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**The Honourable Frederick Blake Jr, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.**  
(Mackenzie Delta)

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**Hon. Diane Archie**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)  
*Deputy Premier*  
*Minister of Infrastructure*  
*Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Ronald Bonnetrouge**

(Deh Cho)

**Ms. Caitlin Cleveland**

(Kam Lake)

**Hon. Paulie Chinna**

(Sahtu)  
*Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories*  
*Minister responsible for Homelessness*  
*Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board*  
*Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission*

**Hon. Caroline Cochrane**

(Range Lake)  
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*Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs*  
*Minister responsible for the COVID-19 Coordinating Secretariat*

**Mr. Richard Edjericon**

(Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh)

**Hon. Julie Green**

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*Minister of Health and Social Services*  
*Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities*  
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(Nunakput)

**Mr. Rylund Johnson**

(Yellowknife North)

**Ms. Frieda Martselos**

(Thebacha)

**Ms. Katrina Nokleby**

(Great Slave)

**Mr. Kevin O'Reilly**

(Frame Lake)

**Ms. Lesa Semmler**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

**Mr. Rocky Simpson**

(Hay River South)

**Hon. R.J. Simpson**

(Hay River North)  
*Government House Leader*  
*Minister of Education, Culture & Employment*  
*Minister of Justice*

**Hon. Shane Thompson**

(Nahendah)  
*Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs*  
*Minister of Environment and Natural Resources*  
*Minister of Lands*  
*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Hon. Caroline Wawzonek**

(Yellowknife South)  
*Minister of Finance*  
*Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, including responsibility for the Business Development and Investment Corporation*  
*Minister responsible for the Status of Women*

**Ms. Jane Weyallon**

**Armstrong**  
(Monfwi)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Friday, February 10, 2023****Members Present**

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

The House met at 10:00 a.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.):** Colleagues, before we begin, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some visitors to our proceedings today. I am pleased to welcome the Grade 3 class from Ecole Itlo. It's great to see students here learning about consensus government. Thank you for joining us today. Mahsi.

Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

**Ministers' Statements**

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 299-19(2):  
UPDATE ON 2022 HIGHWAY  
CONSTRUCTION SEASON**

**HON. DIANE ARCHIE:** Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories transportation system is critical to connect residents and communities, to support the economy and allow for the delivery of goods and services. Our government is committed to improving, maintaining, and expanding our highway system to offer safe and reliable infrastructure that can adapt to effects of time and climate change while also creating training and employment opportunities for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, we had another busy highway construction season last year. In fact, this year alone we spent more than \$45 million improving our highways, bridges, and access roads. Some of the highlights of the work included:

- more than 160 kilometres of chip seal overlay; 68 kilometres of roadway rehabilitation;
- five bridge rehabilitations;
- pre-engineering work for the rehabilitation and replacement of several structures; and,

- the completion of approximately 135 bridge and culvert inspections.

On Highway No. 1, chip seal overlay was made to 138 kilometres of road, including the Fort Simpson Access Road and the Fort Simpson Airport Access Road. Rehabilitation work including embankment widening and drainage improvement on a 12-kilometre section are in progress and will be completed this summer.

On Highway No. 3, we have had very positive discussions with Transport Canada on the replacement of the Frank Channel Bridge. Pending approval funding, permit applications for this project will be submitted this year with construction commencing once these authorizations are received. We also completed surface repairs and rehabilitation on Highway No. 3 during the past year, including chip seal overlay of 23 kilometres of the road.

Similar work was done on the Ingraham Trail on a section that is a little over four kilometres long, and work on 14 kilometres of Highway No. 7 in progress and will be completed this summer. Both projects include embankment widening and culvert replacement.

The Dempster Highway received embankment widening and rehabilitation on a 10-kilometre section on the Marine Bypass.

On the Whati Access Road, the first phase of rehabilitation work was completed last year, which included right of way clearing and material production for Phase 2 work. In Phase 2, the 12-kilometre access road that connects the community to the Tlicho Highway will be improved, including road embankment re-construction, installation of drainage culverts, and replacement of culverts with a short span bridge. Work on this project is expected to begin later this year.

Mr. Speaker, this is just an overview of the hard work the Department of Infrastructure and its contractors are carrying out. More work will be completed this summer and fall and new projects will be initiated, including rehabilitation on the Inuvik-Tuk Highway. We recently

received federal funding for this project which will include raising low-profile embankment areas, improving drainage, and installing guardrails as needed.

We continue to work closely with all of our public and private sector partners to build and maintain transportation networks that meets the current and future needs of the territory.

Quyananni, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Housing NWT.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 300-19(2):  
HOUSING DELIVERY STATUS UPDATE

**HON. PAULIE CHINNA:** Mr. Speaker, in the past two years, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada has provided over \$50 million in funding support. This year Housing NWT is again delivering an exceptionally large capital program of over \$104 million.

Under the federal budget 2022, Housing NWT will be receiving an additional \$60 million for the delivery of 100 new public housing units. This annual capital delivery plan involves the construction and renovation of more than 510 housing units in the Northwest Territories. This plan includes investment in public housing units, hundreds of major retrofits and biomass district heating projects, and supporting the construction of some market housing units.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise that approximately 80 percent of this delivery is now either already completed or in the construction phase. To date, Housing NWT has awarded negotiated contracts to eight Indigenous governments and businesses for the delivery of 30 new housing units that were awarded to:

- Delta North Alliance;
- Fort Smith Metis Council;
- Norman Wells Claimant Corporation;
- Hay River Metis Government Council;
- Liidlii Kue First Nation;
- Deninu Kue First Nation;
- MYB Construction in Tulita; and
- Tech Limited in Deline.

Also under the Tlicho Infrastructure Cooperation Agreement, Housing NWT

awarded the construction of a local housing organization office and duplexes in Behchoko and Whati.

Mr. Speaker, as part of Housing NWT's strategic renewal, Housing NWT has put a focus on engagement with Indigenous governments, and a good example is the implementation of this capital plan delivery. This engagement does not only include negotiated contract opportunities but also opportunities for Indigenous governments to directly participate in housing design and other delivery aspects such as site selection. Engagement and strong communication have been a major focus of our renewal efforts.

In addition to our own delivery, we will continue to work in partnership with Indigenous governments, community governments, and non-governmental organizations to help them access funding through the Government of Canada's National Housing Co-Investment Fund.

Mr. Speaker, as part of our renewal, we have taken a more client-focused approach. The co-investment fund application process can be very cumbersome and requires significant resources to move through the different application phases. Housing NWT's community relations advisor works closely with Indigenous governments and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and other partners to support applicants from across the Northwest Territories as they move through this complex process. This supports Housing NWT's mandate to ensure the well-being of individuals and communities and assist those most in need.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the benefits of adding housing options in communities where new units are built, the economic benefits of construction delivery can provide meaningful opportunities for employment. Housing NWT is committed to working with northern contractors as much as possible in order to maximize the benefit of these projects. I am very proud of Housing NWT's track record in being able to support our local and northern businesses. 99 percent of Housing NWT's contracts were awarded to local and northern businesses during this past year's capital delivery and similar levels of support are expected again next year.

Mr. Speaker, Housing NWT's capital plan delivery continues to support critical training and skill development opportunities for our residents.

In April 2020, Housing NWT amended its construction contracts to require general

contractors to support at least one northern apprentice for the duration of the construction project. I am very pleased to advise that, in addition to the 12 apprenticeship positions that Housing NWT is supporting with local organizations, this new apprentice hire requires for general contractors to support and create 35 new apprenticeship work assignments to date.

Mr. Speaker, this coming year, we will see the completion of our partnership in building market housing units for RCMP. During the renewal conversation, Housing NWT heard that a number of partners are interested in exploring market housing delivery. As a result of those conversations, Housing NWT will soon be engaging with partners across the Northwest Territories to further explore the need for market housing units in smaller communities. Although this the delivery of housing units and repair projects will make a meaningful difference, there is still a lot of work left to be done to ensure all residents of the Northwest Territories are provided with equality and quality, affordable, housing options. By continuing to work with our partners, I am confident that we will continue to make progress towards our shared goals to be able to help the people across the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 301-19(2):  
SUMMARY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES INITIATIVES  
AT ASSOCIATION FOR MINERAL  
EXPLORATION ROUNDUP

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, last month I attended the annual Association for Mineral Exploration Roundup conference in Vancouver with fellow Cabinet Members and government officials. We were there to advance this Legislative Assembly's priorities to increase resource exploration and development in our territory; adopt a benefit retention approach to economic development; make strategic infrastructure investments; and, to identify, prioritize, and strengthen key actions to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Achieving meaningful progress on these multiple and complex priorities is far more effective through partnerships. To most effectively achieve strategic investments and economic development alongside the advancement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, we need partners, collaborators, supporters and

advocates across all levels of government, with industry, and stakeholders.

Building effective partnerships happens with time spent together, meeting both formally and informally, in different settings, with different combinations of parties to bring a variety of perspectives to the exchange. Having those kinds of opportunities was a major part of the work we did at Roundup. One of the messages that we carried with us is the commitment that we have at all levels, to evolve how development is done in partnership with Indigenous people.

For Northwest Territories leaders, the depth, strength, of what we have in common is never more obvious than when we are working together, particularly outside of the Northwest Territories, as advocates for the North. I was pleased to participate in multiple events alongside Indigenous governments from the Northwest Territories. The mineral resource industry and, in particular those who invest in it, is changing rapidly. The recognition of environmental, social, and governance factors, as well as Indigenous relationships, is the way of the future for resource development.

As I have said before, this is the way we have done business in the North for a long time and together, with Northwest Territories delegates and Indigenous delegates, the GNWT was able to showcase the partnered and sustainable approach to resource development that exists here. Our collective presence at a forum like Roundup, and strong advocacy for the Northwest Territories, made each of our messages stronger.

This year was a particularly strong showing of our movement towards a more whole-of-government approach to governance. Our delegation included, at different times, Premier Cochrane, Minister Archie, and also officials from Infrastructure, Lands, Environment and Natural Resources, Finance, and Industry, Tourism and Investment. We were also supported by the presence of MLA Jane Weyallon Armstrong, the Member from Monfwi, as a representative of Standing Committee on Economic Development and Oversight. Together we met face-to-face with operators and company executives interested or already working in our territory as well as those who are new to the opportunities in the Northwest Territories.

The GNWT supported three networking events to promote the territory to investment audiences and to encourage dialogue about the Northwest Territories' attractiveness for investment.

First, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment held an environmental, social, governance Indigenous-themed event that welcomed Indigenous governments from across the Northwest Territories, mineral resource companies, and investors. We were especially pleased to have the Tlicho drummers start this event off.

Next, led by Premier Cochrane, we celebrated last year's creation of a Northwest Territories chapter of Women in Mining and the election of Tlicho-born Gaeleen MacPherson as its president. Tlicho Grand Chief Lafferty spoke, recognizing the transformational accomplishments of Northwest Territories women, not only in mining but throughout the Tlicho.

Finally, supported by officials with the Department of Infrastructure, Minister Archie hosted an event promoting the territory's green energy potential while reiterating the importance of federal investment in three key infrastructure projects: The Taltson Hydro Expansion, Slave Geological Province Corridor, and Mackenzie Valley Highway.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Northwest Territories' mining community and Indigenous governments and industry stakeholders who took time out of their own objectives at the Association for Mineral Exploration Roundup to support us in advancing ours.

We are at a pivotal time for the Northwest Territories. Resource availability, technology, market demand, and global interest are coming together to create extraordinary opportunities for investment. As part of our marketing efforts, the Northwest Territories geological survey released a new compilation of critical mineral showings in highlighting the distribution of critical mineral finds in the Northwest Territories. On the conference's exhibit floor, we promoted our region and its geology to explorers and responded to the growing interest that we are seeing in the Northwest Territories' known and potential deposits of rare earth and other critical minerals.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories is positioned to play a key part in advancing the world's new technology-based green economy. More importantly, we have the opportunity, as governments, and industry together, to contribute to economic growth and prosperity in Northwest Territories communities where it is so needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

## Members' Statements

### MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1326-19(2): ILLICIT DRUG TRADE IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. ROCKY SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the illicit drug trade, it is all about money, power, and control for those higher on the food chain, and all about access to drugs and the high it provides for those addicted. Life is unimportant to those in the drug trade, as many of us have attended numerous funerals and services for friends and family murdered because of it. Families are being torn apart with little or no consequence for those responsible. It is time for this government to provide our frontline enforcement and health workers with the tools needed to effectively deal with the illicit drug trade and addictions.

Mr. Speaker, all levels of government continue to talk about how to address the drug problem. Billions of dollars is being spent on drug enforcement and addictions treatment yet the problem is only worsening. Over the last several decades the tools used by the enforcement personnel to combat the drug trade continue to be eroded. The public, although not pleased with what is happening, are often reluctant to get involved due the possibility of retaliation by what is a well-organized criminal element.

Mr. Speaker, as I said previously, it is about money, power, and control. We have seen photos of piles of cash confiscated by the RCMP. What we do not hear and see is when, due to insufficient evidence or a technicality, that same cash is given back to the person it was confiscated from or allowed to be used to pay for that accused's legal counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I want this government to consider and pursue a piece of legislation that would aid in our fight against the manufacture, distribution, and sale of illicit drugs in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, the legislation I am talking about is that of civil forfeiture; legislation that would allow for the seizure and ownership transfer of property without compensation when the property is suspected of being acquired through an illegal act or used to commit an illegal act. The property, if retained, could be placed in a trust where it may be used to compensate victims, support addictions programs, support crime prevention initiatives, and for other productive uses.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is used throughout most of Canada, including Nunavut, and we need it enacted here if we expect any chance



of winning our fight against the illicit drug trade. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Members' statements. Member for Great Slave.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1327-19(2):  
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

**MS. NOKLEBY:** Mr. Speaker, Happy Friday. I rise today, like many of my colleagues, to acknowledge the wonderful work of all of the athletes, staff, parents, etcetera, that attended the Arctic Winter Games in Wood Buffalo. I had several constituents from Great Slave that participated, and I would like to acknowledge them here today. So we had Arctic Sports. We had Danicka Taylor in basketball. We had Abigale Nevet Jazard, Ashton Mercado, Emanuel Ramos, and Francesco Stefanos. And I'm probably going to butcher a few more names here, Mr. Speaker. We also had Adam Clinton and his coach Steven Dunbar, who we're all very familiar with in cross-country skiing. Noah Jackson Grow and Isabel Nevet all in -- oh, sorry -- and Nathan Stefanos who all participated in the futsal tournament. And we had Kalie Grant who was coaching ice hockey and her participant, Adrena McDonald. Mission staff included Rami Lashay, Tyler Rentmeister, Oliver Williams. We had table tennis with Sophia Baracello. And both volleyball, Fea Samantha Marzan, Trey Grantner, and their coach Chad Hinchey.

I just wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, I really enjoyed watching all of the posts that were being made by various participants as well as the organization at Team NT. It seemed like everybody was having a wonderful time. And I know, for myself, that as a child those opportunities to travel and meet other kids from other places are -- go well beyond sport and, you know, build those future leaders for us as a territory. So I just wanted to say congratulations to them all. They did wonderful and they made us proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1328-19(2):  
INDIGENOUS RECRUITMENT POLICIES

**MS. MARTSELOS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday, the Government of the Northwest Territories shared its plan to address changes to the Affirmative Action Policy. In their announcement, it states the government's intention to replace the existing Affirmative

Action Policy with two new policies in its place. The Indigenous Employment Policy and the Employment Equity Policy.

The Indigenous Employment Policy would prioritize hiring persons who are descendants of Dene, Inuit, and Metis people who are Indigenous to the present-day boundaries of the NWT. And the Employment Equity Policy would provide preferred hiring to Indigenous Canadians, rationalized persons, persons with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ community, and long-term Northerners.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of new ideas in there, some of which I agree with but some that I do not.

I do agree with the Indigenous Employment Policy which is nearly identical to the existing Affirmative Action Policy. And I do agree with providing priority hiring to long-term Northerners, whether Indigenous or not. However, I don't agree with them doing priority hiring to all Indigenous Canadians at large. To be clear, I have no issues with Indigenous Canadians who are not born in the NWT being employed by our public service. I just take issue with that group of people getting the same affirmative action status as the Dene, Inuit, and Metis people born in the NWT. To me that does not solve the issues with the Affirmative Action Policy. It just widens the net for who qualifies as priority one hiring, which I'm sure is not what the majority of the Dene, Metis, and Inuit people of the NWT wanted to hear. I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement, please, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how the government is unveiling these new policies. Before announcing this to the media, Cabinet should have first come to Regular Members for input and feedback. Cabinet also should have taken these proposed changes to the Intergovernmental Council to consider the input from the Indigenous governments who are part of that council.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, on the news release on these policies, the Government of the Northwest Territories announced they will be hosting public engagement sessions in various communities across the NWT. I am concerned that Fort Smith was not on the list for the public meeting; however, I since emailed the Finance Minister about my concern and she has assured me that Fort Smith will host a public engagement session on March 28th, 2023, which I'm looking forward to. I will have questions for the Minister of Finance at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1329-19(2):  
CARBON TAXATION

**MS. SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about carbon tax. I specifically want to talk about what we're doing as a territory to mitigate the cost of living and the cost of business impacts on carbon tax. I understand that we don't have a choice about imposing the tax. If the GNWT doesn't impose the tax, Ottawa will do it for us. But we do have a choice about how we spend the revenues from the carbon tax.

The government has decided to go with a made-in-the-NWT approach. But this approach leaves some residents, most businesses, and all community governments, Indigenous governments, and NGOs worse off.

The main estimates in the department documents provided breakdowns next year for 2023-2024. The GNWT expects to collect \$63 million in carbon tax revenue but only \$48 million of those revenues are earmarked as offsets. The remaining \$15 million, about 25 percent, is going into general revenues. In other words, our made-in-the-NWT carbon tax is not revenue neutral. We are keeping \$15 million in general revenues as we provide zero offsets to community governments who are already underfunded and will face pressure to raise property taxes or cut services, local businesses who will be forced to raise prices for goods and services, and NGOs who will have to stretch scarce dollars even further to provide vital services.

At the same time, of the \$48 million in offsets that we do provide, the biggest piece, \$24 million, or half, goes to the large emitters. That's more than the \$20 million in the COLO payments to households. How fair is that?

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues on the other side share my frustration and disappointment at the way Ottawa is pushing its carbon tax with too little regard for our unique northern circumstances and its historical responsibilities to our region. But if we are going to go with a made-in-the-NWT approach, then we ought to have something that is better than the federal approach, something that is fairer too so that the government returns all revenues, and all sectors of societies can mitigate the tax. I'll have more questions for the Minister of Finance on making our carbon tax offsets fair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Members' statements. Member for Frame Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1330-19(2):  
CLOSURE OF DIAVIK DIAMOND MINE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. The Diavik Diamond Mine is set to cease production in 2025 and there are some questions about what this government is doing to plan for that event. Under the devolution agreement, GNWT is fully responsible if the operator cannot, or will not, carry out any required remediation, so there is a lot at stake.

The final closure and reclamation plan was submitted to the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board on October 13, 2022. It is undergoing a thorough review and is subject to approval of that board. There are some curious statements in this plan regarding the airstrip which is 1600 metres long and has a 45 metre-wide granular surface. It is capable of accepting Boeing 737 jets and Hercules aircraft. The plan for the airstrip is that "it will be recontoured to remove steep sides and berms, scarified where human and wildlife access routes are not envisaged and targeted for re-vegetation." The plan also states, "DDMI is awaiting an expression of interest from the GNWT and, if there is interest, a path forward and schedule for transfer of airstrip responsibilities." All activities associated with decommissioning these facilities will occur between 2027 and 2028.

It appears from the cost estimates submitted by Diavik that the reclamation of the airstrip will cost them about \$132,000 using equipment already at the site, and a portion of the re-vegetation costs for the entire site that are set at about \$1.4 million. If a third party had to do this work after the site is abandoned, the airstrip reclamation would be exponentially higher with mobilization, demobilization, and other associated costs. It is clear that Diavik would save money by not having to reclaim the airstrip but it is not clear whether those eventual costs or interim operational and maintenance costs will be funded by Diavik for any residual infrastructure it, or others, want left at the site.

Another big issue for GNWT is what happens to the NWT-based workforce at Diavik when it closes in 2025. According to the latest Diavik socio-economic monitoring report from 2021, 500 of the 1200 employees, or 40 percent, are NWT or Nunavut residents. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

The Socio-Economic Monitoring Agreement is extremely weak and the only mention of closure

is in appendix D on cultural and community well-being. It states, "DDMI will introduce and maintain the following measures to assist northerner employee to perform well in their jobs and to help their local communities cope with any potential effects of the project item X on closure, gradually reduce employment at the site." That's it. That's all that's in the agreement.

I understand that Diavik has an extensive program, though, in place for individual career planning and placement post-closure. My question is, what is GNWT doing? I will have questions later today for the Premier as the closure issues at Diavik cut across several departments. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1331-19(2):  
EULOGY FOR GEORGE GIROUX JR.

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. George Giroux was born on December 10th, 1979 and died on October 8th, 2022, at the age of 42, born in Yellowknife to George Giroux Senior and the late Denise Jerome. George is survived by two sisters, Kim and Sharlene Giroux, and his daughter Mercedes Pearl Sharlene Giroux. George was a Deninu Kue First Nation member and travelled with his father throughout his youth living in Fort Providence and Pine Point. George attended many schools as a result, making many lifelong friends, especially from Deninu Kue School. Always very respectful and well-mannered and polite, George grew up with the teaching of his grandparents and his father. He had extensive knowledge of the land and water that was reflected in many great hunting and fishing trips with his family and friends.

With the sad circumstances of George passing by drowning in the Slave River, his family wishes to express deep appreciation for all the searchers and recovery efforts to bring George home. A service was held on Wednesday, October 26th, 2022. George will be mourned and greatly missed by who all knew him. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and community at this time.

Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1332-19(2):  
NUNAVUT 3000

**MS. CLEVELAND:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we heard in the Minister's statement today that the NWT

Housing Corporation is currently completing construction renovation of more than 510 housing units in the Northwest Territories. But this does not adequately address our housing infrastructure deficit in the Northwest Territories. This is primarily required operations and maintenance on existing units and includes a hundred new units over these last four years. When some of this long-standing public housing has been devolved into homeownership already. So I'd like to, instead, talk about the absolutely outstanding announcement from the Nunavut Housing Corporation that was announced yesterday.

Nunavut's Housing Corporation announced their plan of Nunavut 3000, which is a plan to build 3,000 new units by 2030. Nunavut plans to achieve its goal by incentivizing and pursuing partnership with Inuit organizations, the private sector, and other levels of government to expand the housing continuum and provide safe, secure, and affordable housing. Nunavut 3000 will add 300 transitional housing beds, 1,400 public housing units, 900 affordable housing units, and 400 market housing units because the northern housing crisis, as we all know, goes beyond a need for public housing. We need supportive and transitional living solutions as well as affordable and market housing. We have seen multiple examples of much needed jobs unfilled or hard to fill because of lack of housing across this territory. This plan spans the Nunavut housing continuum and increases the range of housing options, reduces the social and economic costs of inadequate, unaffordable housing, increases the housing stock that meets modern building codes and performance standards, supports the development of a stronger housing supply chain, realizes true partnership to improve the social and economic conditions of Inuit through housing, and provides training through earn-while-you-learn opportunities that increase pre-apprentices, apprentices, and skilled trades people.

Nunavut suggests that for every \$1 million in housing capital investment, 5.9 jobs, each paying \$64,000 a year, are generated. With a track record of building on average 90 new homes per year for the last three years, Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Housing Corporation has shot for the moon and intends to complete Nunavut 3000 within the next eight years, but not alone.

Mr. Speaker, true housing success can only be achieved through partnership, and Nunavut plans to incentivize private participation in addressing the housing crisis. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and a huge 'thank you' to my colleagues as well. Mr. Speaker, while I don't know what these incentives will look like, Nunavut estimates Nunavut 3000 will cost a whopping \$2.6 billion and about 35 percent of that will come from the private sector. If the NWT wanted to proportionately match Nunavut's housing goals, the NWT's goal would be 3700 units. Mr. Speaker, this is the same number of homes that I asked for in my 2022 motion to increase the population of the Northwest Territories.

I'm going to be honest, Mr. Speaker, this is a lofty goal with a huge price tag, but this plan makes Nunavut a step ahead, ready to clearly seek specific funding. You know what they say, Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars. With a goal of delivering 360 new homes in the first year, I'll be watching and cheering for Nunavut's success and hoping our own government shoots for the moon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1333-19(2):  
EMERGENCY SERVICES IN COMMUNITIES

**MR. BONNETROUGE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I stood up in the House and made a statement regarding lack of first responder services in our community. And I spoke about the past incidences where we counted on the nurses and the RCMP, and they did at that time help respond to serious incidents within the community, whether they were accidents or deaths. And I also spoke about lack of RCMP attention to assist our community members even though they were called yet the RCMP is noted in our community to attend to check on people on probation even, or they attend to accidents. So their service is pretty sketchy.

You know, our communities face numerous challenges on delivering these type of programs as we don't have the population or the funding levels that the larger centres receive. So we're really up against a brick wall. We don't have -- well, as I said, it's the funding or we don't have people that are trained. And, you know, when you take up the illicit drug trades -- and it's hitting my community, you know, Fort Providence too and many other small communities. And with that, there's always the fear, and it has happened that we're dealing with overdoses. You know, whether it be from poison or whatever, it's still an

overdose. And it's becoming rampant. There's nothing that we -- you know, we can do as community members without the help of the RCMP services there and, also, they help out the nursing profession. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker, and mahsi, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we're dealing with a policy with the health department, or I think it's across all GNWT departments because I notice other employees have a ball and chain that they're stuck to their desk. And it's happening with the health department. There was no consultation with the communities in the past about this situation, which is a very serious situation for our community. And we need to see that changed. We would like consultations with communities in addressing this issue. Let's meet face-to-face with the community leaders and see what we can come or resolve. This is very important.

Another thing, too, we keep getting directed to MACA but it's going to be under the volunteer fire department, which is already stretched to its limits and very limited funding. We are asked to get a first responder from that department. We're not going to get that without serious funding, you know, and attention by this GNWT to assist us to get to that goal. There's nothing in this budget that's going to help to improve emergency services for our small communities. We require serious attention to these matters by this government and not the ongoing lip service as a way out of this situation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Deh Cho. Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1334-19(2):  
OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
NORTH

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my riding in Nunakput are resource rich and cash poor. Our land, we have enough oil and gas for the Inuvialuit to prosper for generations. But, Mr. Speaker, resources are all locked up by our federal government.

Mr. Speaker, people in my riding are overcrowded homes, they have the highest cost of living, and they're the most food insecure. The struggle with the drug and alcohol addictions is everywhere, and there is little opportunity to work.

Mr. Speaker, we lack hope. We lack opportunities. We need the economy back. We need the oil and gas development so that the people could go back to work, earn a good living, pay their bills, buy their own homes and put food on the table. And when the oil and gas was going, all nine communities were prospering in the Beaufort Delta. Everyone was working. But, Mr. Speaker, this government is preventing Nunakput riding from getting ahead. Why isn't our Premier standing up for us? This federal government has extended the moratorium on the offshore for another year. It can't develop offshore resources. Why? But last year the federal government approved the oil and gas project off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador so they can approve the projects in the East Coast but why they're taking so long to provide for the North?

Oil and gas has been in the Delta since the '70s, '80s, '90s, and early 2000s, Mr. Speaker. I'm born and raised in Tuk, and I've seen it all. I've seen oil companies come and go. But everybody had work, and everybody had food. Why is the GNWT allowing this moratorium to drag on when our people need work? Mr. Speaker, the federal government is delaying development also and resources for settlement on M18, a natural gas project right outside of my home community of Tuk on 718 Inuvialuit lands. It is a settled land claim. We settled that land claim in 1984, 39 years ago, Mr. Speaker. And they're holding up the project. It's unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, this project is delayed, and what is our GNWT doing about this? What is the GNWT saying to the federal government to get this project back on track and what is our Premier saying about the offshore? And I'll have questions for her later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1335-19(2):  
RHEUMATOLOGY SERVICES IN THE  
NORTH

**MR. JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems our health system's on a pretty clear trajectory, which is that its deficit keeps going up and the number of services we offer keeps going down. And, Mr. Speaker, I recognize that many of these are due to the inability and the struggle to find specialized services. And the latest victim in this is our rheumatology program, which has recently been discontinued and transferred down to Alberta. However, Mr. Speaker, after this program was cancelled, we

all found out in the news that perhaps it wasn't so hard to find a rheumatologist. And in fact, there was one who had been working with the health system and had intentions to start a multidisciplinary arthritis program. But in order to do that, that rheumatologist would have needed an extra added health position to ensure the continuity of care. And what happened here is asking the health authority for an extra position takes time; I get that. But over a year went by with no response and eventually the rheumatologist gave up.

But he tried one more time with another plan that would not have just as much not continuity of care but at least it would ensure we are providing some rheumatology services in the North. Well, once again HHS didn't get it together, and we didn't get that plan. And so the plan became we'll ship this down to Alberta. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to stop relying on Alberta's healthcare system for increased specialized services. We see their wait times. We see the struggles they are going through. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to invest in these.

I'm also not convinced that the math is being done because now what you have is you have an increase in out-of-territory services and payments we're making to the Alberta health system, and you have an increase to our ever and growing medical travel budget, Mr. Speaker. If we just worked with the specialist, who was initially here, to provide those services, work to slowly grow the practice and provide that continuity of care, I believe our patients would be better off. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm not convinced that the department worked with those patients because I am now hearing from many people, who have rheumatoid arthritis, of the struggles they are going through to work in that Alberta system. They much would prefer to have access to a rheumatologist here and someone who has that continuity of care to fill the gaps when a rheumatologist is not in our system.

I will have questions for the Minister of health about what we can do to bring this service back to the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1336-19(2):  
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES 2023 ATHLETES

**MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following

young Indigenous Tlicho citizens who participated in Arctic Winter Games 2023:

- Jimmy Joe Drybones;
- Tenisha Steinwand;
- Joshua Wedzin;
- Patsy Wettrade. Patsy is originally from Whati but she is living in Behchoko to attend Chief Jimmy Bruneau school;
- Rusty Mantla is an admission coach; and,
- Ryan Barbeau is a teacher and a coach.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of these young people's dedication and commitment to sports. They work hard and represented the NWT, especially the Tlicho Nations, but we do more participants from the outlying communities. We have less representation at the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, sports and recreation is critical to life in the NWT. We need to ensure that our children and youth always have outlets and opportunities to play and compete in sports. We know that sports give discipline, structure, and opportunities. Exercise and sports is good for mental health as it is widely reported, and it is a healthy outlet.

Mr. Speaker, one of the Tlicho community governments, specifically Behchoko, the recreation budget is about \$2 million but they get very little support from MACA for recreation program, less than \$100,000. The funding and recreation programs are using the funds by renting out the sportsplex to other people to generate funds. And even the rent is not enough to sustain the program and services delivered.

Our infrastructure funding, the community government funding, CPI and gas tax, is about \$1.7 million, which is nowhere near our infrastructure need, for example, replacing aging pipe in Behchoko and Edzo. This project will take up – Mr. Speaker, can I have unanimous consent to conclude.

---Unanimous consent granted

Thank you. The infrastructure funding CPI and gas tax is about \$1.7 million, which is nowhere near the infrastructure needs of the community to replace the aging pipe in Behchoko and Edzo. This project will take up to \$30 million, and this is a big challenge. The community government operation and maintenance and water and sewer subsidy funding are not increasing. And as you are aware, the fuel prices, power costs, food – the increase in

groceries are all increasing. The cost of living are increasing, and it is –fficult to make ends meet. Sports is so important to children and youth it is recognized to reduce the risk of suicide.

Mr. Speaker, due to lack of funds, community government are struggling to deliver program and services. Communities in my ridings are having to do cutbacks in workers. Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that we do not cut the recreation department. We need to ensure that above all else that children and youth always have access to playing and competing in sports. Thank you. I will have questions for the Minister of MACA.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1337-19(2):  
EULOGY FOR BRIAN KOTCHEA

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I get into my Member's statement, I'd just like to wish my two daughters, Nancy and Deborah, a Happy Birthday today.

Mr. Speaker, Brian Kotchea was born on June 7th, 1970, in Fort Liard, to Frederick and Martine Kotchea. He was one of 11 children. They raised their children at the family's traditional camp at Francois, British Columbia. This is where Brian gained many traditional skills from his parents and spoke fluent Slavey. At the camp, Brian developed his traditional skills and knowledge to become a successful hunter and trapper. Over the years, Brian was always known to be good in the bush and a very skilled hunter. According to his brothers, "Brian was one-of-a-kind hunter who would skin a moose fast and would always be happy when he was on the land."

In 1987 Brian had met Alma in Trout Lake, and in 1988 they had their first child - Bianca, then followed by Neil, then four more children - Brianne, Blair, Brett, and Briant. His family was his everything, including Alma's oldest daughter Tanya who lived in Trout Lake.

Not only was Brian a skilled hunter and trapper but he was also a self-taught mechanic and carpenter. It did not matter if it was crafting a boat or a toboggan, fixing snowmobiles or outboard motors, or fixing log cabins or fireplaces, he was at home in the outdoors. As Brian had knowledge of making birch bark basket and canoes which he loved doing with his wife.

Brian was a good teacher and taught his children the importance of appreciating the land and using the resources that were presented. He always had his children or young nieces and nephews with him. Brian was the happiest when his children were helpful with tasks at the camp, boating or hunting. Brian loved to go moose hunting along the Liard River. He was well known as a skilled moose hunter and enjoyed hunting with his family and friends but, most importantly, he was able to share his teachings with them, especially with his son Brett.

Brian enjoyed the traditional way of life and shared his skills of harvesting moose meat and sharing whatever he can. He was considerate of others. Brian was passionate about being on the land and often spent much of his time in the bush. Beside loving his family and being in the bush, he enjoyed listening to Elvis. Elvis was always being played at his house or in his vehicles and he would love singing to his children.

Brian was known for his sense of humour and always had a way to make you laugh. He was happy and did not spend much time on negative feelings. The family said that Brian lived a full life. He loved and cared for those close to him, especially his children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, Brian passed away on December 9th, 2022. Brian will be dearly missed by Alma, their children and grandchildren, and forever missed by others, and loved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and community.

Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Honourable Premier.

### Returns to Oral Questions

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 1188-19(2):  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
WITH THE CANADIAN RED CROSS

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by the Member for Great Slave on October 18, 2022, regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Red Cross.

The Emergency Management Act empowers local authorities to enter into agreements for emergency management supports, which could include agreements with the Canadian Red Cross. The issue of the Government of the Northwest Territories entering into a moratorium of understanding with the Canadian

Red Cross was raised at the NWT Association of Communities' annual general meeting on September 17th, 2022.

The GNWT recognizes the valuable services offered by the Canadian Red Cross, or CRC. The Ministers of Municipal and Community Affairs, or MACA, and the Department of Health and Social Services, met with CRC representatives to discuss services that could be available to the Northwest Territories through their organization. MACA and the CRC have explored how the services offered by the CRC could be used within the structure of the NWT Emergency Management Organization, or EMO.

Given the Emergency Management Act empowers local EMOs to enter into agreements like this, MACA has decided to not contract support with the CRC. While this may change in the future, at this time each community government is encouraged to examine their community emergency plans and determine if there is a role for external agencies such as the CRC. If community governments decide there is a need, they can contract services directly from the CRC.

The health and social services system has engaged in short-term contracts with the Canadian Red Cross in the past and will continue to engage in the future when needed. While there are no current plans for additional contracts with the organization, this could change depending on circumstances and operational requirements.

I understand that the territorial planning committee, with membership from all government departments and agencies, will be reviewing the Northwest Territories' emergency plan in the near future. Through this committee, departments are supported to examine where an agreement with the Canadian Red Cross could be beneficial for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Great Slave.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MS. NOKLEBY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I recognize my visitors in the gallery, I would like to say that I misspoke during my statement and didn't realize that Oliver Williams was in fact Cabin Radio's Ollie Williams, and I would like to just clarify that. I was sent a memo just to let me know that that was the case.

I would like to recognize CKLB's reporter Ian Down, who is in the gallery today, and his parents, Richard and Valerie Down who are visiting Yellowknife for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

**HON. DIANE ARCHIE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome my constituency assistant Arlene Hansen who is joining me this week. Thank you very much, Arlene, for being here with me. And while I'm up here, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to acknowledge our Inuvialuktun interpreters Lillian Elias and Valerie Stefansson from Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Range Lake.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start by recognizing two pages from the Range Lake North School that are in the House, Divyesh Chotalia and Ethan Bottomley. And I'm also going to try, for the hundredth time, to recognize a Range Lake constituent, Mr. David Wasylciw. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Range Lake. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will recognize the Yellowknife North pages who are here today, because they can't go anywhere. And that's Emma Grace Wells and Seiya McEachern. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Hay River North.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge and recognize the new chair of the YK1 School Board, Mr. David Wasylciw. Thank you.

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

**MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** I would like to recognize our Tlicho interpreters Jonas Lafferty and Maro Sundberg and all other interpreters that are here today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh.

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to recognize all the translators that are here today. Also, in particular, I'd like to recognize Tom Unka, Dennis Drygeese, Maro Sundberg, and Jonas Lafferty over there. Also the elders from -- translators from up North. Mahsi. Also I just want to recognize my wife at home, Aleda Edjericon. She's watching, so hi. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Willideh. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Sahtu.

**HON. PAULIE CHINNA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the translators Theresa Etchinelle and Sarah Clearly, and thanking them for translating our session here in the North Slavey language and having the people of the Sahtu enjoy our proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Sahtu. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Replies to budget address, day 3 of 7. Acknowledgements. Oral questions. Member for Thebacha.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 1340-19(2): INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT POLICY

**MS. MARTSELOS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Finance Minister tell us if the Government of the Northwest Territories has sought any feedback from Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, on the new Indigenous Employment Policy or the Employment Equity Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, a letter was sent, firstly, to all Indigenous governments back in October. Around that time, there was also a letter sent to colleagues from all of the Assembly, letting them know that this work was underway. This was, of course, in response to a commitment made in this House, I believe by the Premier, with respect to the Affirmative Action Policy and saying that it was high time to get this work moving. And so that consultative process, as I said, began in October and is continuing now. Thank you.

**MS. MARTSELOS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess maybe the Indigenous governments haven't read it yet. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us if she is confident that the Dene, Inuit, and Metis people from the NWT will be



supportive of the new Indigenous Employment Policy and the Employment Equity Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had two Indigenous governments reach out directly to my office to confirm that they wanted an opportunity to have a direct engagement on this. And I know that officials have also spoken with officials from the Department of Finance with respect to the engagements. And, Mr. Speaker, beyond that, though, with respect to what the reaction of individual members, groups, governments might be, that is not mine to presume or assume. What we have attempted to do, Mr. Speaker, is to design having both an Indigenous Employment Policy that is specific and to the Indigenous people in the Northwest Territories as well as an Employment Equity Policy which would finally modernize our system and bring us up to speed with how much of the rest of Canada, or arguably the rest of Canada is functioning, but in keeping with having the Indigenous Employment Policy here is to be reflective of the northern distinctive features that we have. And so it is my hope that we will finally be able to see some change and some movement in the public service so that it can be representative of the people here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. MARTSELOS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain why her department did not bring the new Indigenous Employment Policy and the Employment Equity Policy to Regular Members for feedback before it was announced publicly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I do have a letter that I understood had gone to Members in October. Obviously, things don't always go perfectly, and I don't know where those letters sometimes go on the other side. But it was sent in October, alerting them to the fact this was coming. More correspondence was sent in January and February to update as to the progress. I don't have a final policy yet. That's exactly where we're at. We've got a sense of the two policies and what we expect to see in them and how they might work. But as for the final drafts, I don't have them yet. Before they are in a fully final state, I'd be certainly happy to have a briefing with my colleagues to go over what we've heard, what information we've received, and apply that to, again, to the outline that we have before putting that final pen to paper. And so again, certainly looking forward to doing that. I certainly find that it is a helpful process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. MARTSELOS:** Mr. Speaker, if Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, or a majority of the NWT population rejects these two new policies mentioned, will the Finance Minister take that criticism seriously and amend these proposed policies to better reflect the will of the people of the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, the human resources and the representation of the population of the North within the public service has been something I've taken very seriously in this role and that the department takes seriously. The Affirmative Action Policy, as it is now, was from 1989. It is woefully out of date. It is not in keeping with best practices. It arguably may not be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. And it's not showing achievement. We know we're sitting at 30 percent representation of Indigenous people in a territory with 50 percent representation. So we know there's work to be done.

What the policy is seeking to do by splitting it out is having an Indigenous Employment Policy so that we can continue to give a priority to a preference to people of the Northwest Territories -- the Indigenous people of the Northwest Territories while also bringing in an equity policy because we are recognizing that there's distinct groups that are also disadvantaged, including in the Northwest Territories. So people who may be LGBTQ2IA+ peoples, disabled peoples, who aren't right now reflected and given that kind of priority. So it is my hope that we will see that the new way of approaching this targets groups that are underrepresented, does so in a way that is, you know, reflective of the values of the North, and I hope will start to get us to a place where we have a representative public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Hay River South.

QUESTION 1341-19(2):  
CIVIL FORFEITURE

**MR. ROCKY SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reality in the Northwest Territories right now is that the drug trade is expanding. You know, we see, you know, the addictions growing. We see deaths increasing. We see families torn apart. And it's important that we do something before we can't handle it.

So, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Justice tell me what happens when the RCMP seize large amounts of money, or assets, suspected to come from illegal activities; are these seizures made under criminal or civil legislation? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Minister responsible for Justice.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the RCMP has seized money or other property under the Criminal Code or Controlled Drugs and Substances Act or other applicable federal legislation, there's a number of options available to the court with respect to that seized property. If there's been a conviction for any offences for which the accused has been charged, the Crown may make an application to have the court consider whether or not the seized property is related to the offence for which the conviction arose. If the court finds that the seized property is related to the offence, the court may order the seized things to be forfeited. In some circumstances, forfeiture can be sought by the Crown where the individual charged with an offence is not convicted. But those are limited to situations such as where the accused has died, abandoned the property, or cannot be located.

There is also provisions in various pieces of territorial legislation which deal with the forfeiture of seized property when a charge has been laid, some of which require applications and discretionary decisions by the deciding justice. And in some cases, there's automatic forfeiture upon conviction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. ROCKY SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds very complicated, and I'm not sure if we really accomplish much with it.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me with respect to the illicit drug trades, in the past year how many seizures of cash or assets were made by the RCMP, and how much of that was returned to those that it was seized from? And I realize I'm asking for statistics so I will allow the question to be taken on notice. Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the Member's correct, my last answer was complicated. That's why I read it verbatim so I wouldn't get it wrong. But basically if there is a conviction, then property can be seized. If there is not a conviction, it's a different story altogether.

So I don't have the numbers that the Member is asking. As part of the efforts of the Department of Justice to start turning its mind towards this area, that is one area that we are looking into

and I hope to be able to get those numbers at some point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. ROCKY SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I'm trying to do is to find tools for the RCMP and enforcement to, you know, combat drug trade in the Northwest Territories. So I'd ask the Minister to confirm if the department has looked at current civil legislation to see if it can be used to address some of the issues caused by the drug trade. And I'm talking about, for example, the Fire Prevention Act, the Residential Tenancies Act, can we use them as it stands now or can we tweak them so that we can make it so that the RCMP might be able to use it in fighting the drug trade? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And those are the same questions that I am asking. Sometimes drug houses might be fortified and so perhaps there is a way through existing legislation to enter those premises. The Residential Tenancies Act does have provisions which allows for evictions to occur when residents are carrying on illegal activities but that's initiated by the landlord, not by the RCMP. So there are some options available but not what the Member is looking for, but we are exploring those. Thank you.

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

**MR. ROCKY SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, and we're counting on, you know, criminal legislation and it's tough to get convictions sometimes. It takes a long time. And, for instance, you know, I had one constituent who had people in the house under the Residential Tenancies Act trying to get rid of somebody because there was illegal activities there. Well, you got to prove that in court and if you don't, they just stay there.

So, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit his department to undertake a jurisdictional scan and review of civil forfeiture legislation and consider moving it forward in the NWT? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point in the Assembly, all of the department's resources are committed to other projects. So I can't commit the department to do that work right now. However, as we wrap up the work that is ongoing in this government and move closer to the beginning of the next government, there should be an opportunity for the department to begin putting their mind towards this and start looking into these pieces of legislation.

I know that the civil forfeiture legislation, I believe it's in eight provinces and in Nunavut, it's been tried in Yukon, and it is somewhat of a controversial piece of legislation. So if we do move forward with this, it will likely have to be tailored to the territory, to the people of the territory, and I just hope that, you know, the next government does move with it. I hope they have the stomach for it because there are concerns around this legislation. But as the Member stated, we have to do something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1342-19(2):  
RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT

**MS. NOKLEBY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Justice. I've inquired with our legal team, and I'm looking around the Rental Tenancy Act and I'm finding it very confusing. So the Act allows for public housing clients to be charged a maximum security deposit, which is equal to the maximum amount of one month's rent. Given that public housing clients are subsidized and some of them are paying like \$80 in rent, most of them cannot afford a \$1,600 security deposit.

So my question is, since the Minister spoke in March of this past year and agreed that there was a lot of work to be done on the act, has any work been actually done on the act and if not, is there a plan to do so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Minister responsible for Justice.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last major amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act were in 2015. There have been amendments in 2017, 2018, and 2019. But since March, the department has been focusing on getting its current initiatives over the finish line. This is really the busiest time of the year, and we're trying to get everything wrapped up so there has not been work on the Residential Tenancies Act; however, the rental officer, in the annual reports, has been putting forward recommendations and so, you know, this is a live issue that the Member is talking about. So it will be considered early in the next Assembly when the department undertakes a review of the Residential Tenancies Act. Thank you.

**MS. NOKLEBY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've seen on social media that a petition has been started to instill a maximum rent or rent cap for the NWT. Is this something that the Department of Justice could work on

proactively ahead of receiving this petition? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, again, all of the resources of the department are tied up right now, and so there won't be any work on this. But it will inform the work that will be done in the next government. In 2014, prior to those 2015 amendments I mentioned, there was a significant amount of work done looking into capping rent; however, it was ultimately decided not to proceed down that road.

We really do need to take a look at the housing market in the territory and ensure that whatever we do does not hinder any future development because although a rent cap would, I'm sure, help a number of people, more houses would help more people. So it is a balance that needs to be struck. But we don't want to see people being evicted because of, you know, increases of 50 percent on their rent. So it is a live issue, and I'm sure the department will consider it in the next government. Thank you.

**MS. NOKLEBY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, it's actually a really live problem given that some people's rent just recently went up \$1,000 a month here in Yellowknife, in the Premier's riding actually. So I'm not sure if she's done anything about it, but I'm highly doubtful, so does the Minister -- my apologies, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Minister have any plans to deal with the Birchwood Apartment situation that is ongoing right now? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would need a bit more description about what the Member is referring to by "the Birchwood Apartment situation." Thank you.

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

**MS. NOKLEBY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, clearly the Minister does not have his ear to the ground. It's the only thing that I've been seeing all over social media right now is this increase in rent which can only really be called a forced eviction. It's shocking to me to hear a Minister say that he is not live to the situation of what is going on here in the capital.

I'm going to move on, though, because I think my opinions of this Cabinet are pretty clear.

News articles have pointed out that there is a new tenants' association being formed. Are any plans being made to collaborate with this new tenants' association or to commit to creating a working committee or a working group with the tenants? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have my ear to the ground and my nose to the grindstone. I was not familiar with the name of the apartment building. I am familiar with the situation that the Member is speaking about. As I stated, any work on this is going to have to happen after we complete the initiatives that are currently underway. So either later in this government or early in the next government. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 1343-19(2):  
OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN  
NUNAKPUT CONSTITUENCY

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today was on the federal government restrictions on extended year for the moratorium.

Mr. Speaker, where does my Premier stand and what is she doing to ensure that the offshore oil and gas moratorium gets lifted at this next and final -- I'm hoping the final deadline; where does she stand and this government stand? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Nunakput. Honourable Premier.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to try to keep this precise but I've got a lot to say on this. Where I stand personally? I have concerns about it. Where we stand professionally, basically we're really saying like you need to consult with us. That was a promise that was made. I do know that the natural gas and the light crude in the Beaufort Delta actually creates less pollution than many other major energy sources in the world. So we do have things to offer up there.

What have we done about it? There was a letter sent on June 22nd to Minister of northern affairs Daniel Vandal, from myself, expressing my disappointment in the unilateral decision.

I also met with the Northern Premiers from the three territories and raised my concerns. The three Northern Premiers also sent a letter on July 22nd -- or 2022 about the unilateral decision. I've had a personal/impersonal meetings with the Minister of northern affairs a couple of times and expressed my disappointment as well. I've had two meetings with the Prime Minister in May and December 2022, stating my disappointment in the unilateral decision. Officials, as well, have been meeting between September and December, just recently, with the officials federally and expressing their disappointment.

My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that the federal government at first said it was their decision, they weren't willing to discuss it any further; however, they've made some movement. They have assured me that they will be bringing the science-based review on the offshore moratorium, that they will be engaging with the communities, and the Inuvialuit regional -- region, and we're looking forward to that engagement. They're also talking about releasing the results publicly. And hopefully they will be looking at working with the GNWT to build our economy because they can't take the major economy from the Beaufort Delta and not substitute it, Mr. Speaker. On that, I'll just stop. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to remind everybody this is a settled land claim, which was done 39 years ago, and our federal government goes and shuts us down for our only way of living basically in regards to that, taking the -- I guess taking food off the table, giving us -- getting everybody on income support.

Mr. Speaker, what is the federal government giving the Government of the Northwest Territories to compensate the Beaufort Delta on not -- in taking away? What are they giving us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, I'm actually glad that the Member is bringing this issue in the House. I do know that the federal government does monitor our sessions, and I'm hoping they'll hear his words as well. These are the exact concerns that we have brought forward to the federal government. To this date, they haven't made; all they've said is they will work with us on reviewing the science-based review. They will support us in some of our building our economy, but they haven't given me a direct answer on that. And those are the questions that I would like answered from the federal government as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I brought up the moratorium and M18 project that's going to put people to work in my home community and the whole Beaufort Delta, in regards to the M18 project just outside of Tuk on 7(1)(a) lands, which is owned by the people of Tuk and under the Inuvialuit final agreement. 39 years ago it was signed again, Mr. Speaker. Again, the federal government goes and puts it under review.

Again, what are they giving us, Mr. Speaker? What are they going to give to the people of the Inuvialuit settlement region for the holdup for the M18 project? What's going to happen; what are they giving us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I'll take that more as a comment; it's a reiteration of what he said. What are they giving us, and that's the question I am asking as well - what are they giving us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Honourable Premier. Final supplementary. Member for Nunakput.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to tell my Premier that please stand up for the people of my riding and the people of the Inuvialuit settlement region, and the whole Beaufort Delta, in regards to this moratorium. And we need help. Help us help you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Nunakput; more of a comment. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 1344-19(2):  
CLOSURE OF DIAVIK DIAMOND MINE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. In my statement earlier today, I covered two aspects of the closure of the Diavik mine, on whether GNWT was going to take over the airstrip and what role, if any, GNWT is playing with regard to transition planning for NWT-based employees. I'm going to ask my questions of the Premier because they cut across a few different departments. So can the Premier tell us whether GNWT has decided to take over the Diavik airstrip at closure? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm deferring those questions to the Minister of Finance who should be able to give comprehensive answers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. Minister responsible for Finance.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the comment around the airstrip, I understand, arose with respect to materials that are now in the registry of the land and water board. Mr. Speaker, it's the land and water board that notes in its revision that it requires Diavik to include a statement of willingness to participate in discussions with government and other interested parties to assess the fate of the airstrip. So, Mr. Speaker, I gather that their statement of willingness to accept an expression of interest really is them complying

with what is required of them by the land and water board. There's not been any request on behalf of the GNWT for that. But, again, certainly would expect that they would continue to comply with what's required of them as expected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. Maybe I'm a little bit not understanding here but Diavik has indicated they want to hear from our government on whether the GNWT wants to take over this airstrip. So what is the answer? Clearly Diavik will save money by not having to reclaim the airstrip and the new owner will incur liabilities and expenses related to its ongoing operations and maintenance and ultimate reclamation.

So, can the Premier tell us whether Diavik has offered to cover these liabilities and/or whether GNWT will ask for these costs as part of any takeover arrangement? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, again, Mr. Speaker, there's been no request on behalf of the GNWT for them to undertake this. It's not been initiated by us. But, again, in reading in full the section from the land and water board, it does make clear that the regulator is asking that Diavik remain open to that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there has been the reimagine and closure project initiated by the mines. Looking at ways to better utilize all of the infrastructure that they have, looking at ways to give back in a more long and -- longer, having a legacy type of approach. We're certainly at that table with them but that is at a feasibility stage only. It's initiated by them. And, Mr. Speaker, to be very clear, it's been very clearly made to us that the diamond mines always will be reclaiming their sites and always will be doing so in line with the reclamation and closure plans that they have filed, including this one, where the regulator asked them to be open to looking at other ways to utilize the airstrip. They're open to receiving that. There's no request coming from the GNWT, Mr. Speaker, but we will always continue to engage to ensure that there is -- again, that we understand what's happening, that we are ready, and that that's the same case here. But there's no plans on our end to be requesting their airstrip, only that, again, they are following what they are being asked to do. And it's my understanding that they'll be moving forward with the reclamation plans, and progressive reclamation, exactly as required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. I think we have a failure to communicate here so let me try it this way: So the closure plan says

that DDMI's waiting an expression of interest from the GNWT on a path forward and a schedule for transferring the airstrip responsibilities. That's from DDMI.

So can the Minister confirm and provide this side with the information, confidentially if necessary, has Diavik asked our government to take over the airstrip or even asked our government whether we're interested in taking it over? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they haven't asked us to take the airstrip. We haven't asked them to leave the airstrip. The land and water board, very clearly here, says that they had a requirement that they wanted Diavik to be open to it and Diavik has said that they're open to receiving something. But we're not asking for it. We're not looking for it. And nor have they asked us to take it. So for the third time, I think they are complying with what they've been asked to do by the water board, which is exactly what we expect of the mines that operate in the Northwest Territories, that they would always read carefully everything they're being asked to do and comply with it. My reading here is that that's what they're doing. I don't represent the water board nor do I represent the mine. But, again, I'm not sure if I can be much more clear about it. They haven't asked us. We haven't asked them. They are complying. And we're all going to keep talking as we move forward towards reclamation and closure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. That's a little clearer, thank you. I understand Diavik hasn't asked us. We haven't asked them. So the issues probably still unresolved. But if we're going to take it on, we better get the money that goes with it.

So but, Mr. Speaker, I want to move on to the other issue that I raised, which is transition planning. So there's apparently 500 NWT/Nunavut workers at the site. So can the Premier tell us what, if any, role GNWT has played in the transition planning to date and whether there are any plans to do anything more substantive to assist the employees? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to say that with respect to socio-economic agreement monitoring that does take place, ITI is certainly one of the leads at that table. But this is where you do have ECE and Health and Social Services all involved, all working on this.

GNWT does continue to have engagement with the mines to ensure that we understand their employment needs and their timelines to work with them so that there are training availabilities, whether mine training society or through ECE.

I can also say, Mr. Speaker, that because we are involved in that work with respect to all of the socio-economic agreements, there are other projects in the Northwest Territories who also have obligations to hire, and I expect that there will be many opportunities at those other mines, at the other two existing diamond mines, to quite readily achieve their targets by moving forward to take on these workers.

I say that with some confidence, Mr. Speaker, because when we had the Ekati shut down, we saw that the Northern employees very quickly were able to, in fact, find employment. So, again, I'm confident that with the time that we have, the runway that we have, that we would, in fact, be well able to accommodate those workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1345-19(2):  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**MR. BONNETROUGE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions today would be for the MACA Minister but first I'd like to acknowledge that the Premier mentioned the Canadian Red Cross and their presence here in the Northwest Territories. Perhaps we should look at utilizing their services to help the small communities because we got dire emergencies on the first responders in our communities as we're left to our own devices.

I'd like to talk about the volunteer fire departments which are -- it's a voluntary service within our communities. There was an incident about a week ago in our community, about 4 o'clock in the morning. There was a shack -- a fire call to a shack and there was only one person from the fire department that showed up. And it was a good thing that that one person did show up and knew how to drive the truck because he saved a life.

So you know, we got challenges keeping volunteers all the time. There's no resources going to it. Most times nowadays, you know, you have to pay somebody to do very many things. And we haven't been given any further resources from the department to keep and maintain volunteer firefighters, training exercises, ongoing things.

I'm wondering if the Minister can advise if there are any plans to deal with the volunteer fire departments in the small communities? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Deh Cho. Minister responsible for MACA.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, the Member talks about a very difficult and challenging situation in the communities. The department has regional assistant fire marshals out there that work with the communities. The communities just need to reach out to them. We can offer the training through the school of community government. The Member talks about the lack of volunteers. That's one of the challenges that we see a lot of, but we are working with the communities. So if the communities in his riding are looking for support, we are more than willing to bring in our staff to come in and help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BONNETROUGE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. And mahsi to the Minister for that reply. I think we're still facing challenges. Like I was saying before, like it's always like a lip service that we receive. They keep saying well, we got, you know, fire -- Office of the Fire Marshal or somebody that's working with our communities; apparently they're not, because I'm bringing out these issues. And it's for the other communities, the small communities which we're having challenges. And like I'm saying, we could probably utilize the Red Cross services, or the Canadian Red Cross, in our communities. The government just has to pay for that service so they can come in and help us bolster our volunteer fire departments. So I'm wondering if the Minister is open to that idea? Mahsi.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, I represent six small communities as well. I know my communities have reached out to the assistant fire marshal's office. The office is more than willing to come into the communities and work with them. We're also -- school of community government, we've had the ability to go into the community and work with the community specifically. So if we have volunteers that need first aid training, if they need fire training, we're more than willing to go into those communities to work with them. So the community, we can have the staff there. So that's what we're willing to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BONNETROUGE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's more lip service that I'm hearing, because I'm standing here, you know, on behalf of all the small communities saying we need something done to help our communities. Send your staff in. Now I'm hearing the school of government, you know,

community government now, and then the fire marshal. Yet they're still sitting there where I'm asking on behalf of all the small communities to get your staff out there and get helping our communities. Can the Minister commit to doing that? Mahsi.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I need to clarify. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, that's their regional job, is to get into the communities. The communities, as soon as they ask, we get in there. The school of government's willing to come in and offer courses there. The school has a calendar of events but if there's specifically one area that they need, we work with the community to do that. So we're more than willing to do that. The staff go in there. They are working with the communities. As soon as the communities ask, the regional offices work with them to get staff in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BONNETROUGE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. More lip service. That's what I'm getting from this department - nothing but lip service. I'm asking on behalf of the communities, the small communities, get your staff out there to communicate with the communities; don't wait for them. We're crying for help out there. And I'd probably be going back to the Minister again; can the Minister commit to getting his staff to reaching out to the small communities? Mahsi.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** I guess the Member's not listening. I guess I'm not speaking properly here so I'm going to try this one more time. The staff reach out to the communities. The communities reach out to the staff. We work on a plan. So if the Member wishes us to reach out to his community, we will reach out to his communities again. But we work with them. That's our process. We work with them. When they ask us to get in there to help, we do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1346-19(2):  
CARBON TAXATION

**MS. SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we've been talking about is carbon tax this week and so my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

You know, I also want to know, like, how we're ever going to grow the Northwest Territories' population when the federal government is forcing the NWT to create a new logo I guess,

is what I'm thinking, is move to the Northwest Territories where you can wear a parka eight months of the year in your house just so you could feed your family. You know, that's what carbon tax is going to make people do, is choose.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Finance explain why \$15 million, or the 25 percent of the carbon tax revenues, will not be rebated to households, businesses, local and Indigenous governments, or NGOs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, even if we don't accept the proposal that we're putting forward, the tax rates will not change. The tax rates that are being put in place on April 1st from the federal government for carbon tax are coming. What we're trying to do, and what we've done is, particularly after discussions with Members, we're proposing to have a heating fuel offset that will be based on the average household heating usage in the high use zones, middle use zone, and the smaller use zone, which from our calculations, will cover the costs for residents of the increases to the carbon -- as a result of the carbon tax. We are doing that in a way that, of course -- that's the made-in-the-North approach. It allows us to have the flexibility of what to do with the increases in revenues.

We're also, in answering the first half of the Member's question, Mr. Speaker, with respect to what we're going to do to keep people coming up here is to actually have some viable industry. Our approach to the large emitters as opposed to the output-based system of the federal government, Mr. Speaker, is going to allow us that when as diamond mines or other mines or other large emitters may see their production falling, may see the closure plans, that they're not tied to a certain amount that once they're in, they're in. It allows them to plan for closure. It also allows smaller projects, we hope to be seeing, getting off the ground here to be also not subject to the large version of the carbon tax from the federal government.

So we are, again, looking to fully fund as much as can be done for the average resident, their impact, direct and indirect, by carbon tax, and keep industry functioning in a way that is actually adaptive to the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, the question I asked is why is this \$15 million, or 25 percent, being held by the

GNWT to go into general revenues? Where is it going; why is it not going back so we're carbon neutral for some of our businesses? I know I had this discussion on Yukon, the way that they're rebating with the Minister. You know, they have got small businesses, medium businesses that are being rebated, but I guess it's a little bit more complicated than just being rebated.

So will the Minister look at our plan, a made-in-the-NWT plan, that will include businesses, and if it's not so complicated as Yukon, that they can get a rebate out of this 25 percent that we're keeping back, because obviously the last five years we didn't do anything, or four years that we had the carbon tax and we held this money back. Nobody applied on it or whatever. Nobody knew what to do with it. So let's give it back to our small business, our medium business. I don't have a restaurant. I don't have anything in my community because it's too expensive for any overhead costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, keeping control of the revenues in the Northwest Territories allows us to do exactly what the Member is saying and to look at where -- once the carbon tax come in, are there costs that we have not accounted for? The Yukon system, I don't want to speak to another government's system, but very briefly, it is based on assets. It is not based on fuel usage. It is not a direct offset. It is not an uncomplicated system, Mr. Speaker. What we are anticipating, and having done calculations of fuel usage over the last few years, we can anticipate what the added costs to business are that will be passed down to the consumers and residents and add that in to the cost of living offset so that businesses can raise their costs and pass that down. But, on the other end, we were able to include that with the cost of living offset so that the market can adjust for the private sector, but that's so residents don't see themselves penalized as a result of that. And again, as we move forward, if we are maintaining control over the revenues, we're able to continue to adapt that system as we go forward.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a wash for us. There's quite a number in addition to the cost of living offset. Mr. Speaker, we're paying income assistance -- for folks that are on income assistance living in public housing, the GNWT's covering all those increased costs. So this is not some great, great revenue source in general. There's, you know, tens of millions of dollars being spent on strategic energy initiatives. Money that's being spent over on climate change initiatives with the department of ENR.



Far in excess of any extra amount that we are getting in the revenue in the carbon tax. So, again, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll leave it at that and see where the next question takes me.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Colleagues, please keep your sidebar to a minimum. Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

**MS. SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I'm going to go back to that 25 percent. Mr. Speaker, our municipalities are not even included. We already know our municipal governments are underfunded. You know, they need to keep the lights on. Every one of us have either had family, friends, or anybody, or we take part in any kind -- garbage, you know, snow removal, all these things are going to cost more for the municipal governments. So why are we not giving any of this money back to our municipal governments out of this 25 percent that we're holding back for our government slush fund? I don't know, because I don't know what it is. If this government wants us to vote in favour of a made-in-the-NWT, it needs to fit the NWT and it needs to fit our municipal governments, our residents, and not just the mines, all our businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, carbon tax is coming. Mr. Speaker, the large emitters right now -- businesses don't have a special program under the federal system either. The federal government will decide where they want to put the money, how they want to put the money. Right now where we've seen them put their money is in electric vehicles, in heat pumps, which don't work in the Northwest Territories. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that that's necessarily the direction that we all want to go with. As I've said before, we have figured out what the fuel usages have been in the business sector and the private sector, added that into the cost of living offset for residents, so that businesses should realize that they can raise those costs and that they will be offset. We can't take away the signal on carbon tax. That's exactly what the federal government said we can't do. So what else can we do? Again, we're trying to target residents so that they have the spending power to go out and keep the economy churning, trying to ensure that the large emitters, who would be otherwise under the federal system, are able to adapt so that they can come. They can continue to operate here, provide to the Northwest Territories economy. But also, Mr. Speaker, in the last round of conversation, I believe, at the last public briefing, we said we would work with the communities if they want to share with us what they anticipate their actual costs to be.

We've already gone to \$55 million in contributions to communities with this current budget proposal. That's bringing us up to the \$5 million gap that was in the mandate, and we will continue to work with them. So if we know what exactly it is that the communities say they are needing and spending, again, if we have that -- there's no slush fund. It's called the consolidated revenue fund. It is literally the dollars that pays everyone and everything in this building and everywhere else; it's not a slush fund. So bring us the actuals and we're happy to have that conversation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MS. SEMMLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, the federal government, like I said in my Member's statement, is forcing the hand of all of us to do their -- to do this work. They want us off oil. Our MP has said we need to move from oil. Okay, so what are we going to use? We've heard from other people, like pellets. We're sending our pellets in Canada to the UK. So oil and gas, we can't even use our oil and gas. Inuvik, we've had -- we had natural gas but now we're on trucked-in propane. We're trucking it up on diesel fuel trucks. Like, this is not an NWT -- made-in-the-NWT. I mean, if Justin Trudeau wants to hear me, this is not working for us in the Northwest Territories. We probably have about 10,000 people that pay taxes and the rest are, you know, like underage or, you know, seniors. So how is this government, Minister Wawzonek, Minister of Finance, how are you going to go back and fix it? Like, we need businesses included in this, not just -- you know, and we need municipalities before it's been brought back to this House, before we vote on it, because I don't think this side of the House is going to support it, and then we're going to be forced at the hand to have a federal backstop.

So will this Minister, please, try and work with us to try and make sure all of the areas get covered so that we're not hurting anymore? Thank you.

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that because of our consensus government, I'm in a position to be able to share with the MLAs the correspondence we've written. They know I share their frustration. I can't necessarily publish those letters publicly, but they know I share their frustration. I was at a finance ministers meeting just last week. It is an opportunity not necessarily to say a lot, but I spoke about the carbon tax at my finance ministers meeting, Mr. Speaker. I share their

frustration. It is unfortunate that when we went through the public process of engagement back last fall that we didn't have this level of discussion then. I did take the Members' recommended requests at that time to create the three-tiered system. We did exactly as we were requested in that respect. Unfortunately, now we are at a position we're being asked to do more. I have, again -- I haven't received from the committee what happened at the public briefing that we had when it was the clause by clause, it became a public briefing. I know there was submissions made. I haven't received them. I've made it clear that if there is something that we can do for municipalities in terms of understanding their actuals that we can look at what we can do to try to support them. I haven't received that. We are down to the wire a little bit, Mr. Speaker, but we can pivot; we can react quickly. I am certain that we can find a path forward other than relying on the federal approach that seems to look at EVs and heat pumps and wood pellets. So, Mr. Speaker, we will keep working together and we'll see our path forward. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 1347-19(2):  
RECREATION SUPPORT IN COMMUNITIES

**MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know there are some communities -- some community governments are funding recreation programs by renting out their sportsplex. For example, when you go to Behchoko, you will see Ticho government department situated in the sportsplex. They're renting out space so that they can fund their recreation program.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm if there are active recreation departments or centres in every community in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Minister responsible for MACA.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is rec facilities in every community, whether it's a community hall, small gym, gym, rec centres, curling rinks, hockey rinks there. So if that's what the Member's looking for, yes, that's what's in these communities. Thank you.

**MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Well, I can tell you Gameti does not have one. So can the Minister commit to ensuring every community has an active recreation department that is provided with an adequate budget that provides organized sports, sports activities? Thank you.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we work with the municipal governments. We do have staff there. Gameti has, my understanding they have a school gym. They also have an outdoor rink that's covered. So there is facilities there. And we do provide funding in the communities for after school activities as well, whether it's the rec department or the school that offers these opportunities. But we're more than willing -- if there's a community that needs help, then we're more than willing to work with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** What is MACA doing to ensure that all communities have the resources they need to provide sports and recreation; i.e. a sports centre in Gameti? Thank you.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each community builds their own capital plan. They provide what facilities they want. Each community sometimes have just only a small community gym. In my riding, I have a community that has a small community gym. That's it, a small hall. So each community provides that opportunity, builds their own capital plan to provide that opportunity to build facilities in their communities. So we work with the communities. We have staff that work with them on their budgets and capital plan. We move forward on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1348-19(2):  
SCHOOL FUNDING

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

Mr. Speaker, school boards currently do a point-in-time count on September 30th of every year for student enrolment. This point-in-time count includes specifications for additional funding like special support needs of individual students. Unfortunately, this point-in-time count is not reflected in the school board's funding until 13 months later in the following school year. This makes serving the needs of existing students quite difficult for school boards.

So I'm wondering, can the Minister explain why funding is not delivered in the current school year to address the needs of existing student populations? Thank you.

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

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the reason is to ensure that there is some stability, some consistency, and some certainty for education bodies. They will know what their budget will be in the next year based on the numbers from the current year. As well, we need to line up with the GNWT fiscal year. So these numbers need to get into this budget, and that process is largely finalized by December. So those are the primary reasons. Thank you.

**MS. CLEVELAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it appears that this piece of kind of the GNWT funding or funding requirements are placing some unnecessary strain on the operational budget of some of our school boards, especially with changes that have happened in the last few years, or changes that can happen from year to year.

So while a point-in-time count is done on September 30th, the policy that guides that states that children must be present for 50 percent or more of the month. In other jurisdictions, the point-in-time count does not stipulate attendance and looks only at student enrolment on September 30th.

Is the Minister willing to remove the 50 percent attendance stipulation from the policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So attendance for the month of September is taken based on 60 percent of the sessional days in that month. Excused absences are included as an attending student. So if there's a legitimate reason why a student is not there, those are included as the student being in attendance.

There is always tweaks to the funding framework that happen, basically, yearly. An ongoing discussion that we have with the education bodies, and I'm happy to have that conversation about this particular item as well. Thank you.

**MS. CLEVELAND:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Minister for that correction from the 50 to 60 percent as well.

School boards have indicated that COVID-related school closures and on the land absences can have an impact on school attendance as counted for student enrolment. So I'm wondering if the Minister can speak to kind of what provisions are in place to make sure that either COVID school closures that had students out of the classroom, or on the land experiences and absences, are somehow accounted for to make sure that school boards

are not penalized for encouraging students to partake in on the land activities? Thank you.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If a school is closed due to COVID and there's no students attending, then those students aren't marked as absent so it doesn't count against those numbers. And in terms of being out on the land, if a student is out on the land with their family, they're hunting, that can be considered an excused absence because we recognize how important that is. There may be instances where this isn't recorded properly; it falls through the cracks. But that is our policy. Thank you.

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

**MS. CLEVELAND:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to say thank you to the Minister and both his deputy minister, who were willing to have a meeting about this at 6:30 this morning, to try and -- so I could learn some more about it and so I can say that they are very receptive to talking about it.

But given that, and given the importance of making sure that our school operations are properly funded for the students that are currently in our schools, will the Minister commit to following up with school boards to have a conversation about this policy and how it can be further tweaked? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. R.J. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the regular work of the department. There's ongoing conversations, sometimes specific to this, this exact issue, sometimes peripheral to it that will inform the issue, so this is just what happens on a regular basis. And I will also say that school boards do have a surplus that they're allowed to maintain. It can't be greater than 7 percent but that is only to ensure that money is actually being spent on students. But school boards do have surpluses for instances where they are finding themselves short on funds. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 1349-19(2):  
RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUPPORT IN COMMUNITIES

**MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, community government are struggling as is with funding received from MACA. I'm sure community government would like to build such facility to accommodate the young people, but they cannot afford with the money that they have currently.

So I'm going to ask the Minister, will the Minister commit to advocate to the Infrastructure Minister to build recreation centres in communities that lack such facilities, to promote sports, so that next Arctic Winter Games we will see more young people from small communities represented at Arctic Winter Games? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Monfwi. Minister responsible for MACA.

**HON. SHANE THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's a unique way, I thank the Member for talking about that but, unfortunately, we have a process that we work with the communities and we develop their capital plan. A few years back, we got away from us, as the government, building facilities and so the communities get the money through that there. But what I can tell you is we've reached out with NWTAC and we've reached out to the federal government. So we're trying to get these funding opportunities to be able to bundle things, work on getting increase in funding so we can help communities build facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1350-19(2):  
RHEUMATOLOGY SERVICES

**MR. JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of health recognize that the future of our health system is not just to keep moving our specialized services down to Alberta and bring back our rheumatology program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

**HON. JULIE GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our priority is always patient care. The reality of the size of our territory is that we can't attract or fully engage specialists here the way a specialist working in a population of a million people can. So we continue to depend on Alberta health services to supplement our healthcare system, and we're very grateful that they triage our patients the same as Albertans so that we get very good service from them. Thank you.

**MR. JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I recognize that sometimes we have to cancel a service because it is difficult; there's not the ability to get those practitioners. But I want to know whether this cancellation of rheumatology is a permanent cancellation because we couldn't find a person or whether

this is now the new reality that we have lost this program forever? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JULIE GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to, first of all, say that the 400 people who need services from rheumatology continue to get those services, not in Yellowknife but in Alberta. So the program is not offered here but there are services available to people with rheumatoid arthritis.

What I want to say is that this is a temporary interruption. The medical director has been clear that the intention is to rebuild the program with a better service model that provides care close to home and she continues, I know, to work on this as a priority.

In the past, we have closed the chemotherapy unit and also the colonoscopy unit in order to rethink and improve the services and those services, of course, came back and rheumatology will too, but I can't say when.

**MR. JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if when this decision was made, or if the Minister of health knows, whether this is actually more expensive? I imagine that -- we are sending 400 patients down to Alberta, we're going to get quite a big bill both from Alberta and our medical travel. So I'm just curious, in the long-term, when we're looking at rebuilding this program, does that actually save us money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JULIE GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, this is a core service of the NTHSSA and so when people need this service, it's provided, and so we budget an amount, which we'll see in the main estimates. But if it turns out there's more demand than we have money for, then we go through a supplementary appropriation to ensure that we have the money we need to pay for the services that are offered.

The additional cost here is for medical travel but we always paid Alberta for the services and so we continue to pay them, in Edmonton now, rather than operating here. Thank you.

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

**MR. JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that this is a priority to rebuild this program. And my question is, I believe at one point the hope was to build the continuity of care and not just be a rheumatology but, you know, a multidisciplinary arthritis program. And I'm wondering if in the plans going forward to do that that is in the works? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. JULIE GREEN:** Yes, thank you. I don't have any information on a comprehensive program.

Osteoarthritis, which I have, and rheumatoid arthritis are different conditions. Rheumatoid arthritis is an immune system issue, usually diagnosed in people when they are in their early 30s and requires ongoing care. Osteoarthritis is not the same problem, and it's dealt with by orthopaedic surgeons, not by rheumatologists. So what I can see happening is that the more intense care that people with rheumatoid arthritis need will be rebuilt here in the NWT so that we can achieve our two goals of making patient care close to home a priority and having the service offered here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Colleagues, our time for oral questions has expired. I'd just like to caution Members not to get too deep into a bill while it is before committee or committee deliberations for the next following weeks. But I do understand major concerns. Thank you.

Oral questions. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to the Commissioner's address. Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Reports of standing and special committees. Tabling of documents. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 823-19(2):  
LETTER TO PREMIER AND MINISTERS  
REGARDING COMMUNITY VISIT TO  
LUTSEL K'E, FORT RESOLUTION, DETTAH  
AND NDILO

**MR. EDJERICON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter dated February 9th, 2023, which I want to send to the Premier and the Minister regarding community visits to Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution, Dettah, and N'dilo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Tabling of documents. Member for Nunakput.

TABLED DOCUMENT 824-19(2):  
CBC ARTICLE, POSTED JANUARY 2, 2023:  
FEDS EXTEND RESTRICTIONS ON ARCTIC  
OFFSHORE DRILLING

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the "feds" -- federal government extend restrictions to Arctic offshore drilling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Nunakput. Tabling of documents. Member for Hay River South.

TABLED DOCUMENT 825-19(2):  
UNLAWFUL PROPERTY FORFEITURE ACT,  
NUNAVUT

TABLED DOCUMENT 826-19(2):  
CIVIL FORFEITURE ACT, BILL NO. 82,  
YUKON

TABLED DOCUMENT 827-19(2):  
CIVIL FORFEITURE ACT, SBC 2005,  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

TABLED DOCUMENT 828-19(2):  
CIVIL FORFEITURE ACT, CHAPTER C-15.2,  
ALBERTA

**MR. ROCKY SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following documents: one, Unlawful Property Forfeiture Act, Nunavut; two, Civil Forfeiture Act, Bill No. 82, Yukon; three, Civil Forfeiture Act, SBC 2005, British Columbia; and four, Civil Forfeiture Act, Chapter C-15.2, Alberta. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Hay River South. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. Motions. 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, Bill 23 and 29, Minister's Statement 264-19(2), Tabled Document 681-19(2), Tabled Document 694-19(2), Tabled Document 813-19(2), with Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler):** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Member for Frame Lake.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Madam la Presidente. I move that the chair rise and report progress. Mahsi.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler):** Thank you. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** May I please have the report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

**MS. SEMMLER:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 23, Bill 29, Minister's Statement 264-19(2), Tabled Document 681-19(2), Tabled Document 694-19(2), and Tabled Document 813-19(2), and would like to report progress. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Do we have a seconder? Member for Hay River South. All those in favour. All those opposed? Any abstentions? The motion is carried.

Third reading of bills. Minister responsible for Finance.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 62:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT,  
NO. 2,  
CARRIED

**HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 62, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. The Minister has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

### RECORDED VOTE

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Glen Rutland):** The Member for Yellowknife South. The Member for Sahtu. The Member for Range Lake. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. The Member for Yellowknife Centre. The Member for Hay River North. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. The Member for Deh Cho. The Member for Hay River South. The Member for Kam Lake. The Member for Frame Lake. The Member for Nunakput. The Member for Yellowknife North. The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. The Member for Monfwi. The Member for Great Slave. The Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise.

Colleagues, the results of the recorded vote: 17 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 62 has had third reading.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Glen Rutland):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight will be meeting at rise of the House today.

Orders of the day for Monday, February 13th, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
  - Oral Question 1326-19(2), NIHB Covered Areas
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Replies to the Budget Address (Day 4 of 7)
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to the Commissioner's Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Motions
18. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 64, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3

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

- Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act
- Bill 29, Resource Royalty Information Disclosure Statute Amendment Act
- Minister's Statement 264-19(2), Response to the NWT Chief Coroner's Report on Suicide
- Tabled Document 681-19(2), Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 26-19(2): Report on the Child and Family Services Act – Lifting Children, Youth and Families: An All of Territory Approach to Keeping Families Together
- Tabled Document 694-19(2), Northwest Territories Coroner Service 2021-2022 Early Release of Data
- Tabled Document 813-19(2), Main Estimates

22. Report of Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, February 13th, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

