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RESOURCES

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have made several statements in this House about the Affirmative Action Policy and how it is not working as it should to help Indigenous people be employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Lately,

however, I've realized the issues within the Human Resources Department go much deeper than just the Affirmative Action Policy. I'm seeing now that there are several structural issues around hiring in general that is impeding all people from attaining employment with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, last week I heard from many constituents with concerns around employment hiring within the Government of the Northwest Territories. It seems more and more that barriers are being put in place not only for Priority One individuals but for all applicants to the Government of the Northwest Territories positions. For example, two people spoke about two different issues, and both situations were identical. The government put out a job description, the constituents applied, some time passed, and the job was suddenly cancelled. The person called human resources and was told no one with proper qualifications had applied, thus the competition was cancelled. Then a new job was re-posted with identical descriptions and qualifications. I believe this was done to indirectly screen them out of competition in order to avoid screening them out officially on the record.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I attended a public meeting last week on the Special Committee on Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs. There was something said by the guest speaker which resonated with me. The speaker was a Metis lawyer who teaches law at the University of Manitoba, named Professor Brenda Gunn. She said, government employees need training and clear direction from Ministers, deputy Ministers, and assistant deputy ministers. Mr. Speaker, I seek a unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, that quote appealed to me because I don't think that our government has done enough of that when it comes to addressing the various hiring issues within human resources in the Government of the Northwest Territories. Direct intervention by the Minister of human resources is necessary. Continuously friends will take care of friends, families hire their families, and they protect each other from any potential repercussions because of it.

There are many people who want to better themselves and to seek employment by the Government of the Northwest Territories, but if there's no room to get their foot in the door and if there are gatekeepers protecting an exclusive club, then very few will ever get ahead, let alone get hired.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that a renewal strategy needs to be implemented within the

entire human resources department of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Structural changes must be done to address the hiring practices, the hiring culture, and potential off-the-book decisions that are made that adversely affect applicants.

I will have questions for the Minister of human resources later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Members' statements. Member for Great Slave.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC SUPPORTS AND STATE OF THE ECONOMY

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In recent years, northern tourism and the economy have been challenged by disasters like forest fires, the pandemic, and now flooding, causing this fledgling economic sector to become virtually non-existent. Through no fault of their own, our tourism operators require even more support than they ever have before.

Despite recent news that NWT lodges are allowed to bring visitors from southern Canada, this is not enough for our suffering tourism and hospitality sector. Many businesses do not have the means or capacity to adjust their business models to meet new safety requirements or aren't willing or able to take on the additional risks.

With the possibility of additional supports in the coming weeks, we must continue to work closely with partners like NWT Tourism, the Chamber of Commerce, and the business sector. Open dialogue with stakeholders and really listening to them is key to understanding the ongoing challenges, not just in regards to COVID impacts but with respect to the flooding and other natural disasters, as well as skyrocketing building costs.

From 2019 to 2020, there was a decrease of five Tourism Operators Licences or TOLs. Last year, the greatest declines were in the Beaufort Delta due to the loss of cruise ship tourism as a result of the restrictions on travel. If all TOLs are approved this year, there will be a total of 152 licences in place for 2021, a decrease of two from last year. However, many will likely not operate.

While this is the second year in which the GNWT has waived TOL fees, I don't believe this is enough. Fees will be waived for tourism operators who are not able to operate; however, some operators will continue to operate at a reduced capacity and will need support as well. How many will close if more assistance isn't

available? What further supports will be provided during the post-pandemic recovery efforts in order to rebuild a successful and profitable tourism sector?

Relief programs from last season that have already been proven to help need to continue, as well, additional training and courses should be provided to help operators build their credentials, qualifications, and skills. These could include courses on plumbing, painting, or carpentry, as well as natural disaster and emergency response training; courses that have further benefit of helping people to maintain their own residences.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't try to just rush it in this time. Okay. Well, modern technology here. My apologies, Mr. Speaker. Oh, jeez. Sorry. I don't have it memorized. I apologize. Okay.

So, Aurora College could offer courses part-time or virtually so that small businesspeople and their staff can attend when it works for them. Safety training could cover areas like fire suppression and disaster training, including how to set up sprinkler systems, mitigate floods and fuel spills, and responding to other events that often occur as the result of our harsher and changing climate. All these workshops, short courses, and online training could also become tax deductible. The more we can help our small business sector and operators to survive the pandemic the better situated we'll be to recover. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCOME ASSISTANCE POLICIES

MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Speaker, the reality of housing in the North is dire. NWT housing problems are well above the national average while funding for housing has decreased both federally and territorially. We have heard multiple times as GNWT cannot solve the NWT's housing problem alone and that the key to northern housing success is partnership. To foster these partnerships, our government needs to first create space for them.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT's policies and regulations need to harmonize to support the priorities of the people of the Northwest Territories. But instead we have multiple policies that work against improving housing for Northerners. Education, Culture, and

Employment's income assistance policies play a key role in addressing the housing challenges faced by NWT communities. The income assistance accommodation allowance is the territory wide benefit used to access housing. If this benefit could easily be used to support key strategic partnerships with Indigenous governments and non-government organizations, it would offer long-term solutions to northern housing.

As it currently stands, this policy creates persistent barriers that require people to add their names to the public housing wait list to receive the rental allowance and restricts people from accessing other forms of housing as an end goal.

Today the end goal seems to be reliance on public housing. There is not enough public housing to serve the 900-person wait list, and the housing corporation lacks the strategic plan to transition people from public housing or to address its quantity and quality housing stock. This policy also excludes potential partners, like the private sector, nonprofit, or Indigenous housing providers to help house Northerners with permanent solutions to end homelessness.

This income assistance policy requires clients to pay for housing and utility arrears, creating another barrier to accessing the housing allowance. These arrears can take years to pay, and the policies that drive them do not reflect property damages caused by an abusive partner or arrears from rent increases caused by family members sleeping on the couch because they cannot pay their own arrears or rent.

Housing is a human right, Mr. Speaker. Partnerships with Indigenous governments and non-government organizations play a pivotal role in our future housing success but rely on this government to create space for solutions to our housing crisis with forward-thinking policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING
CORPORATION LOCAL HOUSING
CONSULTATIONS

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is dictating to the communities as to the types of new housing to be built in their community. Mr. Speaker, it's as if the Housing Corporation has free rein in the communities and decides where in the community they will build.

Typically, back in the good old days, anyone or any organization wanting to conduct any type of business or new builds in the community would consult with the various leadership organizations of their intentions. Mr. Speaker, this is meaningful consultation, and any time this path is taken, it leads to a happy, satisfied community.

Back in 2018, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation built two duplexes in Fort Providence. Both of the duplexes are approximately 6 to 8 feet high off the ground. This type of construction you would find in the Arctic regions. In the Arctic regions, they deal with 8 to 10-foot high snowdrifts.

Mr. Speaker, there was no consultation with the Fort Providence Housing Association nor the community leadership as to the type and style of housing that would be built at the time. I believe there's a similar situation in Fort Resolution. The federal government recently provided significant infrastructure investments in building much needed housing units for the small communities.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, there weren't any consultations with the community and especially the local housing association staff and board of directors. I, myself, feel slighted as I was not kept in the loop as to any decisions made by the NWT Housing Corporation in terms of the types of units going into my community. Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Housing Minister at the appropriate time. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Deh Cho. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ARSENIC REMEDIATION GUIDELINES

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. An interesting study was recently released summarizing extensive soil sampling for arsenic covering much of the Slave Geological Province including the Yellowknife area. Thanks to local resident Mike Palmer who worked with Queen's University Professor Heather Jamieson for this work.

Using a combination of mineralogical analysis and statistical and geospatial analysis, they showed conclusively that in soils around Yellowknife and up to 20 kilometres away, most of the arsenic came from mining. Arsenic contamination persists even after more than 60 years after most of it was released from gold-roasting operations.

There is some evidence of arsenic slowly dissipating, but it will be with us for many years, if not forever. Background levels of arsenic in the Slave Geological Province were found to be in the range of 0.25 to 15 ppm and as high as 30 ppm for the type

of rock around Yellowknife, comparable to findings everywhere else on the planet.

Some of you are asking, So what? Some previous work had claimed that the natural background levels of arsenic in rock around Yellowknife were much higher, 150 ppm or 5 to 10 times what this new and much more thorough study shows. The old work was done by consultants and a group called Yellowknife Arsenic Soil Remediation Committee in the early 2000s. In 2003 GNWT set arsenic remediation guidelines for soils at 160 ppm for residential use and 340 ppm for industrial use. I objected to those guidelines and believed that they were too high and not protective enough. The nationally accepted standard was and still is 12 ppm.

I have received numerous assurances that the 2003 arsenic remediation standards would be reviewed. I'm still waiting, and this new study that shows the background levels should be no more than 30 ppm rather than 150 ppm as previously claimed, there is an even stronger case now to review these outdated remediation guidelines.

I'll have questions later today for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources and what the plans are for reviewing the 2003 arsenic remediation guidelines, the implications for current remediation work at Giant, and for property owners in this city. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been over six months since the Business Advisory Council disbanded and said that it didn't have faith that economic recovery was a priority for this Cabinet. And here we are, Mr. Speaker, still without our Emerge Stronger Economic Recovery Plan. And it's hard to have faith, Mr. Speaker.

Before the Business Advisory Council disbanded, they conducted an all-day strategic planning session where they made a number of recommendations on what we could do, Mr. Government -- or Mr. Speaker. As far as I can tell, Mr. Speaker, those recommendations have largely been ignored. I once again in this sitting will go through some of those recommendations.

First: Offer a rebate program to NWT residents for staycations. Mr. Speaker, I love this program. In Nova Scotia, if you go on a staycation, you got 20 percent back. I think this should be the main vehicle

for encouraging tourism within our territory, yet decided not to do that. We decided to ignore the advice of our business community.

Mr. Speaker, they advised that the GNWT should develop infrastructure to support electric vehicles. Mr. Speaker, the GNWT does not own one single electric vehicle station. Despite having 900 vehicles and spending 3 million a year, we don't own one single electric vehicle.

Mr. Speaker, they asked that we organize an online festival and show of NWT artisans of their work, as well as set up an e-commerce site for artisans.

Mr. Speaker, multiple governments and organizations for years have asked for NWT Arts to set up an e-commerce platform for our NWT artists, and we ignored this recommendations from the Business Advisory Council.

They said we should reduce fees and alcohol taxes for industry businesses. We're definitely not going to do that, Mr. Speaker.

They said we should consider specific respite for the hospitality industry, Mr. Speaker. I have yet to see that respite. Mr. Speaker, they asked that we declare a state of emergency, amend BIP to remove the limitation and create a benchmark. We have not done that, Mr. Speaker. In the Yukon, 15 percent of government contracts have to go to Indigenous businesses. There is a clear benchmark and a target they have reached. We still do not have an Indigenous procurement policy.

Mr. Speaker, there were many other recommendations from our Business Advisory Council, and as far as I can tell, they are not in our plan, and we don't have a plan. I will have questions for the Premier on where Emerging Stronger is at.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Members' statements. Member for Monfwi.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CANDIDATES IN TLICHO ELECTION

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation] Mr. Speaker, about our Tlicho region, there will be an election coming up very soon. The closing date for the candidates for Tlicho region has closed May 17th, and I feel people that's running right now, and for that -- for the Tlicho region for the four communities, there will be an election, and for the Chief and the Council as well. For Behchoko, there is 5 candidates for the Chief for Behchoko alone, and there's 31 candidates for the Council.

And for Whati, there is three people that's running for the Chief, and there's about 15 that is running for the Council.

And for Gameti, there's two candidates for the Chief and 12 candidates for the Councillors.

And for Wekweeti, there's two candidates for the Chief. They don't have enough candidates for the council. So now they had to add a few more days.

So today, Mr. Speaker, so much is happening in Tlicho region, and there's also lots of activities because people are also campaigning. And so we are hoping or -- or I am hoping it will turn out very well for all the candidates that's a lot.

So I like to say good luck to all the candidates. And so through this, all this, I just like to give all my good luck to the candidates. Thank you very much. [Translation ends]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CONSTITUENTS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recently deceased residents in Nunakput, and I'd like to give our thoughts and prayers to them.

Marcus Ruben, Elder from Paulatuk, born March 19th, 1933, passed away May 2nd, 2021. With his beloved wife, they had nine children. He was 10th born of 13 to Ruben Angik and Sadi Sukayualuk. And he'll be sadly missed in the community. And Arlon, his family, thoughts and prayers are with them.

Hellie Pokiak of Tuktoyaktuk deceased April 28th, 2021, survived by her beloved husband, Frank Pokiak, and his children, Beatrice, Verna, Shaeli, his son Warren -- her son Warren and her sister Julie Cockney.

Baby girl, Carly Alvira Tedjuk from Tuktoyaktuk deceased April 2021. Survived by her beloved partners Raymond Cockney and Suzanna Tedjuk, and her brothers and sisters.

Annie Gruben of Tuktoyaktuk deceased May 6th, 2021, survived by her beloved husband, Sammy Gruben; sons Sammy Junior, Randy, and Richard Gruben, daughters Janice Lavalee, Tanis Blake, Terri and Jamie Gruben; her brothers Roger, Raymond Etagiak and her sisters Sarah and Catherine and Laura and Agnes.

Jean Kagyut, deceased April 21st, Elder from Ulukhaktok, survived by her beloved daughters Annie and Laura Inuktalik, and Marlene and Margaret Kagyut.

Mary Kagyut, deceased March 31st, 2021, originally from Ulukhaktok. Survived by her beloved daughters Alexis and Margaret of Ulukhaktok.

Robert Anikina, deceased May 25th, 2021, from Tuktoyaktuk. Survived by his beloved brothers Myles, Norman, Opie, Matthew, his sisters Clara, Rhoda, Maureen, and Lily.

And for all the families, may the good Lord give you comfort and peace during our difficult times ahead. Thoughts and prayers to everyone across our territories who lost loved ones since our last sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member from Nunakput. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and community at this time. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EULOGY FOR MARY NEYELLE

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mary Neyelle was March 22nd, 1934, at traditional Dene Camp at Fish Lake near Wrigley, Northwest Territories. She passed away on March 30th, 2021.

Mary was 86 years old. Mary and her late husband, Edward, had nine children together. They adopted Camille later in their lives. She had 16 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Mary had unconditional love for all her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

She was caring, passionate, loving, good-spirited, patient, great teacher, and an outstanding person and had a beautiful soul.

Mary had great respect for the land and knew about the traditional medicines from the land. She liked walking around outdoors and always said that it was so beautiful outside on the land. She often sat outside her house in Wrigley on the stairs in the summertime with a cup of tea and enjoying the warm sun, sunny days with birds singing and the squirrels making noise nearby.

Mary had many friends everywhere she went and even travelled to Montana, USA, once with her best friend, Ethel Lamothe, for a Sundance ceremony. Mary was very talented in making traditional Dene handcrafts. She has made numerous beaded

moosehide moccasins, gloves, mukluks, vests, jackets, wraparounds, picture frames, and a few other crafts for her children, great grandchildren, and many other friends and people who knew of her special talents. She attended handicraft events and sold many items.

Mary liked George Jones and Hank Williams country music -- country western music. And I have to agree. Those are amazing artists. Mary left a great deal for others to follow in acknowledge of the Dene traditional way. Mary will be greatly missed and will be remembered by her family, great grandchildren, great great children, friends, and many people who knew her. She left us with priceless memories which we will cherish in our hearts. We will sadly miss her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and community at this time. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Returns to Oral Questions

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 698-19(2): MEDEVAC SERVICES

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by the Member for Nunakput on March 31st, 2021, regarding medevac services. The air ambulance service provider has been contracted to provide coverage for the entire Northwest Territories. The contract requirements include dedicated services such as aircraft, aircraft crew, and air medical crew available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to meet the demand of air ambulance transport requests.

To achieve this, in accordance with the performance requirements in the contract, the air ambulance provider has bases in Yellowknife and Inuvik. They provide a combination of medical crew and aircraft crew and three dedicated Yellowknife-based planes and one dedicated Inuvik-based plane to meet the demand of both in territory and out of territory patient transports.

At this time, the current combination of planes and crew has met both response time and service level benchmarks within the contract, and there is no need to consider exploring additional resources for the Inuvik base.

Simply expanding the number of planes available at the Inuvik base will not directly increase capacity to move patients across the NWT because of the complexity of matching and dispatching resources such as aircraft, aircraft crew, and medical crew to the air ambulance transport needs.

As an additional patient safety support, there is a contingency plan for additional resources that can be activated immediately to ensure critical transports are fulfilled as and when needed. The Department of Health and Social Services and the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority will continue to monitor the service level standards and response times against the contract. They commit to reviewing the contract requirements upon issuing a new contract or current contract extension to ensure all communities across the NWT continue to have appropriate access to emergency air ambulance services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Acknowledgements. Oral questions. Member for Hay River South.

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION 705-19(2): FLOODING

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The flooding this year has appeared to have not only caught communities off guard but this government as well. It was the people of the NWT that stepped up and provided immediate support to the flooding victims, and we must recognize and thank them for taking on that responsibility.

It is now time to show compassion and to refocus our priorities and look after those that cannot return to their homes or businesses. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of MACA to confirm what resources and support her department is providing to ensure those families in Jean Marie River, Fort Simpson, and Fort Good Hope have temporary accommodation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation and MACA have travelled together into the affected communities right now. We're looking at Jean Marie and Fort Simpson. We're waiting to get back the affected number of houses that have been impacted. The last conversation I did have with the mayor that there was

20 to 30 homes that were affected, and then I got another update that there was 10 homes that were affected, and then 6.

So I need the department to return back to Yellowknife so I could further look at the assessment that we are doing internally and looking at programming that we can offer to that community and looking at housing repair options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government and the federal government had no problem rolling out financial support at the start of the pandemic. I expect that the same consideration for those victims impacted by the flooding. The reality is that events like this will quickly deplete one's own financial resources and leave many with nowhere to turn. It's up to this government to fill that gap.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister to confirm if her department is working with the Department of Education and the Department of Finance to look at providing individuals and families with some immediate financial support. And if not, will she commit to reaching out to those Ministers in coming up with a support program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Mr. Speaker, the department is working very closely with both leaderships in each of the communities. And, also, I just wanted to go back to the first question, is that I forgot to mention that we do have evacuees that are still housed in Fort Providence that are from Jean Marie River until we're able to further look at renovations and improving their housing situation there in the community.

Also, we still have evacuees at Kelly Lake as well too and looking at, you know, further accommodations for them, also, looking at the local hotels in Fort Simpson as well too that we do have. But financial support that is being offered to the community membership, I will have to get back to the Member. Right now, the department is very concentrated on the repairing of the units so we can have people return to their homes comfortably. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, our government is touting the Disaster Assistant Program, which is not all that it appears to be. It has severe limitations with respect to the amount of compensation for damages. It is really a payor of last resort. It is not clear on how payments

or reimbursements are to be made. There's no timeline for the payment or reimbursement. And all this can be confusing to someone who is traumatized and just looking to survive.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit to employing and making program navigators accessible to those affected by the flooding? There will be many questions going forward on the process of assessments, compensation, temporary accommodation, temporary financial support, and some will need assistance to complete the forms as well.

And I would recommend that navigators be someone from the community and that the people are comfortable with. Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the Member for that question because we're actually working on that right now as well in looking, you know, at how can we further have that outreach to the affected residents in these -- in the flood risk communities. And, you know, just currently, right now, we have Fort Good Hope who has been affected as well, and we're waiting on to see what this is going to look like in the Beaufort Delta. So the navigator positions, we are looking at that. And hopefully the next little bit we'll be able to return back to Members with a positive response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Hay River South.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the flooding victims, Michael McLeod, our MP for the NWT was quoted as saying, People can count on the federal government, that they will be there to help, and they will be there to help right to the end.

I will hold our Member of Parliament to the federal government to that promise. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm what ongoing conversations are taking place between her department and the federal government, and do those conversations include immediate financial support to flood victims? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to commend the MP Mr. McLeod for reaching out and for working with us so strongly as well and leading our connections to the federal government and looking at the urgency for the Northwest Territories as well. And looking at the

flood-affected communities, we do have a whole-of-government approach, that we do continue those conversations with the federal government.

And in that, that we are looking at the disaster application and what details are required. But not only that, as a minister responsible, I am looking at what can we provide right now and those financial outreaches as well too. But right now, I don't have an update to provide to the Member, but we are working at that internally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Monfwi.

ORAL QUESTION 706-19(2):
ELECTION BYLAWS

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker

[Translation] Mr. Speaker, I made a statement earlier regarding the elections in my region. It will happen on June 14. But I want to ask the Minister, before the elections, whenever there's election, there's a lot of complaints that comes out regarding the regulations. I'm hoping for a smooth election and encourage the communities to work with each other and respect the final decision. But as in the past four years, we witness election and the commotion we had in the communities. [Translation ends].

The election in my region for communities, Tlicho region, are slated for June 14th. With every election, not just my communities but other communities as well, there's always criticism, whether it be breaking bylaws, nepotism, whether it be all these different accusations. That happens every election.

And I have a question for Minister of MACA. It could be just one question, depending on her answer, if it's "yes" or "no". But if there could be a dedicated MACA representative that's involved with elections on an annual basis or on the election basis. So I'd like to get a confirmation from Minister if she's willing and also dedicating, I guess, MACA representative to be at the final count June 14th in all four communities, Mr. Speaker. That's my first question. Masi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Member for Monfwi. Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At our last sitting, I did make an announcement and I did acknowledge that all the elections that were happening throughout the territory, we have quite a bit that are happening within our municipalities, but I do hear the Member's concern about, you know, when the election is happening and the situations that may occur from that as well. I will follow up with the Member in looking at how can we further accommodate those elections, and should we need a person in there to help support those communities, I will continue the conversation with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get a commitment there, yes or no. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important matter. It's hundredth year anniversary of Treaty 11, and this is a milestone, and everybody's watching us, not just Tlicho region but surrounding communities. And it's very important that we have somebody that can oversee the election, a non-biased person from outside the community to just oversee the count and to witness it and to sign off that it was a fair process. That's all I'm asking for. And I think if Minister can commit to potentially committing to that, I think it will be more concise and clear election process, smoother process. That's what we want to see. And we try avoid from last four years of criticism that happened, and I think it can be avoided, Mr. Speaker. Those are some of the questions that I have for Minister. Masi.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wanting to follow up with the Member just on further details on the election and looking at the whole environment, I guess that, and the dynamic of how this plays out in his riding. But, yes, I will commit to having a person work with the -- who will work with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

ORAL QUESTION 707-19(2):
CLOSURE OF THE INUVIK HOMELESS
SHELTER

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The emergency warming shelter in Inuvik is vital to our home residents. You know, in my opinion, it saved many lives over the years. This government has put millions into COVID restrictions to save lives. When are we going to do that, the same for addictions and homelessness?

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, in Inuvik, is her department continuing to help to ensure that the homeless in Inuvik are being looked after, if there's things for them in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Minister responsible for Homelessness.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was brought to my attention in the spring -- I mean, in the -- I want to say March -- February or March that the Inuvik warming shelter, we were experiencing some inhouse challenges, I guess, with the management and with the board. The housing corporation did come into the community to try to alleviate that. The housing corporation did hire a manager to work with the board members in trying to alleviate the conflict that was happening amongst the board and looking at the status of the Inuvik warming shelter.

I'm committed as a Minister to visit that again as well, and, you know, I do understand that, you know, homelessness is a huge issue in our territory. But looking at where we actually do stand, if we do have an active NGO that is able to come and work with us as a corporation and carry out the responsibility, I will have to follow up with the Member on the current status. But as we speak right now, that there is still conflicts amongst that NGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This challenge isn't from March or February. This challenge has been ongoing. I raised it in the fall session. They've been struggling. This is volunteer board of caring people that just keep trying to keep this open. Will the Minister can she commit that this manager or person is somebody who's in Inuvik and maybe where all of our shelters are to have somebody directly working in that community from her department in the community of Inuvik to ensure that this board has support. Thank you.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, like, you know, as a Minister and as a department, like, we're willing to work with the community. But the last information that I did receive, that there was a decision that was made by the board to temporarily close the homelessness shelter. And the housing corporation does fund the Inuvik warming shelter \$264,000 annually. But we're looking at the overnight operations and the conflict that is happening there. I will reach out to the manager that we do have there and see -- I want to get a further update on what has the progression

been since we have stepped in and tried to work with the nonprofit organization and trying to offer them further supports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you live in a small community, when we live outside of Yellowknife, there's not a lot of people that can do the job as ED. The job is a difficult job in the homeless shelter, and if the person is qualified to do it, a government job comes up, they're gone. This is a position that is vital for ensuring funding is coming in, ensuring that staffing is being taken of.

This manager position, you know, this is where these kind of positions should be put in. We should start looking at this homelessness strategy and having a good plan to have if we have to start running it as a government. Will the Minister continue to make sure that this person is on the ground so that this volunteer board, if we even have a board left, will be there and be supported. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, the manager was created because there was conflict in Inuvik with the warming shelter and looking at the financial situation that they were getting themselves into, I guess, that the purpose of this position that was created was to try to work with the board to alleviate those challenges.

But we will be working -- well, we will be working with the community as well, because we did end up working with the Indigenous groups in the community. But it's really difficult, and it's challenging when we have NGOs that are facing these difficult situations and trying to alleviate them. But also we are there to support them as well too. So we could come together and look at the Inuvik warming shelter and re-establish the board members and also staff as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my final supplementary, I just want to know will the Minister commit to making sure that there's something in place for our homeless in Inuvik right now so that they have a place to wash, so they have a place to use the washroom, where they can try and get a meal. Like, we need to have something for our homeless right now. With this board, we don't even know if they're meeting right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the housing corporation is in full support. But we don't have the established board members that are there. We had issues with the staff as well. So, you know, we do fund this program annually. So if we have shut the doors and we are looking at challenges like that and looking at further training and the support of this manager to help the Inuvik warming shelter to get back and working again, that, you know, the position is housed in Inuvik. So I will follow up with the position to see where we are at with the board of directors, where are we at with staff, have they come to a conclusion. We need to start working with the homelessness. But we can provide the budget that is there for the homelessness, but we need people to run the programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

ORAL QUESTION 708-19(2):
ARSENIC REMEDIATION GUIDELINES

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I'm sure he's already been briefed up on the excellent research by Messieurs Palmer and Jamison that proved the overestimation of natural background levels for arsenic in the Yellowknife area and the persistence of mining related arsenic after more than 60 years. We have an outdated 2003 arsenic remediation guideline that is based on this overestimation of background arsenic. Can the Minister tell us what the plans are now to review and update the drastically outdated arsenic remediation guideline. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member for that question. I'm happy to tell the House the department is currently reviewing the 2003 environmental guidelines for contaminated sites remediation. This work is being done with new information on remediation criteria from the Canada Council of Ministers of the Environment as well a new data that has come on arsenic in the Yellowknife area.

ENR recognizes that the 2003 guidelines is dated, and the updating environmental guidance is standard practice as new data and scientific research is available. This work is nearly completed

and will be finalized in the fall of 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le Président. I want to thank the Minister for that. Yeah, I raised this in the context of even the Giant Mine environmental assessment where I wanted the board to look at the remediation guideline, but they declined to do that.

This old work that was done leading to the 2003 arsenic remediation guideline, it overestimated background levels by 5 to 10 times. Of course there's a lot of other research, even the Minister mentioned some, that has been done on the toxicology of arsenic since 2003, and much of that points to the need for lower exposure for humans. Will the Minister commit to having the human health risk assessment work associated with the GNWT 2003 arsenic remediation guideline reviewed and updated to be truly protective of human health. .

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GNWT arsenic soil quality guidelines are being developed using the Canada Council Ministers of Environment framework, which is specific to both health, human health, and the environmental health.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Thanks to the Minister for that. I don't think I got a response. I wanted some work done on the human health assessment work that was done back on the 2003 guideline, but I'll pursue that separately with the Minister. Clearly, there's a need to review this arsenic remediation guideline which currently only includes two land uses for residential and industrial use.

So in reviewing this guideline, is the Minister committing to expand the land uses that are considered, and then what, of course, are the implications for the Giant Mine remediation.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Multiple land users are being considered for the GNWT arsenic soil quality guidelines, and this work is in the process of being finalized. The Giant Mine remediation project has approved a closure and remediation plans by the MacKenzie Valley Land and Water Board.

The criteria used by the projects were not solely based on the GNWT guidelines; they are site specific criteria for the Giant Mine that are confirmed through the human health and ecology risk assessment.

ENR has also led the development of the human health risk assessment for legacy offsite arsenic in the area surrounding Giant Mine. This work is near completion, and the public engagement is planned to begin in June of 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. I think he answered most of my last question.

I don't want to sound alarmist, but in my statement today, I expressed that back in 2003, I had doubts about these remediation standards that were developed by this government. I don't think that it was just a coincidence that residential guideline for arsenic was set marginally above the known measurements of arsenic in soils in the residential built-up areas of Yellowknife. So what assurance can the Minister provide to Yellowknifers that this is still a healthy, great place to live, and that our property values are protected. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, again, I thank the Member for these questions. They're very important, and they have an impact on residents of Yellowknife. Updating environmental guidance is a standard practice as new data and increased scientific research is available.

I can assure residents of Yellowknife that the previous guidelines completed in 2003 was protective of human health and the environment. ENR will ensure our guidelines continue to be protective of the human health and the environment while incorporating new science and data that becomes available to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

ORAL QUESTION 709-19(2):
GOVERNMENT RENEWAL

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Department of Finance has just recently begun a new government renewal initiative, would the Minister consider expanding the scope of that initiative to incorporate a renewal within the structure and processes of human resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Minister responsible for Finance.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Finance is one of the first two departments that will be going through the government renewal process. That process is already underway. It's begun. And as such, a human resources branch, being part of the Department of Finance, of course is going to be going through that as well.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's not the end of that, the work that's happening with human resources. We also are well underway in having the Indigenous recruitment retention framework actioned and developed, and that will also be providing a further human resources tool to all of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, as mentioned earlier, the department of human resources continues to put up roadblocks for people applying to government jobs. Does the Minister acknowledge that there are some existing questionable hiring practices within her department which adversely affects applicants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Finance, human resources has quite a wide range of programs that are meant to actually avoid roadblocks and overcome roadblocks.

I'd point, for example, to the Indigenous recruitment -- well, sorry. Not to the framework but to the Gateway Program, to the Internship Program, to the Regional Recruitment Program. There's quite a number of opportunities for people from across the Northwest Territories to become involved.

The department of human resources offers counselling in terms of preparing one's resume, of how to prepare for interviews. So quite the opposite, Mr. Speaker. I would say the Department of Finance is trying to take roadblocks down. You know, and of course there's always more that can be done department by department to ensure that when the hiring managers are out there that they are using those tools, that they're aware of those tools. And there is work that happens regularly already with them, and we're going to continue to do that so that they're aware of those tools and using them to their best availability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister recognize that more widespread issues other than that of the affirmative action exists within the department of human resources in relation to hiring practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Affirmative Action Policy is obviously one aspect of what goes on during the course of a hiring practice. It's a very important one. But with respect to more widespread issues, again, Mr. Speaker, the department of human resources supports all of the departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories. All of the departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories have a role to play here.

And, indeed, earlier in the Member's statement, I heard describing of a hiring culture and of a hiring structure. Well, again, we've already put out the Living Well Together training module to help improve the hiring culture. It's mandatory for all staff across the GNWT. And as far as a hiring structure, again, as I've mentioned, there's quite a number of programs, and the Recruitment and Retention Framework Program is underway in its development right now.

So as far as making ourselves even better, that is certainly our goal, and I believe we are going to be attaining it on both the culture front and as well as on the structure front. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister commit to creating departmental changes to ensure that deputy Ministers, assistant eputy Ministers are provided ministerial direction to follow policies that are neutral, professional, and that all competitions are open to equivalencies, and the job competitions are not arbitrarily closed for no reason, and ensure that the best candidate for the job is hired. No friends of friends or family friends or acquaintances hiring each other anymore. Does the Minister agree with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am also on the special committee. I also heard the recommendations that were put to us just last week with respect to the fact that governments have to ensure that direction comes from the very top.

So I appreciate the fact that the Member routinely gives the opportunity for us, all of us in this room as elected leadership, but particularly for me as the Minister have the opportunity to speak here in the House and speak to the public service to say that this is the vision of what we have for an inclusive public service, to have a diverse public service, and that none of us should be reaching in and hiring friends and acting in a way anything other than transparent and open and in a process that is fair.

So that, Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate that routine opportunity. Specifically, education and experience equivalencies, I would note come before a competition actually goes out, before candidates are screened. And so, in fact, that is a process that while I can look at it, it is already a process that's not meant to happen at the back end; it happens at the front end. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to refine those processes through all the tools that I've mentioned already today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions, Member for Deh Cho.

ORAL QUESTION 710-19(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING
CORPORATION LOCAL HOUSING
CONSULTATIONS

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to first thank the NWT Housing Corporation for the units that are going into my community this year. It's very much appreciated. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement expressed concerns with the lack of consultations with the communities by the housing corporation.

My question to the Minister is why is there no consultations with the communities, especially the local housing organizations' board of directors.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Deh Cho. Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, the commitment for the housing corporation is to making sure that, you know, we do work with the Indigenous groups in the specific communities. But acknowledgement letters were sent out to the First Nations -- I'm not too sure how to pronounce it -- Deh Gah Gotie First Nations. Yeah. And the Fort Providence Metis Council and the mayor. They were sent letters April 28th just acknowledging what type of units are going into their

community and having an opportunity for them to respond to us. But as of today, we haven't received a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and mahsi to the Minister for that. Specifically, I was asking about the local housings organizations board of directors, because in speaking with them and even the staff, nobody's ever approached them. They never heard of anything.

I'm aware the original plan was for two single duplexes for my community. Now I understand this has changed and now will be constructing a four-plex. That change in plans could delay construction, as new plans have to be drawn up.

Is the Minister aware of these changes and the need for new design plans. Mahsi.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just also want to go back to the original question of the information provided to the local housing authorities. I will follow up on that, and I will follow up with the Member, that should have they been consulted, that they should have been working very closely with the district office.

But the community is going to be receiving a stick-built four-plex. And looking at the design, the design has already been completed. But constructing a stick-built in the smaller communities creates employment, and I'm really big on employment. And that was the opportunity for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker and mahsi to the Minister for that and her willingness to follow up with the LHO. She mentioned stick-built, but I was hearing otherwise. There was talk that these units will be sandwich panel construction with the panels being built by a Yellowknife company.

Has there been a cost benefit analysis or cost comparison to determine if this method has significant savings versus stick-built construction?

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, going with the stick-built is a lot more expensive than putting the panelized and the modular homes on the ground. But the opportunity that I wanted to explore was creating employment for the Northwest Territories. Through the delivery of the 60 units that we are working with the Eco Investment Fund, 40 of them are modular, and 20 of them are stick-built. And the opportunity, once again, is to

create employment in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Deh Cho.

MR. BONNETROUGE: Mr. Speaker, and mahsi to the Minister for that. I'm glad that she's understanding construction and creating employment in the communities. That's good. The flavour of this government is about energy savings, to help combat greenhouse gas emissions by incorporating biomass boiler systems.

Will this new building be incorporating wood pallet boiler system. Mahsi.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to get back to the Member for that further detail. I'm not sure if we have pellet boiler material available in his riding. I'm not too sure about that. So I'd have to reach out to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions, Member for Great Slave.

ORAL QUESTION 711-19(2):
ECONOMIC SUPPORTS AND THE STATE OF
THE ECONOMY

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of ITI. The earlier GRIT funding for tourism operators was a much needed, if somewhat delayed, relief for our tourism sector. This relief which includes money from CanNor has not been renewed for the upcoming year. With the easing of the restrictions delayed, it apparent that we will not see a viable tourism sector this year.

Will the Minister commit to providing a phase 2 of the GRIT funding or something similar for the upcoming year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism, and Investment.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, the GRIT program isn't being renewed. But the good news is that a lot of work has gone into identifying what can be rolled out.

As we've been saying, I think, since early on, the role of the Government of the Northwest Territories is to complement and to help fill gaps when federal

partners are not providing certain resources or have maximized what they are able to provide. And in this case, certainly have been waiting to see what CanNor would make available through or directly to Tourism or Hospitality.

As it is now, of course, I can say that we do have more coming. We have more coming, I think, I hope, this session. Certainly, the process of the consensus government model is one wherein we'll have to go through the necessary processes here in the House, but I think there will be good news in the course of this session. I know I've had a lot of conversations and connections from the other Members, and everyone in this House is recognizing the need to support initiatives for tourism. And, again, that work has been underway with ITI, with the Department of Finance for some time.

And also I would just last note that the industry partners, NWT Tourism, we are also certainly doing our best to keep them aware so that they can start to signal to their operators that they're far from forgotten, that, in fact, quite the opposite. A lot of work has gone into making sure we're ready to support them for this fiscal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't need to remind the Minister that she definitely has to be very vocal at her federal tables to ensure that they recognize the time frames in the North and our very, very short seasons.

Onto my next question: Insurance is very expensive in the North. And with the economic downturn from COVID, rates are only increasing. For example, a remote lodge could have an insurance bill of \$12,000 for this year with no revenue coming in.

Will the Department of ITI grant a temporary waiver on the insurance requirement in the Tourism Act if a business is operating at reduced capacity? Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the insurance waiver wasn't intended to be a one-year initiative; however, it was focused on those who aren't making offerings to the public. So there certainly are going to continue to be a requirement for some regulatory oversight and some insurance oversight for tourism operators when they are offering their services to the public.

That said, Mr. Speaker, there are, as I've said, programs that are imminently, I hope, going to be rolling out, other programs that I expect will -- that

are ready available through various other, you know, funding pots, whether through ours or through CanNor. And if there are operators that are still struggling who are hoping to get back open this season, that I would encourage them to directly reach out to ITI, and we'll do our best to help them navigate what programs are available to support their insurance costs.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased with that response. I just urge the Minister to encourage her department to actually proactively reach out to some people because they don't always know that they should come and ask for help.

One of the biggest complaints we hear from small businesses is the amount of hoops that they have to jump through to access funding and government programs, something that was really a problem even before COVID.

Can the Minister explain how the work of the Red Tape Reduction working group is reducing the burden on small business and, in particular, for artists and tourism businesses?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this involves more than one department, including the Department of Finance, and my primary message, Mr. Speaker, please, if anyone out there has a specific example of red tape that is impacting on a small or medium sized business, please, please send that example to redtape@gov.nt.ca, and -- because, shockingly, we haven't received as many responses as we would have hoped.

So while the red tape committee is focused on, again, small, medium-sized businesses, you know, at this point, I would say just send the examples that you have, because I hear it too. I hear the sense that there's too many hoops; there's too many hurdles; there's too many paperworks. But we need to know what the paperwork is; we need to know what the disconnects are, and we need to understand them.

I mean, I can come -- I've -- you know, try and come up with a few; the department's trying to come up with a few. There's a working group composed of industry members. But, again, please, by all means, I would encourage everyone out there to send those stories in. There is a structure that's now been set up with the working group. There's a structure within government that the departments have to respond to the working group when they've raised an issue. So

there is that structure there. But we will do better when we have more.

The one example I can give, though, is that recently on the theme of the Member's question is that, indeed, ITI has worked with MACA with respect to remote tourism lodge owners and some of the hurdles and hoops that they had been complaining of for some time, and that as a joint department initiative, we were able to work those things through and I believe -- I understand from the businesses in a way that is going to be functional for them and a lot less red tape. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like there's a lot of red tape around the red tape reduction working group.

So, again, I just want to put back to remind the Minister, which I know she's aware of, that, you know, it is really hard to always -- or it seems that the burden is often put on constituents and residents to come forward to complain, to identify the problems. And during COVID, I think that's just a lot more difficult for people to be doing.

So I will continue to encourage people now that I know which email address to send it to. My last question is around the Deh Cho region and the flooding. What is the Department of ITI going to do to specifically help those businesses in the Deh Cho region that are affected by the flooding to, first, survive, and then rebuild their businesses. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now, ITI staff in the region, not only are they, of course, themselves no doubt suffering and experiencing directly the impacts of the floods, but I know that they have been involved in the front lines of helping with the efforts to really just provide immediate necessities and having immediate needs addressed.

So, you know, a course of thank-yous should be made as well to ITI staff there who I know are working very hard on that frontline. With respect to what's going to come next, Mr. Speaker, we've been doing a lot of relief and recovery effort in the last year and half now. That will continue, whether in the context of the pandemic or whether in the context of the floods.

And already I know of at least one example of where ITI staff from another region were able to ensure that programs and services and the needs of businesses were being met in a timely way, because they could step in even when the ITI folks in the region were unable to. That will certainly continue. So there will not be any delays, which is important, of course, applying for programs that may be in a federal nature.

I should mention BDIC which has also been over the last year saying to really take a client service approach. They contacted every single client that had outstanding loans to see if people needed to renegotiate things as a result of COVID.

And, again, I think that philosophy that we've seen will continue in the next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ORAL QUESTION 712-19(2): INCOME ASSISTANCE POLICIES

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment.

Education, Culture, and Employment income assistance policies not only play a key role in caring for Northerners, but they also play a key role in housing Northerners.

So I'm wondering if the Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment will remove the requirement that NWT income assistance applicants must add their names to the NWT Housing Corporation housing wait list, public housing wait list. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Minister responsible for Education, Culture, and Employment.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe. That -- you know, well, when I came into this role as an MLA previously, I received a lot of income assistance questions or concerns from my constituents. So I know there's areas that can be improved, and that's why we've initiated review of the Income Assistance Program.

And through that review, this is one of those areas that we're looking at. I have to say that the Member is correct that housing is -- it's a government wide

issue, and for our part at ECE, we do provide housing in a sense where we will provide rental support to individuals who can't afford it essentially, or who are down on their luck, who are having a rough time.

And these individuals have to use all of their own financial means first. And one of those -- or one of those things available to them is the social subsidized housing through the housing corporation. And the reason that that is currently a requirement is cost essentially. Over the past three years, shelter benefits have been provided to around 2,000 income assistance applicants in the Territory to the tune of about \$7 million. Of that, 40 percent of those individuals were in market rental units; however, that accounts for about 90 percent of the cost. The 60 percent who are in -- who have been public housing accounts for about 11 percent of the cost.

So it would be a great cost to ECE to provide that benefit; however, someone's paying that cost of the public housing. And so the money's being spent by the government.

And so is there a way that we can make things more efficient, reduce the burden on people, reduce the burden on administration? And if one of those ways is by rejigging how we provide housing and who provides housing, then we want to do that.

So I don't have a firm "yes" now, but I want to have a policy that makes sense by the time this Assembly is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. CLEVELAND: Mr. Speaker, I think I'd like to report something to the Red Tape Working Group. Right now -- and I understand what the Minister is saying, and I appreciate they're doing a review on the income assistance policies. It's very much needed. But hanging on to a piece of a policy throughout a review that really isn't serving the people of the Northwest Territories just doesn't make sense to me. We have over 900 people on our wait list right now, and not all of those 900 people need public housing.

For somebody to have to walk down the block -- and in Yellowknife, it's about a six-block trek for somebody to make another trip down the street to go fill out another form before they can then come back and say, Okay. I did that part of it, and since they have no housing for me -- because our housing stock has not changed in decades, can I now please get the income assistance accommodation rent through ECE.

And so the wait list absolutely does not serve us at all. So while I appreciate that ECE is doing a review of the income assistance policies, I'm wondering if the Minister will commit to removing this portion of the policy that absolutely does not serve Northerners or the pocketbooks of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, no, I can't because of that money issue that I mentioned whereby we spend millions and millions of dollars on market housing compared to hundreds of thousands of dollars on the public housing. And right now, that's just the fact of it. That's just the budgets.

And this Assembly is the one that appropriates money, and we would have to come back for a large appropriation if this was the case. And so I can't commit to spending millions of dollars that, frankly, we don't have at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess I just disagree with the Minister on this one because we don't have enough public housing stock in order to put people in. So whether or not we're pretending we don't want to spend it because we want to put people into public housing, we don't have the public housing units. And so whether or not we want to spend it, we're still spending that money. We're just creating red tape in the process of spending it.

My next question for the Minister, though, is private sector and nonprofits and Indigenous housing providers want to work with the government to create secure housing options for northerners through longer term lease and program agreements. Access to ECE's accommodation allowance is only available on a month-to-month basis, creating uncertain tenure for landlords and residents.

So will the Minister work with these stakeholders to increase housing allowance flexibility and create certainty through lease agreements with northern landlords? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Minister responsible for ECE.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. ECE doesn't have lease agreements with landlords month to month. ECE provides benefits to individuals, and those individuals can then pay their rent with that funding.

What the Member is talking about is more what the housing corporation does. It provides housing. That being said, there are clients who are pay rolled, meaning they don't have to report their income month to month. So they are getting income for three months straight being cut off, if that's the case. Six months, maybe a year.

And so there are situations like that. And since the pandemic, you know, I've given direction to be much more liberal with pay rolling so that we have more individuals like that.

But, again, I recognize the issue here, and this is one of the reasons we are doing this review, which will be completed and implemented by the end of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a lot of the work that we're discussing as wanting to put forward from the standing committee on social development has to do with being able to change policies so that we can see real change in housing in the Northwest Territories.

Some of those policies are in the housing corporation, but some of them are in the Department of Education, Culture, and Employment. Some of them are in Finance.

And so I'm wondering based on the timeline that the Minister just gave us as the end of the assembly, if the Minister is willing to work with standing committee and with regular Members to change some of those policies that really don't make sense before the end of the review. Thank you.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm always happy to work with the standing committees. But to make changes in the midst of review, it kind of defeats the purpose. What are you reviewing? If the program isn't the program that you're reviewing, then what do you do with those results.

So I'm happy to work with the standing committee, but we have a process in place. And I also want to say that the Member mentions a number of different departments, and one of the things that we're also working on is an integrated service delivery model that really looks at the needs of the individuals and not the needs of government. And housing

department is -- or housing corporation is working with Education, Culture, and Employment, is working with Justice, is working with Health to begin developing programs and policies that make sense.

And I think that is really the key to a lot of these issues, because we see these individual problems that would be solved if we actually developed the policies in the first place with the clients in mind.

So that's the direction we're moving in. And I just want to make sure that everyone's aware of that because that is one of the -- I believe going to be one of the key initiatives of not just this government but the future of government in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions, Member for Yellowknife North.

ORAL QUESTION 713-19(2):
ECONOMIC RECOVERY

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm hoping this is the last time I have to ask this question. When will the Emerge Stronger Plan be complete.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Honourable Premier.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like to say the Emerging Stronger package will be done now, and it could have been done two months ago and put out there if I was going to take 100 percent control. And that would not be appropriate. We've talked about partnerships.

So I do know that people are waiting for it. I want to say that on March 26th, quite awhile ago actually, we presented the draft of the Emerging Stronger to the Accountability and Oversight Committee. So I'm hoping that all Members had seen that draft at that time.

We got a response back, and a revised document was sent to Accountability and Oversight on May 11th. If you don't have a copy, let me know, and I'll get it back again to you.

After that process was done, that we worked with Regular MLAs on what they wanted to see in it, then we worked with the Indigenous governments, because those are critical partners.

So we provided all of the document to the Indigenous governments. And we just closed the feedback on

that last Tuesday. This week, we've been providing it to the Association of Communities for the Municipal Governments' input and the Business Advisory Council, and their input is being incorporated.

We will be, as I said in my sessional statement, tabling a draft in this session within these seven days, and it will still be open for public; it will still be open for feedback. This is going to have to be a living document. We don't know when this is coming. So this will always be changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my other concern is that we have a number of different documents that speak to different areas of the economy. We have film strategies, art strategies, agricultural strategies, mineral resource strategies. We have a number of different documents, and I know there are many areas that the government is working.

So to me, I view this Emerge Stronger Plan as really new items, things that we are doing that we have not already done. But in order to do that, it really comes down to money, Mr. Speaker. There's no point of creating another plan without some special funding towards it.

So my question for the Premier is when we release the Emerge Stronger Plan, will there be funding associated with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware in seeing the draft document, that some of the things, absolutely, have budget lines to them. There are some things that are and were not priorities. Universal Childcare, we never had that before. Those things are in our priorities already. Those things have action plans. They have things attached.

Some of them, Mr. Speaker, will not be, have budgets attached to them at that time; they will have to go through the process that we all go through, the mains and the infrastructure or the capital. So until those processes are done, you won't see.

But, Mr. Speaker, not everything takes money. And some money is not going to be ours. Just because we have to go through processes does not mean that I won't stop lobbying support from the federal government. Like I said, the Federal government, their budget aligns quite well with what our needs are. And we've worked hard over this last year and a half to build strong relationships with the federal

government, and that work has paid off in seeing what is in the budget.

So we will continue to have strong relationships and strong talks with the Federal government to get as much support as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Honourable Premier. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

ORAL QUESTION 714-19(2):
FLOODING ASSESSORS

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Sorry. I didn't give the Minister and Municipal Community Affairs a heads-up, but I've received a number of calls, emails, about the briefing that we had on flooding, and I wanted to take this opportunity to follow up on some concerns that have been raised with me.

First off, I've heard a number of concerns around how the assessment of damages is being done or could be done. And can the Minister tell us whether communities have the ability to hire their -- or a First Nation would have the ability to hire their own assessors, get the work done, and seek reimbursement. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Minister responsibility for Municipal and Community Affairs.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA has hired an assessor that will be starting early next week. So we'll be going into Jean Marie, and we'll be going into Fort Simpson. They will be working in collaboration with the leadership in those specific communities.

And also the -- this is a team that has been hired. It's not an individual. And they are northern based. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I don't think I got an answer to my question. Great to hear that there's going to be a GNWT team that goes and does this.

Do community governments, Indigenous governments, have the ability to hire their own experts, their own -- some of their own staff or staff that they already have in place, do the work, and then seek reimbursement from our government to move this along more quickly? Merci, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail. But, you know, we will be working directly with those affected communities in order for us to making sure that we submit this disaster application correctly to the federal government, but also recognizing that we do have communities north of the MacKenzie River as well too that we're looking at if they are going to be -- if they do suffer the amount -- significant damage as well too due to the flooding season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Mr. Speaker. I know it's a question period, and I don't have to necessarily get answers. But I still don't have an answer to that question. So I'll give the Minister the opportunity when she answers my next questions to say that she'll actually respond to the first one I asked.

But, Mr. Speaker, I've had some concerns raised with me about the qualifications, perhaps some of the work that might have been done by some folks that may be doing some of the assessment.

Do homeowners have the ability to seek a second opinion, or if they disagree with the assessment, what is the process for resolving such a dispute? Merci, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is quite the level of detail that I don't have with me right now. And, you know, I just want to reassure that the department is trying to work very strategically with the affected communities.

And looking at -- just going back to the question of if the communities can hire their own assessor, if MACA or the government would reimburse, I don't have that level of detail. We haven't submitted a disaster application yet, and our conversation with the federal government is ongoing.

But then also looking at, you know, whether we would be able to offer this type of assistance, I don't have that level of information right now. MACA and Housing are currently in the affected communities. They should be returning today back into Yellowknife. And then we are going to be travelling into Fort Good Hope as well too. Making sure that when we submit this application, if there is further support in the smaller communities, how can we work effectively together in making sure that we do have the submission.

I know this is a long answer. But the other thing is that we're looking at positions to uphold this

responsibility in making sure that, you know, we work very effectively at the ground level.

Receiving the information, how do we distribute the money, how do we reimburse the individuals, I don't have that level of detail, but those are questions that we are working on as well within the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary, Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le Président. I want to thank the Minister for that. I really do hope that she gets back to us in the House about these questions soon and makes that kind of information available to the public, because as a Yellowknife MLA, I'm getting questions about this now.

So my last question, though, on this topic, Mr. Speaker -- unless I put up my hand for a third round -- is, you know, the cost of construction materials is going -- is escalating exponentially right now. A sheet of plywood has gone up at least three times in value.

What is our government doing now to preposition or secure construction materials now while we can actually still get them to help make sure that the work that's done for these homeowners gets done this summer. Minister's promised -- sorry. Not allowed to point.

The Minister's promised that she's going to have everybody in their homes by this winter. What is our government doing to secure construction materials now to make sure that that work can actually get done. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know -- but with my other hat as Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, this is why I do have staff at the ground level. I need our department to conduct their own assessment. I need to look at the level of damages that are existing in the community, how many houses have been affected so we can put in that order for the material that is required to rebuild those units and get more of a -- I guess more resources happening at the ground level to work with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Colleagues, our time for oral questions has expired. Written questions. Returns to written questions, Mr. Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 26-19(2): SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Rutland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written question 26-19(2) asked by the Member for Frame Lake on March 29th, 2021, regarding the supporting community governments.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) works with community governments to help ensure their capable, accountable, and self-directed operations. MACA monitors communities and offers a wide range of supports, from informal, targeted and cooperative to more formal, legislated and broad, including the more intensive step of the Department taking on the management of the community. When a community government is experiencing financial or operational difficulties, it jeopardizes its ability to govern and deliver community based services. MACA does have tools to help analyze the origin and cause of these difficulties, and uses these tools to help facilitate a resolution based on the community's needs.

Depending on the severity of the financial, governance or operational challenges, MACA may implement any or all of the following:

Operational Review: When a community first comes forward with concerns, MACA will conduct an information seeking exercise, typically with staff internal to the Department, to determine if and where any concerns of significance are presenting in the community government's operations. This is often the first step before further action is taken.

Co-management: MACA may enter into a work plan with the community to address specific challenges. This is a mutually agreed upon work plan which is not provided for under legislation, but is instead used as an interim solution instead of immediately entering into a supervision or administration arrangement.

Supervision: MACA may place a community government under supervision. This involves the hiring of a Municipal Supervisor to work with Council and the Senior Administrative Officer to resolve issues. This tool is typically used where issues are of an operational or management nature.

Administration: MACA removes Council, and possibly the Senior Administrative Officer (SAO), and appoints a Municipal Administrator to take control of all community operations. This tool is significant and typically signals substantial

governance issues and an inability or unwillingness of the council to solve the issues.

The Municipal Administrator's job is to stabilize operations and prepare for the eventual return of an elected Council

Since 2016-2017, the following communities have entered into or concluded their co-management, supervision, or administration agreements with the Department. Due to the nature of these agreements, which are typically financial or governance-related, MACA is unable to share any specific details of each community's arrangement:

- Enterprise
Fort Good Hope (K'asho Got'ine Community Charter)
- Fort Liard
- Fort Resolution
- Fort McPherson
- Norman Wells
- Paulatuk
- Tsiigehtchic

Over the last five years, no staff, employed either by MACA or any other GNWT department, has been seconded or assigned to support a community during a vacancy of a Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) or Finance Officer position.

Additionally, the department has the ability to provide some funding support to a community government if they are in need of procuring external financial services for short term contracts to help them with their financial processing activities. Further support is provided in these circumstances by MACA's community financial services section by supporting the analysis and review of financial information for council decision making.

When there is a vacant SAO position, the appropriate MACA regional office will reach out to the Council to offer their support in filling this critical position. When supporting the Council with this, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) "Hiring your Senior Administrative Officer or Band Manger" toolkit is a resource often used by the Council to assist in their decision making processes.

The regional office will support the Council with creating the job advertisement, identifying where the job will be posted, developing screening criteria, developing interview questions and providing potential reference check questions. If desired, the Council may request that MACA staff sit on the interview committee which they may, however, the MACA staff member does not have any decision-making authority during the hiring process. The

Finance Officer position is hired by the SAO, and they may request support from the Department throughout the hiring process.

The SCG provides training opportunities and support in six areas of community government operations: Finance and Administration; Public Works; Recreation; Public Safety; Planning, Building and Development; and Governance.

The School of Community Government (SCG) offers learner-centred adult education in the form of its programs and services which are specifically tailored to community government employees who are looking for opportunities to build their skills and competencies while they work full time.

Training and development opportunities are available online in both self-directed and instructor-led forms. The SCG, through these programs, provides support to community governments in areas of governance, strategic planning, human resource development, occupational certification programs, and a variety of courses.

In 2019-2020, the SCG hosted 19 learning events for Senior Administrative Officers accessed by approximately eight learners. These learning events were delivered on-line, video lecture, through self-directed courses, and webinars.

The SCG also hosted 13 learning events intended for Finance officers. These were delivered on-line and in class-room delivery style. Approximately 15 individuals participated.

As a result of COVID-19 and in-person restrictions, the SCG will continue to deliver the majority of courses in an online or virtual classroom environment for the immediate future.

Emergency First Responder (EMR) training can be delivered in person following approved COVID-19 protocols; however, the class size is significantly reduced.

In 2020-2021, there were no courses delivered through the classroom format; however, 13 on-line courses and seven webinars targeted towards SAOs were completed by community government staff. Five webinars for Finance officers were also delivered.

The SCG also administers the Advancing Local Government Administrators Program (ALGAP). ALGAP is aimed at recruiting, training, and retaining local government administrators (LGAs), and provides up to \$565,000 annually in funding assistance to eligible communities for new and existing senior administrative officers within the following three categories:

- Investing Locally (Category One): Community governments with a vacant LGA position;

- Succession Planning (Category Two): Community governments with an LGA on staff, but who plans to retire or leave the position within two years; and

- Skill Building and Occupational Certification (Category Three): Community governments with an active LGA who wants to pursue Occupational Certification or requires assistance for training to achieve specific skills.

The program has supported 30 Category One and Two applicants, and 26 Category Three applicants since its establishment in 2010. ALGAP participation in 2019-2020 included participants from Hay River, Gameti, Enterprise, Fort Providence, and Fort Simpson. Community Governments who are most recently graduating students from the program include Fort Providence and Hay River. ALGAP participation for 2020-2021 to date includes LGAs from Fort Simpson and Tulita.

Additionally, the SCG supports LGANT annually with a \$50,000 contribution agreement to be used for learning and training opportunities. In 2020-2021, the contribution covered the following expenses:

1. Partial Communications Coordinator Salary for Administrative Projects
2. Partial Executive Director Salary for Administrative Projects
3. Virtual Conference Costs
 - Awards
 - Advertising/Promotional Materials
 - Speaker Costs
4. Strategic Planning Costs
 - Facilitated Session
5. Rebrand Costs
 - Promotional Items
6. Pool of Professionals Cost
 - Advertising Campaign – Online, Newspapers, Magazines.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 27-19(2):
SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE CORRIDOR

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written Question 27-192 asked by the Member for Frame Lake on March 30th, 2021, regarding the Slave Geological Province Corridor.

A request was made to provide details on the phases of construction of the Slave Geological Province Corridor. Specifically, the questions were asked to identify: the timeframes of construction; how each phase of construction will be operated and financed; the calculated costs of each of the phases including a breakdown of construction and anticipated operations costs, and the engineering class for the costs estimates; and whom the Corridor will serve. There was an additional question about how caribou and their key habitat have been considered in the preferred location for each of the phases of the Corridor.

Regarding the first two questions, the advancement of the Slave Geological Province Corridor is a priority of the 19th Legislative Assembly and falls within the 2019-2023 Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories commitment to make strategic infrastructure investments that connect communities, expand the economy or reduce the cost of living.

The Slave Geological Province Corridor has been identified as critical for future economic development in the Northwest Territories, as it will improve access to significant mineral resources in the region, increase the resilience of the region's current transportation system to impacts of climate change, as well as promote increased tourism and other business opportunities.

The current priority for the Government of the Northwest Territories is the Environmental Assessment for the Lockhart All-Season Road portion of the Corridor, which will provide all-season access to Lockhart Lake from the terminus of Highway 4 at Tibbitt Lake.

In August 2019, Transport Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories announced \$40 million in funding under the National Trade Corridors Fund towards the completion of the Lockhart All-Season Road Environmental Assessment, and preliminary planning for the remainder of the Corridor from Lockhart Lake to the border with Nunavut. Financing methods and models for the construction, operation and maintenance will be explored as project planning advances, and following engagement with Indigenous governments and organizations, and with federal counterparts.

The timelines for construction of the Lockhart All-Season Road and the remainder of the Slave Geological Province Corridor will be contingent upon the outcomes of the Environmental Assessment, final design, and our ability to secure additional federal funding.

Regarding the third question on cost estimates, responses can be found in the Impact Economics

paper titled "Economic Study of the Slave Geological Province Road", which was prepared in March 2019 and is available on the Department of Infrastructure website. As work on the project advances, there will be refinements made to these preliminary estimates.

Regarding the fourth question, the most recent Corridor route analysis from 2020 factors in caribou core ranges and caribou habitat utilization, among other datasets. This includes, but is not limited to, archeologically sensitive sites, watercourses and waterbodies, and landcover classifications.

Additional public and Indigenous engagement along with environmental, engineering and design work will be required before finalizing the Corridor route.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 28-19(2): TALTSON HYDRO EXPANSION PROJECT

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written Question 28-19(2) asked by the Member for Frame Lake on March 30th, 2021, regarding the Taltson Hydroelectric Expansion Project.

I will focus the first part of my response on the Phase One elements of the proposed Taltson Hydro Expansion, which is the addition of 60MW of generation next to the existing 18MW facility and a transmission intertie between the Snare and Taltson systems. Phase One is the primary focus of all federal funding and work to date to advance this Government's long-term vision as set out in the 2030 Energy Strategy.

The construction timeline for power generation, water-to-wire and control structure elements of the project and transmission line intertie are currently estimated to take four to five years to complete. Timelines will ultimately depend on the procurement approach and preferred transmission line route selected.

In terms of financing for the project, it remains a work in progress. The project is currently in a pre-construction phase, which is being funded by the federal government in the amount of \$18 million dollars.

It is estimated that over \$1 billion dollars will be needed to finance the total construction costs of the project. A key area of focus is on these cost estimates

that will be further refined, as the project advances and more feasibility work is completed. An investment of this magnitude will require support from the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government, and financial support will need to be confirmed in the future. Further, the project will require reasonable certainty that industrial growth and corresponding increases in

power demand will be in place by 2029 to cover the long-term costs of these investments. We are leveraging advisory services from the Canada Infrastructure Bank to explore commercial structure and financing opportunities that align with public sector interests and our Indigenous partners. These discussions are ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of customers for this expanded renewable energy source, the project will support a more drought resilient, stable and integrated hydro system that connects the 10 communities in the Great Slave Lake area. The project will also need to rely on two to three industrial customers per decade, depending on the size and operating life of those specific developments. We are in the process of engaging with nine existing and potential mining customers in the Northwest Territories to understand mine development plans and estimate revenue potential up to 2029 and beyond. We are not yet in a position to specify who will ultimately sign on for power from the project in 2029.

Future phases of the Taltson Hydro Expansion, including timeframes for construction, project financing and energy customers, will be informed by current work on Phase One.

Regarding the Member's question on power generation and whether any additional impoundment or flooding will occur, Phase One will provide a 60-megawatt expansion with no new flooding and an upgrade to the existing control structure at Nonacho Lake.

Phases Two and Three power generation requirements will depend on the energy demand at the time. We have on the order of 122 megawatts of hydro potential at six discrete sites on the Taltson River. Some flooding potential would need to be considered in future evaluations of these projects. Each future phase of work will be subject to its own regulatory review and approval.

Regarding the question about greenhouse reductions, Phase One of the Taltson Hydro Expansion could displace greenhouse gas emissions by 224 kilotonnes a year in the Territory. In Phases Two and Three, depending on the nature of demand, final installed hydro capacity, and the type of fossil fuel displaced, we could add an additional 448 kilotonnes a year of greenhouse gas emission reductions by displacing diesel fuel.

The Canadian carbon tax system takes a user pay approach to carbon emissions, so the credit for greenhouse gas reductions would belong to industrial consumers in the jurisdiction where it resides. In the case of the Phase Three project, with an interconnection to either Alberta or Saskatchewan, consumers in these high carbon jurisdictions would be the beneficiaries of the clean

energy, and subsequent reduction in carbon taxation.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the question on the calculated costs for each phase, Phase One work to date is relying on an AACE Class 3 cost estimate for the power generation, water-to-wire package, and Nonacho control structure designs. These cost estimates were originally completed in 2010 and updated in 2017.

In terms of transmission line costs, three primary routing options are currently being studied, at a concept level, to assess technical risks and costs. The estimates fall in the range of AACE Class 4 or 5. Work commenced in 2019 and is ongoing. The detailed capital costs for the hydro expansion and transmission line are confidential but estimated at over \$1 billion dollars. We can commit to sharing high level estimates in confidence with Standing Committee in the near future. The transmission line options and associated costs are a key area of focus and these preliminary estimates are subject to further refinements.

No all-season roads are currently contemplated for any new hydro developments on the Taltson River. Transmission line spur locations in the Northwest Territories will be dependent on the location of specific energy demand locations that emerge over the next 30 years.

Phase Two includes the creation of an infrastructure corridor that would support a road, communications network, and hydro transmission line into the mineral rich Slave Geological Province. The hydro line portion of that project is envisioned to take place from 2029 to 2035. Having a clean energy option for industrial development is a key component of maintaining and growing the NWT economy in a sustainable way, while advancing our climate change commitments. No recent work has been done on this phase of the project.

Phase Three of the project goes beyond 2035 and is a long-term vision to connect the Northwest Territories to the continental electricity grid, either through Alberta or Saskatchewan. No recent work has been done on the estimated timelines for construction of the Phase Three vision.

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 29-19(2): VACANCY RATES IN HOUSING PROGRAMS

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question 29-19(2) asked by the Member for Kam Lake on March 31st, 2021, regarding vacancy rates in housing programs.

The Member enquired about the number of vacant units by program and community as of March 31,

2021. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table this information.

The Member also enquired about how long each vacant unit has been vacant. The NWT Housing Corporation does track this information, but the IT system is unable to generate a single report that covers this metric for all vacant Housing Corporation units. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is always striving to improve its IT system and this may present an opportunity for future development in the relevant software.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions. Replies to Commissioner's Address. Petitions. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Tabling of Documents. Minister Responsible for Infrastructure.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 388-19(2):
RESPONSE TO PETITION 1-19(2): RETURNING
FORT SMITH REGIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY TO
FORMER SPECIFICATIONS

TABLED DOCUMENT 389-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
679-19(2): ROAD CONSTRUCTION ECONOMIC
BENEFITS

TABLED DOCUMENT 390-19(2):
SLAVE GEOLOGICAL PROVINCE CORRIDOR
CLASS D COST ESTIMATES

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents entitled Response to Petition 1-19(2), Returning Fort Smith Runway to Former Specifications; Follow-Up Letter For Oral Questions 679-19(2) Road Construction Economic Benefits.

And further to my Return to Written Questions 27-19(2), I wish to table the following document entitled A Slave Geological Province Corridor Class D Cost Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Finance.

TABLED DOCUMENT 391-29(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
494-19(2): ECONOMIC RECOVERY

TABLED DOCUMENT 392-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
505-19(2): HOME INSURANCE

TABLED DOCUMENT 393-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
592-19(2): DEVELOPMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES REMEDIATION
ECONOMY

TABLED DOCUMENT 394-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
616-19(2): GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES OPEN
GOVERNMENT PORTAL

TABLED DOCUMENT 395-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
671-19(2): PUBLIC SERVICE SUPPORTING
NORTHERN BUSINESSES

TABLED DOCUMENT 396-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
699-19(2): NORTHERN STUDENTS
RECRUITMENT

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following six documents entitled Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 494-19(2) Economic Recovery; Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 505-19(2) Home Insurance; Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 592-19(2) Development of the Northwest Territories Remediation Economy; Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 616-19(2) Government of the Northwest Territories Open Government Portal; Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 671-19(2) Public Services Supporting Northern Businesses; and Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 699-19(2) Northern Students Recruitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Minister responsible for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

TABLED DOCUMENT 397-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
635-19(2): HOUSING IN HAY RIVER

TABLED DOCUMENT 398-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
643-19(2): AGING HOUSING UNITS IN
NUNAKPUT

TABLED DOCUMENT 399-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
651-19(2): RETROFIT OF THE HIGH RISE IN
HAY RIVER

TABLED DOCUMENT 400-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
653-19(2): NEW HOUSING UNIT IN INUVIK

TABLED DOCUMENT 401-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
655-19(2): BIOMASS HEATING AND ENERGY
EFFICIENCY FOR THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES HOUSING CORPORATION

TABLED DOCUMENT 402-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
656-19(2): SENIOR HOUSING NEEDS

TABLED DOCUMENT 403-19(2):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING
CORPORATION UNIT STATUS REPORT
SUMMARY, MARCH 31, 2021

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following seven documents entitled Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 635-19(2) Housing in Hay River; Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 643-19(2): Aging Housing Units in Nunakput; Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 651-19(2): Retrofits on High Rise in Hay River; Follow-Up Question 653-19(2): New Housing Units in Inuvik; Follow-Up Letter for Oral Question 655-19(2): Biomass Heating and Energy Efficiency for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 656-19(2): Senior Housing Needs.

And further to my return to written questions, 29-19(2), I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Unit Status Report Summary, March 31, 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents, Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

TABLED DOCUMENT 404-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
498-19(2): CULTURALLY SENSITIVE
HEALTHCARE SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 405-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
564-19(2) AND ORAL QUESTION 673-19(2):
EXTENDED AND LONG-TERM CARE IN HAY
RIVER AND EXTENDED CARE BEDS

TABLED DOCUMENT 406-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
632-19(2): NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS
AND DENTAL SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 407-19(2):
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION
666-19(2): THE FOURTH TRIMESTER

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following four documents entitled Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 498-19(2): Culturally Sensitive Healthcare Services; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 564-19(2) and Oral Question 673-19(2): Extended and Long-Term Care in Hay River and Extended Care Beds; Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 632-19(2): Non-Insured Health Benefits and Dental Services; and Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 666-19(2): The Fourth Trimester. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Motions. Notices of Motion for the first reading of bills. Member for Frame Lake.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 34-19(2):
REFERRAL OF TABLED DOCUMENT 413-19(2),
EMERGING STRONGER,
PLANNING THE NWT'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY TOGETHER TO COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President.

I give notice that on Monday, May 31st, 2021, I will move that Bill 29 Resource Royalties Information Disclosure Statute Amendment Act be read for the first time. Merci, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Report of Committee of the Whole. Third reading of bills. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Wickens): Orders of the day for Friday, May 28th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.:

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

6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Motions
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, madam clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 28th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:19 p.m.