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The Honourable Frederick Blake Jr, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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(Thebacha)

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(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)
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Minister responsible for Youth

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(Yellowknife South)
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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, June 1, 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, Hon. R.J. Simpson, Mr. Rocky Simpson, Ms. Semmler, Hon. Shane Thompson, Hon. Caroline Wawzonek, Ms. Weyallon Armstong

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.): Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 369-19(2):
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN – GRADE 12
UPDATES

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to wrap up another school year, I want to highlight a number of exciting initiatives that reflect our government's commitment to improve student outcomes in the Northwest Territories. This semester, three high schools in the territory piloted the new Northern Studies 30 curriculum. This made-in-the-NWT high school course is the first in the territory to follow British Columbia's curricular framework. Topics range from oral history and traditions to historical land use, colonization, language reclamation, NWT treaties and land claim agreements, consensus government, and Arctic sovereignty. It also delves into the role of social media, mental health and addictions, and cultural appropriation.

Mr. Speaker, we are already seeing meaningful discussions and learning take place as part of this curriculum. At Ulukhaktok's school, elders advised and guided students to build an igloo village. This led to conversations about past, present, and future housing challenges in the North. Now, equipped with a deeper understanding, the class is working with elders and planning to build a permanent, accessible outdoor meeting space.

Mr. Speaker, this example highlights the benefits of hands-on, practical instruction based on competencies. This is core to the new, adapted junior kindergarten to grade 12

curriculum we will begin trialing in several grades this fall.

The British Columbia curriculum is modern, flexible, and emphasizes Indigenous perspectives and knowledge. It focuses on literacy and numeracy, not just reading, writing, and math but also communicating and problem solving. Rather than students memorizing definitions and dates, this curriculum encourages interaction and engagement. Students are empowered to get involved in their own education.

The curriculum committees made up of educators from across the NWT are working to adapt this modern curriculum to the NWT context. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has finalized several major steps toward implementing the curriculum, including the timeline for each school year, new graduation requirements, and the schedule for educator training.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to talk about the excellent online education tool we have renewed this year, the NWT Historical Timeline. From origin stories to present day events, this timeline depicts the history, cultures, and people that make up this territory. It features photos and documents from the NWT Archives, as well as objects from the museum's collection including artwork, tools, clothing and more. This valuable resource makes these stories, photos, pivotal events, and ways of life accessible to not just students and educators but to everyone in the territory and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, an update on education would not be complete without recognition of those at the forefront of this work. In every community and in every school, our educators and school staff play a vital role in student success. It was my privilege earlier today to recognize the inductees of the 2023 Northwest Territories Education Hall of Fame. I would like to extend my congratulations once again to this year's inductees. These remarkable individuals are truly making a difference in the lives of children, students, educators and communities, and I thank them for their dedication and passion. We

have many with us in the gallery today, and at the appropriate time I will be recognizing them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 370-19(2):
CELEBRATING SENIORS MONTH

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. June is Seniors Month, a time for us to recognize the important role of seniors in our families, communities, and the territory. They connect us with language, land, and culture, and bridge the past with the future.

Under the mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories 2019-2023, we are supporting this role by enabling seniors to age in place with dignity. We want to help seniors to remain at home for as long as they are able. In order to be successful, we must address the core issues. We collaborated across government and engaged seniors, their families and caregivers, municipal and Indigenous governments, and community organizations, to determine how we can improve programs, services, and initiatives to better meet the needs of seniors. The feedback we received helped the department to develop the Seniors Strategic Framework that will shape future efforts across government. The framework will be tabled this August.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the engagement process, we heard from seniors about their desire to be valued and included in meaningful ways in their communities. Today marks Intergenerational Day. Here is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and reach out across generations, fostering understanding, respect, and meaningful relationships.

Seniors want to connect with children, youth and adults alike, and share stories, culture, traditions, and wisdom drawn from a lifetime of experiences. Having strong intergenerational bonds not only contributes to wellness but also fosters a deep sense of belonging in communities. We need to recognize that many seniors experience isolation and loneliness which poses serious risks to their physical and mental well-being as well as makes them vulnerable to elder abuse. I encourage everyone to reach out and spend time with the seniors in their lives and communities today and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge that World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is coming up on June 15th. The United Nations established this day to create awareness and

encourage dialogue about all types of abuse and neglect seniors face. Governments, communities, and families must all play pivotal roles in safeguarding the well-being and safety of seniors. The Government of the Northwest Territories is reinforcing this point by providing a poster and fact sheet about the different types of abuse seniors face. These resources are available on the Department of Health and Social Services website and will be distributed to communities this summer.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge all residents to join me in celebrating the role that seniors play in our lives and to recognize their important contributions to create healthy and vibrant families and communities across the NWT. They have laid the groundwork for everything we plan to further improve and accomplish, a foundation that is critical to the future of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 371-19(2):
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION SAFETY OUTREACH
REPRESENTATIVES

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission is always looking for new ways to support employers and create a safer workplace in the Northwest Territories. Through ongoing communication and engagement with employers, the WSCC identified an opportunity to improve their services and provide additional supports for employers facing occupational health and safety challenges that is separate from their role as an enforcer of the Safety Act through penalties and fines.

Mr. Speaker, the WSCC is proud to introduce the new positions of safety outreach representative. These new positions will provide employers with technical expertise, analysis, consultation, and collaboration of services to improve workplace occupational health and safety programs, meeting occupational health and safety regulatory requirements and ultimately improve workplace safety outcomes. The WSCC's mandate is to promote and improve health and safety in the workplace. These new positions will help to achieve this by supporting employers in their understanding of occupational health and safety roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, safety outreach representatives will accomplish this through collaboration with

employers and by providing resources and guidance to create or improve safety programs.

Mr. Speaker, these safety outreach representatives can directly help employers by helping them develop an OHS program, providing them with technical expertise to identify best practices to reduce workplace incidents, and sharing educational resources to improve OHS outcomes in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, the WSCC wants to assure employers that safety outreach representatives are not safety officers. They do not have the mandate to enforce regulations and laws and are not going to provide safety officers with information that could lead to an inspection or penalty. This is a proactive, supportive step that does not penalize employers for requiring guidance to improve occupational health and safety outcomes at their workplaces.

Mr. Speaker, although safety outreach representatives will reach out to employers, and the WSCC hopes employers will take the advantage of this new non-penalty supporting and making their workplaces even safer.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that this improved service is provided by reallocating existing resources within the WSCC. Employers will not incur any additional costs and their rates will not increase as a result of these new resources.

Mr. Speaker, the three safety outreach representatives at the WSCC are hired and in place. Two are located at the WSCC office here in Yellowknife and one ready to support employers in the Northwest Territories. The third is in the WSCC's office in Iqaluit, providing support to Nunavut employers. The WSCC aims to reduce workplace incidents and injuries and these safety outreach representatives are a great resource to help employers within their own workplaces. Together, we can achieve our vision of eliminating workplace diseases and injuries. Any employer who is looking to improve health and safety in the workplace can contact the WSCC and request support from one of our safety outreach representatives today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add that my colleague in Nunavut is delivering a similar announcement and statement today as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 372-19(2):
UPDATE ON THE NWT ARTS STRATEGY

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, in 2021 the Government of the Northwest Territories released the Northwest Territories Arts Strategy, a 10-year plan to improve NWT's arts programs and services and strengthen the territory's arts sector. The first key action identified in the strategy was to complete a review of the GNWT's arts programs so that we could have a better understanding of the changes required to help us achieve our goals for the sector.

The results of this review were released in November as part of the Arts Program Review Report, reflecting the thoughts and concerns of NWT artists, craftspeople, and arts and cultural organizations. The report identifies areas of strength and weakness and provides recommendations on how to improve arts programs and services to better serve NWT residents. The GNWT will soon release its official response to these recommendations, providing a list of planned actions, their expected outcomes, and anticipated completion dates.

Mr. Speaker, a great deal of work has been taking place behind the scenes to advance the arts strategy. We are updating departmental arts mandates, implementing a way to continuously monitor and assess the effectiveness of our programs and funding, improving how artists can find and access funding, and making improvements to arts funding programs, eligibility requirements and distribution.

This government invests approximately \$2.9 million dollars in arts funding programs each year, but we know that changes can still be made to funding structures to better support NWT artists. In recognition of this, we are restructuring our existing funding programs, so they provide support to artists and arts and cultural organizations at all sizes and stages of their development.

Emerging and mid-career artists, small groups, and artists from small communities will be eligible for grants of up to \$5,000 per year for small-scale arts projects. Established artists and arts and culture organizations can receive up to \$10,000 per year for medium-sized arts projects. For large-scale arts projects, events, and festivals that bring vibrancy and economic benefits to our communities, organizations will be able to apply for \$10,000 to \$100,000 per year. Arts and cultural organizations that operate year-round will be eligible to access operational funding that will provide them with \$20,000 to \$200,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment partners with the

Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment on implementing the arts strategy. I am happy to hear that ITI is currently developing artist guidelines for the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development, or SEED funding, as it pertains specifically to arts stakeholders. To bring it all together, Mr. Speaker, ECE and ITI will develop and release a GNWT Arts Funding Roadmap that explains which department provides funding for different types of activities, making supports more accessible to artists, groups, and organizations. The announcement of this roadmap is expected in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, the arts contribute to a strong economy and enhance shared community identity and belonging. The GNWT is committed to making meaningful changes to government arts programs and funding to help establish a strong and valued arts sector that benefits everyone living in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Member for Thebacha.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1557-19(2): AGING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN FORT SMITH

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I say it numerous times throughout this Assembly that Fort Smith is home to some of the oldest school infrastructure in the territory, and it is also home to some of the last remaining former residential school and Indian Day School buildings that are still in active use in the country. The buildings I'm referring to are PWK High School and JBT Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, JBT School is 65 years old and was originally a federal Indian Day School until the building was purchased by the Government of the Northwest Territories and was converted into an elementary school which is still being used for that purpose today. In addition, the former Grandin College used to be run by the Catholic Church as a residential school until the Government of the Northwest Territories bought it and converted it to PWK High School. Since then, it has continued to be used as the former residential school building as PWK High School in Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Smith is the centre for education in the NWT. It always has been and always will be, and I want to stress that we have excellent staff all around. Fort Smith has some

extremely caring and devoted educators so I do not want to knock them at all in talking about the historical legacy of JBT or PWK schools.

So my point is the links between federal Indian Day Schools and residential school is undeniable. They are extensions of the same systems of colonialism, oppression, and assimilation towards Indigenous people. Therefore, I believe it is totally inappropriate and unacceptable for these buildings to continue being used as schools for our youth of today. If the young people of Fort Smith knew and understood the history of those buildings, I am sure they would feel unsure of the school they attend because I know that most, if not all the staff there, know of the history as do the parents and grandparents of the students who attend there today. Does our curriculum even teach or acknowledge this residential school and Indian Day School legacy that still remains in Fort Smith and the NWT? Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the statement by the Minister today on acknowledging what I was trying to say.

Mr. Speaker, both these schools are 65 and 61 years old so it's high time that they are decommissioned and replaced with brand new schools for the people of Fort Smith. It doesn't matter if either school has been maintained well and can still be used longer; the bottom line is these schools carry a heavy legacy and the youth of the future deserve better. Fort Smith needs a brand new state-of-the-art-school for both elementary and high school students so I am going to once again ask our government to follow their own capital needs assessment and replace the aging schools in Fort Smith. I will have questions for the Minister of ECE at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Members' statements. Member for Hay River South.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1558-19(2): FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EVACUEES

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I went home to attend a meeting to discuss the operation and opening of the new fish plant in Hay River. Discussion on the subject lasted for four hours and was very informative and positive. However, another topic that arose outside that discussion was that of the Evacuee Income Disruption Support Program.

Mr. Speaker, fishers, and other self-employed business owners, have been affected by the evacuation order imposed by the Town of Hay River and K'atlodeeche. They have not only lost wages but lost business income as well and are unsure whether this program applies to them. I assured them it did and recommended they fill out an application if they wished to be considered for the \$750 payment.

Mr. Speaker, the meeting about the fish plant ended around two in the afternoon at which time I went back to my office and found a lineup of evacuees, some with their children. They included both KFN and Hay River residents, some who were employed, some self-employed, some unemployed, some on income assistance, and some were pensioners; all were there to fill out the application for the \$750 support promised by this government.

Mr. Speaker, each shared with me their stories and reasons of why they needed that \$750 and why it was important they receive it as quickly as possible. Most of the people I met with were very stressed and traumatized by this event. Some I met with were crying as there was no other financial support options available to them except for what this government is providing.

The reasons for needing immediate support included:

- Limited savings and income;
- The need to pay rent or a mortgage payment;
- The need to put food on the table;
- The need for basic necessities; and,
- The need for temporary shelter.

Mr. Speaker, it is times such as this that we, as government, must show our compassion and go the extra mile to make sure people are listened to and supported in a fair and timely manner. And, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what each of the evacuees are looking for when it comes to the Evacuee Income Disruption Support Program. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1559-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES INTERVENTION WITH
INUVALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES CASE

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 2021, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation passed its first law, Inuvialuit Qitunrariit Inuuniarnikkun Maligaksat, meaning the Inuvialuit Family Way of Life law. Maligaksat draws down jurisdiction for child welfare for Inuvialuit children and youth under federal Bill C-92, An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families.

Maligaksat establishes IRC's inherent right over child and family services to:

- Ensure cultural continuity of Inuvialuit children and youth;
- Enhance supports available to Inuvialuit families to thrive;
- Improve information sharing with the GNWT; and,
- Exercise Inuvialuit jurisdiction in an Inuvialuit way.

At first, the GNWT publicly supported IRC's Maligaksat. In November 2021, the Premier's public news release congratulated IRC on a "big step forward." But in 2022, to everyone's surprise, the GNWT reversed its support for Maligaksat. The GNWT intervened in a federal court case to challenge the very law that enabled Indigenous law to prevail over those of the provinces and territories when it came to the care of Indigenous children. The GNWT argues that the federal law that enables Maligaksat, "compromises the jurisdictional balance between Indigenous governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories."

Federal Minister Marc Miller called the NWT's position "wildly disappointing" and affirmed that "a basic trapping of nationhood and identity is the ability to have control and custody over your own children."

The GNWT is putting its own interests to retain power and control above the interests of Inuvialuit children and youth. The GNWT's intervention is dangerous and it harms Inuvialuit children and youth.

In 2018, the Auditor General released a damning report condemning the GNWT's child and family services. The GNWT is failing Indigenous children and youth in care who are currently overrepresented, at 98 percent, of those in care. This injustice is tied to Canada's colonial legacy of removing, assimilating, and destroying Indigenous children and youth. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. As I said, this injustice is tied to Canada's colonial legacy of removing, assimilating, and destroying Indigenous children and youth. I share this truth with the utmost care and respect for Indigenous families and communities that have had to reckon and are still healing from this.

Indigenous governments face significant barriers as it relates to child welfare. The GNWT intervention contradicts the spirit of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and damages relationships with IRC and, potentially, other Indigenous governments.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I am calling on the GNWT to:

1. Immediately remove itself as an intervener from the federal court case even if it is only symbolically;
2. To repair its relationship with the IRC and other Indigenous governments with respect to children and family service; and
3. Support Indigenous governments' readiness to draw down jurisdiction for the welfare of their children and youth.

Until Indigenous governments have full control of their children, this will continue to be a colonial government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1560-19(2):
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. In the last sitting, I raised a number of concerns with the review of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy. Apparently, that policy has now been revised effective April 1 although a thorough search of GNWT websites could not locate the revised version until yesterday.

The finance minister said in March that there was "fairly detailed" engagement with standing committee. I stated that the work we did as Regular MLAs on what was given to us is some of the finest feedback in my more than seven years as an MLA. Unfortunately, the public will probably never get to see that feedback and the recommendations we made. In my view, almost all of our advice was soundly rejected by the Minister. The Minister rejected something as basic as providing an opportunity for public engagement. It seems the Minister views the Fiscal Responsibility Policy as an internal policy

and apparently not worthy of public input. However, the Minister revealed that credit-rating agencies did get a "check-in". It appears the review was aimed at appeasing the credit-rating agencies not the duly-elected MLAs or the public.

MLAs have politely asked and recommended transparent reporting on compliance with the Fiscal Responsibility Policy and consequences, if only a remediation plan. We have asked for in-year reporting and greater accountability that was again rejected in Cabinet's response to the most recent committee report on the public accounts. I have expressed concerns about the growing use of P3 financing for large, and often questionable, capital projects and the need for greater disclosure of the impacts on our operating budgets to no avail. I will have questions for the finance minister later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1561-19(2):
SEARCH FOR FRANK GRUBEN

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 6th, Mr. Speaker, Frank Gruben was last seen in Fort Smith. Twenty-six days have passed. After speaking to his mother today, I want to shed light on it again.

Twenty-six days dedicated volunteers searched for Frank every single day. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank each and every one of them for doing what they're doing.

---Applause

They've been working tirelessly, searching for Frank, and those who are doing everything they can do to bring Frank home. The volunteer groups and friends of the family searching for Frank, Salt River First Nation; Fred Daniels, mayor; Frieda Martselos, the MLA; and then every person who is praying for Frank and the family.

I know Frank as a baby, Mr. Speaker. I grew up with his dad John John -- we called him usuk -- and his aunties and uncles Don Don, Edna, and Darlene, and the whole Gruben family. He was so proud of his son.

Mr. Speaker, Frank went to Fort Smith to attend college. When you send your children to college, Mr. Speaker, you expect them to come back, no matter. No mother or parent should have to cry and wonder where their child is. Frank's been missing, Mr. Speaker, for 26 days. What expertise and resources has the RCMP

for searching for the missing in the cases across the territory, and especially for Frank? In reality of the truth, Mr. Speaker, we're failing. We failed. Someone in the community knows something that what happened to Frank. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking to them right now: Do what's right. Call the RCMP. Call Crime Stoppers. We have to bring Frank home to his mother so she could grieve properly and to the people of Aklavik to be able to grieve him as a whole family and not wondering where their son is. You know, Mr. Speaker, as Inuvialuit, we're never going to stop looking, as in the Gwich'in; we're never going to stop looking and I thank Salt River First Nation. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to call out on the Minister today, at the appropriate time, on what the RCMP's doing and to work with them, to work together to bring Frank home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1562-19(2):
AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT ON CHILD
AND FAMILY SERVICES

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as the MLA for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh in the Northwest Territories to address a matter of utmost importance that affects the most vulnerable members of our society - our children.

Recent revelation from the Auditor General of Canada reports into child and family services in Nunavut have revealed serious and damning faults in their system. This report calls for an immediate whole-of-government approach to address the challenge of protecting children in the government care. While the focus of this report is on Nunavut, it would be remiss of us not to examine our own situation here in the Northwest Territories. We must ask ourselves, are we immune to the same systematic deficiencies that plague our neighbours? Can we honestly say that we're doing enough to protect the rights and well-being of our children?

In the 2018 Auditor General Report into the Northwest Territories Child and Family Services found serious deficiencies for children in temporary, permanent, and foster care. This is clear indication that we too face significant challenges in our child and family services system. We cannot ignore the warning signs, nor we cannot turn a blind eye to the urgent need for reform. Our children deserve better. They deserve a system that prioritizes their safety and well-being in the future. We have a moral obligation to protect them and provide

them with the care and support they need to thrive.

The Auditor General's report in Nunavut highlighted the need for a whole-of-a-government approach. This means breaking down silos, working collaboratively across departments to ensure the holistic well-being of our children. We must bring together health, education, social services, and other relevant departments to create a comprehensive support network for children in care. It is only through this integrated approach that we can effectively address the complex challenge that our children face.

Furthermore, the report emphasizes the importance of community engagement. We must actively involve Indigenous governments, leaders, elders, knowledge-keepers, in the decision-making process that affect our children. Their wisdom and guidance are invaluable in shaping policies, practices, that are culturally sensitive and responsible, responsive to the unique needs of our diverse communities.

I'll call upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to take immediate action. We must allocate the necessary resources to improve the quality of care and support services for our children. We must invest in training, professional development for our child and family services staff to ensure they have the skills and knowledge required to provide the high standard of care. We must also enhance accountability and transparency within the system and ensure that proper oversight mechanisms are in place for the prevention and procurement of the deficiencies identified in the audit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'll have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1563-19(2):
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to share the story of one resident's path to getting healing. It begins with a violent and sudden death of a family member, and that resident, you know, starts to struggle to sleep, develops severe anxiety, has nightmares, and it starts to affect their ability at their job, Mr. Speaker.

Some weeks go by and things don't get better in processing that trauma so they decide to seek help. They do what many of us do. They go to the GNWT website and they find we have

a community counselling program. You know, it takes a few calls but eventually they get into a same-day program. But it becomes abundantly clear, in speaking with that counsellor, that this is not a matter just for a regular community counsellor. They have to get in -- they get in to see a psychiatrist. I'm sure that counsellor tries their best, but a psychiatrist is the place they are recommended to start. It takes a few more weeks, a number of phone calls to, you know, finally get in a spot with the psychiatrist. The initial assessment is quite obviously PTSD and some more time to get medication. The medication starts to help, but it is the psychiatrist's recommendation that a regular program of therapy with a psychologist occur.

That resident asks, can I get a referral to a psychologist and unfortunately that is not something we do. We have a few psychologists on staff, but they are not able to be referred for general members of the public. They said they have to go and phone psychologists which are found on a website who are privately funded. They make a few phone calls, Mr. Speaker, and then quickly finds out that some of their wait lists are years. Many of them do not specialize in PTSD, and many of them just rightfully can't add them to their wait list knowing they can't take on new patients.

This resident struggles - struggles to find a psychologist willing to treat their PTSD. Things are not getting better. They're struggling at work. Eventually this patient decides to go out of territory and find an online psychologist. This was not their first preference. They wanted to meet in person. It was not something they were necessarily comfortable with doing it virtually, but they begin to get help. It costs over \$200 an hour to have those appointments. They are paid out of their pocket and as they are struggling to work, this becomes a significant financial burden where they are then faced with continuing to treat their PTSD or to put food on the table for their family.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this resident eventually pulls through. Through the help of medication and their own will starts to process their trauma and starts to heal. Yet, Mr. Speaker, it was not an easy path, and we know many people go through this and fall through the cracks. I'll have questions for the Minister of health about what we can do to make sure people have access to a psychologist when they need one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife North. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1564-19(2):
RIGHTS-BASED LAND LEASES**

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March 28 of this year, I made a motion on Territorial Land Lease Only Policy in relation to Indigenous people having cabins for the rights-based purposes and how they should be exempt from lease payments for those rights-based cabins and camps, especially when the ones that have land claims.

Mr. Speaker, I know the GNWT has 120 days to respond to this motion, and I may not get a response this week but, Mr. Speaker, we still have Indigenous people who have leases and I would like to remind again, the government, that they raised these leases over 600 percent in the last government and is still charging those who would consider themselves as rights-based cabins.

But, Mr. Speaker, time and time again the Minister has said that they are working with Indigenous governments but when I speak with some of the Indigenous governments, they say they've been waiting on GNWT. So, Mr. Speaker, I have no idea when we'll figure this out and what they'll be doing for the NWT rights-based cabin owners. So I would like to find out what the process is for an Indigenous cabin owner who may have signed a lease but has been told by their own Indigenous organization that they don't need a lease.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I'm frustrated. My constituents are frustrated, and they really need to know what's going on and I feel for them, especially the ones that have been sent to collections because of our financial process and the way things work within our financial -- you know, land leases go into a system and if they're not paid, then they go to collections, you know, and so. Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Finance to see what processes can be done for the Indigenous cabin owners in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1565-19(2):
UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS IN RENTAL
HOUSING**

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about environmental health concerns in rental housing and the role of government in holding landlords accountable.

Mr. Speaker, this House has heard numerous times about how too many of our constituents are facing appalling living conditions.

In October, my colleague from Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh brought up cockroach infestations in his communities. He talked about a family brought to tears when they couldn't cook Thanksgiving dinner because of cockroaches.

In November, my colleague from Great Slave brought up issues at Lanky Court, including horrific cockroach infestations and tenants forced to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket to deal with mold issues.

And in February, my colleague from Frame Lake brought up Lanky Court again, with young children being plagued by bed bugs, mold so bad it caused breathing problems, and more cockroach infestations. Some tenants were forced to move, again with huge out-of-pocket costs.

Mr. Speaker, it's shameful we allow people to be treated this way. In all these instances, there's a common thread: Tenants experience unacceptable conditions but are left with no way of holding landlords accountable. Tenants are left to live in an unhealthy environment or fix the problem at their own expense or move but, with zero vacancy, most people need to accept the unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the current approach to landlord accountability is broken. According to the rental officer's annual report, last year only three tenants were successful in getting an order against a landlord to fix their unit. Meanwhile, at least 700 units have mold or pest problems at last count. While the rental officer gets many inquiries about rental premises that are not fit for habitation, she says very few tenants follow through with the complaints process likely due to the amount of work. Tenants need accessible tools to ensure landlords comply with the law and provide healthy safe housing.

Other Canadian jurisdictions are making accountability accessible. Saskatchewan offers tenants an online complaint form to get an environmental health officer to investigate, and BC fines landlords that refuse to complete health and safety repairs. I am not looking to drive away development, Mr. Speaker; I'm calling on the government to adopt best practices and fill the accountability gap. Residents have a right to clean, healthy, safe housing and, when that right is denied, to have meaningful accessible mechanisms to fix that problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1566-19(2):
NAHENDEH RIDING GRADUATION 2023

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House today to talk about something that is very special in a student's life. It is graduation. I realize that I am a bit early; however, in the Nahendeh riding, we see a number of graduations from various schools this month, starting with kindergarten.

This is an important milestone for parents and students. We get to see the first stage of what we hope are many many more celebrations. I can tell you my own grandson is one of those graduates this year. Depending on the school and the riding, we see grade 6, grade 9, and grade 12 graduations as well. I can tell you each celebration is unique and special.

Today I would like to recognize nine students who have completed their elementary, junior, and senior high journey. To the three students from Echo Dene School and the six students from Liidlii Kue Regional High School, congratulations on completing this journey, a part of your life's journey. I know there have been some fun and challenging times, but I can tell you it has prepared you for your next journey whether it is going on to future schooling, trades, travel, or work.

Echo Dene School's grade 12 graduation is scheduled for June 13th and Liidlii Kue Regional High School is June 17th. I wish you all the best during your celebrations.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell the grads, as they turn the caps and gowns they will be wearing during their special day and take the tassels home, remember this: The diploma you receive today is your insurance policy paid in full by your hard work over the past 13 years. The value of this policy depends on how much effort you put into your education and what you do with it as you go out in the world. All the best to them on this special day.

Mr. Speaker, I do have some words of encouragement, and I would like to have them deemed as read.

To the parents and families, thank you for all the support for those graduates. You should be very happy and proud of your child today. In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish all the 2023 graduating classes across the NWT all the best and congratulations on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Encouragement:

1. "Buckle up. Like the school adventure that you went through, there are going to be some good times and not so good times ahead of you. Enjoy each moment as they are all learning opportunities for you and part of life. Please remember it is all right to cry and laugh about things. There is going to be a lot of opportunities to do both."
2. "Find a career that you will love. It is very important because once you do, it is not work. It is something that you wake up wanting to do and it is not work. Please remember not to settle on a career. Like love, find the one that makes you happy."
3. "You have two ears and one mouth. Please remember it is always wise to listen and understand what you have heard before kicking your mouth into gear."
4. "Please enjoy your celebration with family and friends. This is a major accomplishment and needs to be celebrated."

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Members' statements. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT 1567-19(2):
EULOGY FOR ROSA KISOUN

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Rosa Kisoun nee Cockney was born on March 5, 1956, to Walter and Winnie Cockney at Herschel Island, Yukon Territory. She grew up amongst several DEW line sites, as well as in Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik, Northwest Territories. She attended Samuel Hearne Secondary School, Sir Alexander Mckenzie School in Inuvik and graduated in 1974. She met the love of her life, Gerry Kisoun, in early 1972/73. Rosa and Gerry were married on November 28, 1975, at the Igloo Church. And this was one of the first ecumenical weddings to happen in Inuvik.

Gerry was a Royal Canadian Mounted Police member, and they were stationed in Calgary, Alberta; Manning, Alberta; Whitehorse, Yukon; Pelly Crossing, Yukon; Watson Lake, Yukon; Tuktoyaktuk, and finally back home in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, where they raised their family together. They have four children - Claudine, Patricia, Caroline, and Gerald Andrew.

Gerry was also the deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories from 2011 to 2017. Rosa always stood by and supported her husband in his working career as well as his personal life as he has volunteered for so many committees and organizations throughout Inuvik; as well as

his tourism company where Rosa was always baking him bannock for his tourists.

Rosa worked as an accountant for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation for over 20 years until her retirement. She took great pride in her work. She was also an avid seamstress and sewer that made many homemade Halloween costumes, dresses, fur mitts, slippers, beaded cardholders, and cross-stitched hangings, just to name a few, for all for her family, friends, and especially her special friends.

Rosa was diagnosed with cancer in 2011. She fought a long courageous battle and she was not ready to leave her family just yet. Rosa passed away peacefully on April 22nd, 2023, with family by her side.

She will be fondly remembered for the outpouring love she had for her family, friends, her baking, her sewing, cooking shows, an avid sports and music lover, especially the love for her husband of 47 years Gerry, their children Claudine, Dennis, Noah, Haili, Carmella and Winnie Blake, Tricia and KK Hansen, Carey and Auddy Kisoun, and her only son Drew Kisoun, as well as her great granddaughters Aaliyah and Makena Vittrekwa. Quyananni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and community.

Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Government House Leader.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, I had the honour today of inducting a number of people and an organization into the Education Hall of Fame, and we have a number of individuals today who were part of that ceremony. So I'd like to begin by recognizing Kelsey Wrightson who is with the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning. Dechinta was inducted in the category of post-secondary education, and they received the Minister's choice award.

Charlene Liske from N'dilo. She was inducted in the community outreach category.

Lima Baroryee She was inducted in the early childhood category. And with us today are her daughters Remi and Lidia Costa.

Al Karasiuk from Fort Smith, and he was inducted in the junior kindergarten to grade 12 category.

And Colleen Eckert from Yellowknife, and from all over the North actually, was inducted in the leadership in education category.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honour when I get to participate in these events and honour such great individuals who contributed so much. So I just wanted to recognize them here in the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I see Ed Hoff in the gallery today. He is a neighbour, a retired engineer, and a solid community volunteer, and I'd like to welcome him to the House. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Yellowknife Centre recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to recognize Ed Hoff in the gallery. I have known Ed since I was here 15 years ago. He has been a great mentor and friend, and I'm not sure that he actually has retired because I don't think engineers really retire; we just consult until the end. And I just want to say if anybody wants to know anything about Yellowknife's permafrost, Ed could give you a great walking tour of that. So welcome, Ed, to the gallery. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Ruth Wright here in the House today. She's a constituent of mine and she used to be my old dog's -- my dog sitter. He actually used to run away, run away when I was home to her house.

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

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Angie and Clay Balsillie who are here to support me today as I do the eulogy for Rosa Kisoun. They were very good friends of hers and thank you for being here with me.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize my brother Desmond. He is sitting up in the gallery. He's here today; he wasn't the other day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Yellowknife South.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was also going to acknowledge Angela and Clay Balsillie who were here to hear the obituary for Rosa Kisoun. They're residents of Yellowknife South.

Mr. Speaker, and while we're on the topic of many old friends, it sounds like I have three new friends I also wanted to recognize. I have guests here today from PNWER. That is the Pacific Northwest Economic Region. And with me today in the House, we have president of the organization Chuck Winder who is also the president of the Idaho State Senate; vice-president of PNWER, Rick Glumac who is the British Columbia MLA for Port Moody-Coquitlam. And, Mr. Speaker, we have PNWER's CEO and executive director Matt Morrison also joining us. Thank you.

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

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Charlene Liske. She's from Dettah, and she's also from -- and she also is the Dechinta Centre for Research Learning's director of traditional knowledge.

Also Kelsey Wrightson, a Yellowknife -- a Yellowknife Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning executive director.

Also I just wanted to acknowledge that Charlene also received the award this morning for Education Hall of Fame community outreach. And I just want to say welcome and mahsi and congratulations.

Another one, Mr. Speaker, is that -- I had to -- oh sorry. Thank you. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I just want to also recognize Clay and Angie Balsillie. They're a longtime family friend. And, also, I just want to say that I played hockey with Clay when we were a lot younger and good looking. Now we're just good looking. But at the same time, we also have a good friend, his name is Alan Cardinal who's 77 years old. So we had to retire from playing hockey because he passed us. So anyways, we hung up our skates. I just want to recognize him. Mahsi.

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

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Al Karasiuk, the PWK High School principal for many years in Fort Smith, and who's a resident of Fort Smith and plans on staying in Fort Smith. And he's also a great friend of mine and has done many

great things for the community, all across the community, and I'll always remember how he looks after the students and guided them down the right path. And he's an incredible guy, and I'm glad that he's here today with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There's a lot of friendly and familiar faces in the gallery today. I'd like to acknowledge Kelsey Wrightson of Dechinta. And also Dechinta's hide tanning camp is open to the public and all set up and ready to go, so that's very exciting right now as well.

I'd like to recognize a couple of former Kam Lake constituents as well. There's Jennifer Dallman-Sanders and above me, who I cannot see but wish I could see their wonderful happy faces, are a team of lifelong northern educators, past Kam Lakers, Colleen Eckert and Arthur Osborne. A huge congratulations to Colleen today who was inducted into the NWT Education Hall of Fame, and her speech today had us all either wishing we had become educators or were fondly remembering one we adore. So thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Sahtu.

HON. PAULIE CHINNA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of the pages, Jaylyn Gaudet, originally from the Sahtu, her home community is Deline, and just appreciating her work assisting us this week. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Sahtu. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Colleagues, I too would like to recognize Mr. Desmond Benoit, one of my constituents from Fort McPherson who is a chaperon for his son Brody Alexie-Benoit, and also page Brenden Vittrekwa, who are with us for the next couple days here. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. And if we have missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber, and I hope you're enjoying the proceedings.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Acknowledgements. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 1555-19(2): RCMP'S RESPONSIBILITY IN MISSING PEOPLE CASES

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a heavy heart today I have to ask these questions.

Mr. Speaker, Frank Gruben's been missing for 26 days, last seen in Fort Smith. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask my Minister what is the detachment responsible for in the search and rescue of missing Aboriginal peoples? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nunakput. Minister responsible for Justice.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I know this has come up a few times in the House and, you know, the last time it came up it was a heavy subject and I, you know, expressed my concern and my thoughts with the family, and I'll do the same today. Clearly this is an issue that's touched people across the territory.

So when there is a missing person, the RCMP do look into it. If there is evidence of a crime, then there's a criminal investigation that occurs. If someone is missing and there is no evidence of a crime, it's still an open case, so. I have been in contact with the commanding officer about this. The department is in contact with the RCMP about this because, you know, I'm hearing from a number of different MLAs on this topic. So we are doing our best to convey the concerns to the RCMP. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the investigator at the detachment is responsible for searching for Frank, and is there any expertise that was given and provided to the Fort Smith detachment from Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP don't share those kinds of details about investigations, with myself even. So what I can do is I can try -- I will reach out again and see what type of information is out there. I will say that it's my understanding that the RCMP are in contact with the family and when there is anything to update to the family with, they do that. But I can get back to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I really want to help my Minister in regards to seeing if what we can do other than, you know, relaying messages back and forth. I'd like to see if the Minister's willing to bring the

superintendent of the RCMP to meet with the MLAs in caucus or in AOC, our Regular Members, just to give us an update on what's the protocol and what happens when something like this happens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I can't bring the commanding officer anywhere; I don't have that authority over the commanding officer. The RCMP are independent from the Government of the Northwest Territories. They are contracted. However, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight can reach out and contact the officer. And, frankly, given the interest from the Regular Members I would expect that they would be doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will bring it forward to the accountability and oversight committee chair to see if we could bring the detachment or superintendent to meet us with in regards to what happens.

Mr. Speaker, there is not even a list of missing people, Aboriginal people across our territory. And that's what I want to bring forward to the Minister today. There's something has to be done to make a list and let people know that's what's happening. And I think we could do a better job in regards to that. I want to help my Minister to make it better for all of us across the territory on our missing and loved ones and bringing them home.

So, Mr. Speaker, again, I'm asking would the Minister invite the superintendent to meet with us other than getting me to go to another committee chair to ask. Can the Minister do that for us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mean, I'm not the chair of AOC. I can't invite someone to attend a meeting that is not my meeting. So, once again, I mean, the Regular Members do have a role in this House. It's not just to stand up and ask questions. They do have power as a standing committee, and they can use that. So I recommend that this discussion, which happens in the House quite often, must be happening up in the Eagle Room of AOC, and so I would recommend that they get together, and they make that request to the commanding officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 1556-19(2):
AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON CHILD
AND FAMILY SERVICES

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the honourable colleagues on the Standing Committee on Social Development released Lifting NWT Children, Youth and Families: An All-Territory Approach to Keeping Families Together wherein in the committee makes 19 recommendations. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to ask the Minister of health the following question:

The committee's first recommendation calls for a whole-of-government approach to child and family services. What concrete steps, for example policies and instruments, legislation, intergovernmental MOUs, has the Minister taken to this approach? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Member for the question. We responded to the standing committee's report on October 13th last year. And just to recap briefly, we thanked the committee for their research, recommendations, and engagement. We think that they are positive and will contribute to the well-being of children and youth in our territory. We responded to each recommendation separately. In some cases we were able to act on them in our next quality improvement plan, which will be tabled in the August 2023 session. Other recommendations require funding and so they would go into the business planning process.

And it's worth noting as well, Mr. Speaker, that the department has been reporting and will continue to report annually on the progress of each of the committee's recommendations on system improvement. Thank you.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister provide this House today with an accurate update on number of children in the temporary, permanent, and foster care system in the NWT. Mahsi.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of May 30th this year, there are 133 children and youth in temporary or permanent custody. That compares to 169 children and youth in temporary or permanent custody on September 1st, 2018. Thank you.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, in the

health and social services quality improvement for planning for child and family service people that are 67 of its 70 actions items are either completed or on track. This is significant progress, but can the Minister tell me how many children are in care today compared to 2018 when the plan was started? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on May 30th this year there were 133 children in temporary or permanent care and custody of the director of child and family services compared to 169 youth in the temporary or permanent care or custody of the director of child and family services on September 1st, 2018. So that's 36 fewer children.

This is really been the result of a change in approach by the Department of Health and Social Services. We have provided family preservation workers to assist families with keeping children in their homes and providing services to them in their homes and communities, and that has made all the difference in terms of cultural continuity and cultural safety for these families.

We've made a big investment since 2018, a total of \$9.5 million to add 59 new positions. So in total, there are 169 people working in the child and family services system to care for the most vulnerable people in our population which is, of course, children. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

MR. EDJERICON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendment to the Child and Family Services Act has been moved down the road to the 20th Assembly. Can the Minister advise why her department didn't prioritize this work in the life of this government when there are so many children that are in desperate need of care? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. And mahsi, Minister.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is time to revise the Child and Family Services Act to bring it into alignment with Bill 92, the federal act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Metis children and families, youth and families. This will align things that are already being done in terms of cultural safety. And so while the legislation has not come up for review in this session, the changes have been made in standards. And it's worth noting as well that we have a limited number of staff to do this policy and legislation work and the staff who would normally be involved in revising the Child and Family Services Act, have negotiated an agreement with the Inuvialuit Regional

Corporation to devolve services for voluntary services agreement for children to the IRC, and more details of that will be coming at the end of the summer. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 1557-19(2):
LAND LEASES

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, again, are for the Minister of Finance because she's got control, I guess, of the money and all the finance books. Can the Department of Finance pause -- is it possible to pause outstanding land lease accounts from going to collections in Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, dealing with land leases obviously, I know the Member is well aware, is primarily the responsibility of now ECC. The Department of Finance certainly works with other departments but we really are, essentially, just the financial agent in that respect. So I can't pause the accounts of going out on my own, we would be relying on government policy to do that, and I know that work is happening right now over at ECC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. SEMMLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I guess my question is, is it possible to -- I guess I should clarify, can it be done? So can accounts be paused under the direction of working together with the Minister from another department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, what is required in order to pause an account from going to collections, or to cease acting on a file that's gone to collections, really requires some sort of parameters or criteria where a department that had an outstanding account, some other debts for instance, whether a lease or otherwise, if they were to come to the Department of Finance and say, you know, that they had reached some sort of agreement with the person who owes the debt, then that then can be -- that those that can be moved forward to be out of collections, to be forgiven, to be paused, to have some other process. But once the matter has gone out, then under the financial administration rules, the matter would continue as a debt owing. So there needs to be some mechanism to indicate that in fact that what was deemed as an outstanding debt no longer is. So it's those types of parameters that

I understand ECC is working on to ensure that they can then convey that and share that with the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. SEMMLER: All right, thank you, Mr. Speaker. So just trying to think about -- okay, so it can be done but it has to be in collaboration with another Minister. So I'm just wondering has there been any discussions -- and like you said, the lands were -- has there been discussions with finance that this is -- can be done and will be done or, you know, I'm just -- the reason I'm saying this is that I have constituents that have leases and they've jumped up 600 percent. And if my power and my heating bill jumped up 600 percent, you know what, I'd have to walk away from my mortgage. If my interest rate jumped up 600 percent, I'd have to walk away from my mortgage because I just couldn't afford to pay it. People in the cabin -- that have these cabins, they're not multimillion-dollar cabins. They're probably not even worth two years of lease fees. So what I'm asking the Minister is this something that she and the Minister of ECC -- and if I have to ask more questions, I'll ask the Minister of ECC if he'll work with the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hear the back and forth on this issue in this House. I have heard it now for almost four years as well. I'm only hesitant to create something on the fly out of the Department of Finance when I know there's processes happening in ECC that I am less intimately familiar with. But, Mr. Speaker, the departments -- the two departments are more than happy to work together. I know Minister of ECC and I work together on shared areas of overlap, whether it's finance, whether it's ITI, we have joint meetings. We can certainly start to do that with Department of Finance and ECC as well. And if that might assist the staff, who I know are working through the process at ECC, to access some of finance's resources in how accounts are transmitted to collections and how they can be paused, Mr. Speaker, I know I think both of us on this side here would be more than happy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1558-19(2):
AGING SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN
FORT SMITH

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of ECE has previously stated that the last time a technical status evaluation was done on JBT Elementary School was in 2005. Can the Minister tell us

when the next technical status evaluation is expected to be done for the JBT School in Fort Smith? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the information I've received from the Department of Infrastructure, technical status evaluations are conducted when there are some certainty that major work is expected in the next three to five years. So if it looks like there's going to be some serious work that's required in three to five years, that is the point at which a technical status evaluation would be conducted. Thank you.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, during the last session the Minister stated that, based on current capital needs assessments, JBT School is expected to be replaced in 2035 which would make the school 77 years old until it's finally replaced. But the Minister also said it could potentially take a lot longer. At this rate, the school will only be replaced once it becomes a hundred years old.

Can the Minister tell us if there is anything that can be done to speed up the timeline for the JBT School to be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And like I've stated before, it depends on the technical condition of the school. So there are many buildings in the territory that need replacing. There's many capital needs. And structures and deficiencies are addressed when they can be addressed when they get to them. Thank you.

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, the community of Fort Smith petitioned and fiercely lobbied our government to replace JBT School. Would that speed up the timeline for our government to consider replacing this school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That wouldn't change the technical status or the report -- the technical status evaluation report of the school. But, I mean, it's a political question and so the Member's also a politician, she probably can answer that as well as I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. MARTSELOS: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell us if he or Cabinet is content with the fact that the NWT is one of the only jurisdictions in the country who continues to

actively use former residential school and Indian Day School buildings for students today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I can't speak on behalf of Cabinet but I can say no, I'm not content. And if I could, you know, will a new building into existence, I would do that. But, unfortunately, I don't have that ability. I do understand where the Member is coming from. I would like to see the same changes that she would like to see. But, unfortunately, we're up against the constraints of, you know, the reality that we are in, so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1559-19(2):
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EVACUEES

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Finance confirm if all evacuees, whether unemployed or not receiving income from employers, be eligible for the income distribution program? Because some of these people, you know, rely on temporary work, which is now not available to them, or they may be self-employed as well. Thank you.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every individual who's had any sort of income disruption should be applying. So that applies to anyone who is self-employed, who may be in what is known as the gig economy or temporary employment or, again, any sort of disruptions. So an artisan, for instance, who may be selling -- typically selling art or crafts, anyone who may fall into those categories, I would encourage them to apply. You know, it's difficult -- this was a program developed in less than two weeks. It's difficult to anticipate exactly every category of person to whom it would apply and exactly how to word the eligibility. We've done our best to be fairly flexible. So, again, Mr. Speaker, if they've had an income disruption, I'd encourage them to apply. There may be some classes of persons who work it through and find that it doesn't apply to them, but I'd rather have those applications in and look at those opportunities and see that we can make this available to those for whom it was meant to apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate that reply because in talking to some KFN members, they were under the impression they could not apply. So that's good to know.

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit her department to quickly reviewing the applications as they are received? They are one page, so I don't think there will be too much difficulty in doing that. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Speaker, yes, absolutely. I certainly wanted to vocalize that commitment here. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, we didn't have any staff assigned to this role. This wasn't something that we were contemplating. So while I am certainly cognizant that the people who were evacuated who are now having to go back after an extended period of time, they are the ones who are experiencing the greatest hardship. You know, again, we know that, but two weeks ago we didn't have anyone who was in the position of having to take these applications in. That said, Mr. Speaker, I can't say enough that I extend my gratitude to the MLAs from these ridings who were affected. They are bringing suggestions already about how to improve the process, how to improve the forms, and that will only assist in the time it takes to process the applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, now the question is where is the money? Or show me the money. Will the Minister commit her staff to getting the evacuee income disruption support payments out as quickly as possible to applicants? And one thing that they've been asking for is to provide a telephone number on the application so applicants can actually call and talk to a real live person about the status of their application and payment. I constantly get emails and calls about that, and I haven't been able to answer them. So please give me a phone number so that I can give them and one where somebody actually answers. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just days ago the Member from the affected region came and said why don't we ask for banking information right upfront on the page; it'll save an extra step when someone is deemed eligible. We have already made that change, Mr. Speaker. The new forms are now already on the website so things can change quickly. This issue of the need of having a contact point was raised today, and I can already assure the Member if he hasn't directly received a response from me, it's probably only because I've been in the House. So he will have that information before he goes back to Hay River to be able to share with residents. I don't have a number here in front of me that I can read in the House, Mr. Speaker, but that information will be available. And if we need to change those forms again,

we can change the forms again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROCKY SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And hopefully maybe I can get that number by break time.

Will the Minister confirm what programs are available to self-employed persons or companies to help offset loss of revenue while evacuation orders in place? Because there was a number of companies and businesses in Hay River that haven't been operating for a couple of weeks and then to get started up again, it takes you another few days as they get employees back. And, you know, the owners, you know, more than likely whether they're paying themselves or not, I don't know, but I know that they've lost revenue. Thank you.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to -- well, again, if there's a loss of revenue that's impacting an owner's personal income, you know, again I'd suggest they consider applying and we'll consider whether or not they can be eligible, at least under the income disruption stream. More generally, I realize that doesn't necessarily help the viability and strength of a business. So, you know, ITI does have the -- they have their own programs under SEED, entrepreneur support programs, operational support programs. Those were used for businesses that were affected by the floods last year. It's application-based. Again, please, I would suggest people to, please, early -- earlier than not, reach out to ITI. Our South Slave regional office is available to support businesses that may have been impacted. And, Mr. Speaker, one last plug here is that the United Way also is playing a role here and we're looking at ways to help support them as they play that role. They can put money into non-profit organizations, charitable organizations, in the affected regions. So it may be a matter of looking at what some people's expenses may be and they may be able to then work with local charities to see if there can be supports found that way. But, again, Mr. Speaker, I know the GNWT did support the United Way and, of course, the residents across the Northwest Territories continue to support the United Way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1560-19(2):
HEALTH CONDITIONS OF RENTAL
PROPERTIES

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice.

We know that over 700 rental units have mould or pests, across the Northwest Territories, but only three tenants got an order against the landlord to fix the problem. So clearly something is not working, Mr. Speaker. I want to know whether the Minister acknowledges that the current mechanisms to ensure healthy rental housing are not working. Thank you.

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

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there were 700 applications made to the rental officer and only three resulted in orders then yes, there would be a problem. However, I'm not sure all 700 of those individuals submitted applications to the rental office so it's hard for me to say. If there were three applications submitted and they all received orders, well then it seems to be working well. So with just that information, I can't really answer the Member's questions.

However, if there are these issues in your, you know, rental unit, please contact the rental officer. This is what they do. If you have mold, if you have pests, and your landlord's not dealing with them, contact the rental officer. No one's going to contact them for you. They're not going to come to your house and do an inspection out of the blue. So people need to step up and take that first step. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sometimes accessibility can be the issue. Saskatchewan provides tenants with an online fillable complaints form to launch an environmental health investigation into unhealthy housing. I'm not aware of a similar ease of use form that's available here that initiates an instant investigation. So I'm wondering if the government will consider a more accessible, efficient mechanism to trigger investigation by the environmental health officer through the rental office? Thank you.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rental office doesn't -- I guess is not a conduit for environmental health. So this is something that I can confer with the Minister of health on and get her take on it but right now that is not something that happens. They're two different entities and two different departments. Thank you.

MS. CLEVELAND: Yeah, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the problem right now is that multiple departments aren't able to work together in order to get this done. I mean, right now the Department of Health and Social Services says on its website that environmental health officers can investigate issues where a landlord has failed to take corrective action.

So I'm wondering if the Minister can tell me whether his department, or the department of health, tracks the number of landlord investigations by environmental health officers and the results of these investigations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been informed by the department of health that environmental health officers do follow up on landlord-tenant complaints, and they do track these requests. Thank you.

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

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the piece that's important in that is that information making it from the environmental health office to the rental office so that the rental officer has the ability to then hold those landlords accountable. The environmental health officer doesn't have a mechanism to hold those people accountable. By looping in the rental office, by seeing if there's other issues going on with those rental offices, it brings it to a one-stop shop and actually empowers the rental officer to have kind of that bird's eye view of what's going on. And so there are things that have happened before that have really gotten results from landlords in town.

I look at what happened here in Yellowknife with an apartment building. Tenants kept asking for a security guard. They kept asking for a security guard. They didn't get a security guard. That landlord realized that they were paying hundreds of thousands of dollars from people pulling fire alarms. The next thing you know, they had a security guard because they were paying dollars. And so dollars speak, money talks, Mr. Speaker. And so I'm wondering if the Minister will consider empowering the rental officer to fine landlords that refuse to complete repairs that have serious health and safety impacts on their tenants? Thank you.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Residential Tenancies Act provides for any person who fails to comply with orders or directions of the rental officer to be charged with a summary offence under section

91. That charge would be heard in territorial court and, if found guilty, would result in a fine not exceeding \$2,000 for individuals or \$25,000 for corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1561-19(2):
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Finance on the recent review of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy.

In my statement, I noted that substantive and detailed input from standing committee and that most of that was rejected. Can the Minister tell us whether she would have any objection to making the committee input public so there's greater transparency around that review of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this was certainly an interesting opportunity between the committee and the Department of Finance. We wouldn't necessarily, on the regular practice, certainly in the past, have sent a what is a financial management policy, an internal policy with internal application, for comment and review, but we did do so in this case, and I -- I don't know that I would say that everything was rejected. I've looked again back at some of the detailed responses provided, both from committee to department and from the department back. Just because, you know, the exact wording proposed isn't taken into -- isn't, you know, copied down doesn't mean that the considerations are not utilized in terms of crafting better procedures. So, Mr. Speaker, there's quite a number of things that I actually do think are being taken into account and applied, not the least of which is having our Fiscal Responsibility Policy knowing where and how we are at in terms of fiscal -- or in terms of infrastructure spend available at the time of the capital spend. That's going to be a huge change, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the committee's response.

As far as seeing what the entirety of their suggestions were, Mr. Speaker, I -- standing committee is certainly an independent body, and I -- to the extent that there was any concern of confidentiality, I would be happy to waive any expectation I had and of confidentiality of their materials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. And I think we have a difference of opinion on how much was accepted. But the real way to look at that would be to actually get it released. So it sounds like the Minister's game for that.

So one of the provisions of the revised Fiscal Responsibility Policy is on affordable debt and states, "to ensure that the extent of its debt and borrowing including debt associated with P3 project is within its means to repay and that debt servicing payments do not adversely impact programs and services."

So can the Minister tell us what type of analysis and disclosure there will be now with regard to P3 debt and its impact on programs and services? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is sometimes I think a -- wouldn't want anyone to ever forget that debt is ultimately is debt, and debt at the GNWT is exactly that. All of it comes in under our federally-imposed borrowing limit. P3 debt also comes in and has to be under the federally-imposed borrowing limit. It shows up also as well in budget materials that we have out. It is disclosed in the borrowing. P3 debt is disclosed separately in the borrowing plan. It's analyzed and it's presented in the budget fiscal papers. And finance certainly has to then evaluate where we're at in our borrowing and whether or not we can face any increased debt. That's exactly the kind of analysis that goes into those papers. It goes in, it's often discussed in budget dialogues. The P3 debt servicing payments are in the operating budget. We see it show up there in the mains. So it's part of that overall fiscal picture that we present at various opportunities. And as I had indicated, we'll be looking to do so on a more regular basis further to the comments from committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. Another area of concern is with analysis in reporting on compliance with Fiscal Responsibility Policy. A variety of performance measures are outlined now in the new policy, but there doesn't appear to be any public reporting required.

So can the Minister tell us with what, if any, public reporting will take place on the prescribed performance measures in the new Fiscal Responsibility Policy? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, again, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the public reporting, performance measures really are a part of -- well, there's a number of

places where it would come in. They're a part of the work that Finance does in preparing the main estimates that's in the budget papers that are presented as part of those main estimates. It is often part of reporting that takes place when we're doing budget dialogues to help orient participants to what's going on in our fiscal picture. We certainly also are reporting on the provisions when we report in the public accounts. And, really, Mr. Speaker, the idea of performance measures, even large, could simply be any discussion in the House around the state of the finances of the GNWT. So, you know, Mr. Speaker, again, there is the formal capacity, again the budget papers, the main estimates, the public accounts, the Fiscal Responsibility Policy, which will now also come in at capital planning, but also less formal opportunities like budget dialogues and discussions herein. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I want to thank the Minister for that. When I raised the Fiscal Responsibility Policy in the last sitting, the Minister revealed that there had been a, quote, "check-in" with at least two of the credit rating agencies. I'm not sure what that means. Were they given a draft, an opportunity to comment or what? So can the Minister tell us what this check-in was all about and what happened? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the recommendations of committee actually was to find ways to increase the presence of independent fiscal analysis and advice to the Northwest Territories government. And, Mr. Speaker, the very purpose of the relationship that we have with the credit rating agency is, indeed, to evaluate their client's financial health. We, as the Department of Finance, meets with credit rating agencies and we have two, not just one, now we have increased that to two during the life of this government, Mr. Speaker, and we meet with them annually to give them an update as to our fiscal situation and as to steps we are taking around fiscal management.

Mr. Speaker, they are very conscious of maintaining distance and being objective. We're not even allowed to buy them lunch when they meet with us, Mr. Speaker. And so this is exactly the kind of meeting and opportunity where we were able to say that we're making some changes to our fiscal management and describe that to them. The reaction that we

received from them was positive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 1562-19(2):
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke today in my statement about the need for more psychology services in our territory. I guess, first, I would like to ask just for some basic information about how many psychologists the GNWT presently employs and who exactly they are available for, whether they're available to just members of the general public through some sort of referral system or how you would go about seeing one? 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. And thank you for the question. The Member, I think, does not want to hear about counsellors and the community counselling program; he wants to hear about psychologists. They are not part of the NWT health plan. We don't employ any at the Department of Health and Social Services. The Department of Justice employs two who serve the incarcerated population. Thank you.

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I do appreciate that a lot of work has gone into the community counselling program and those wait lists and those times have gotten shorter. It is an improvement that this government has made. But it's clear to me, in speaking with people, that for certain disorders you need a psychologist. You know, that is the recommended treatment from their psychiatrist.

Are there currently any plans for the Department of Health and Social Services to hire any psychologists? I really do believe we need to start down that path. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the questions. We have no plan to hire psychologists. Thank you.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's a very unfortunate gap. There is clearly demand for this. You speak to any private psychologist in the territory, their wait list is extremely long, and their fees are extremely high. Many people do not get reimbursed. I am just wondering if right now if a person goes and

sees a private psychologist and, you know, they've been told to do that by their doctor, is there any part of that treatment that is covered by our government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the question. The GNWT does not cover the cost of psychologists or their services. There are, however, private insurance programs, such as the GNWT Employee Benefit Program, that will pay for psychologists' services and so people can obtain them in that way. But this is not a funded service. And so it is not provided by the GNWT.

And an analogy that people may be familiar with is massage. Massage may be very beneficial but it is not a service that is offered by the GNWT, but it is offered in Yellowknife, for example, and it can be paid for through private insurance. Thank you.

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

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I don't think massage is the right thing. On the one end, we have our community counselling program, and that's great, those people are, you know -- and then on the hand we have our psychiatrists who have gone through, you know -- are medical doctors. And we need to take some pressure off of the psychiatrists. They have often said for more advanced disorders, psychology treatment is the way to go.

Can the Minister commit to reviewing whether other jurisdictions have brought psychology into the public system and whether there is a path forward where we can hire some publicly-funded psychologists in this territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JULIE GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any information about what other jurisdictions do. I can certainly commit the resources to see what Alberta does as our closest neighbour. There is no path forward for this service unless the health budget is increased. Thank you.

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

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 66-19(2):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES INTERVENTION
CHALLENGING FEDERAL LAW C-92

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories intervened in Attorney General of Quebec et al versus the Attorney General of Canada, which is a challenge to a federal law, C-92, which provides for First Nation, Inuit, and Metis governments to implement their own child welfare laws. My questions are for the Premier.

1. What was the legal basis and rationale for the Government of the Northwest Territories intervening in this case before the Supreme Court of Canada?
2. How does the GNWT justify its intervention in this matter when the public position of the GNWT has been in support of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's child welfare law?
3. What direct engagement and/or consultations did the GNWT undertake with the IRC, or other Indigenous government, prior to making the decision to intervene in this case before the Supreme Court of Canada?
4. Both the IRC and federal government have expressed their frustration and disappointment with the GNWT's intervention in this case. What direct steps have been taken to engage with the IRC and Canada on the position taken by the government; and,
5. How does the GNWT rationalize the position taken in its intervention in this case with its intention to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as law in the Northwest Territories, in particular, with Articles 21 and 22.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to the Commissioner's address. Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

BILL 77: NURSING PROFESSION ACT

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 77, Nursing Profession Act.

Bill 77 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on March 29, 2023 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for review. The standing

committee held a public hearing on May 10th, 2023 and completed its clause-by-clause review of the bill with the Minister of Justice on May 31st, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the committee reports that Bill 77, Nursing Profession Act, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

BILL 82: LEGAL PROFESSION ACT

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report on its consideration of Bill 82, Legal Profession Act.

Bill 82 received second reading in the Legislative Assembly on March 30th, 2023 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for review. The standing committee held a public hearing on May 10th, 2023 and completed its clause-by-clause review of the bill with the Minister of Justice on May 31st, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, the committee reports that Bill 82, Legal Profession Act, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Reports of standing and special committees. Tabling of documents. Madam Premier.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 951-19(2): GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT 47-19(2): HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION: SUPPORTING PATHWAYS TO HOUSING NWT RESIDENTS

HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 47-19(2), Homelessness Prevention: Supporting Pathways to Housing NWT Residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 952-19(2):
PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY FOR BILL 92:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE PETROLEUM
PRODUCTS AND CARBON TAX ACT, NO. 3

TABLED DOCUMENT 953-19(2):
INTER-ACTIVITY TRANSFERS EXCEEDING
\$250,000 (APRIL 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022)

TABLED DOCUMENT 954-19(2):
INTER-ACTIVITY TRANSFERS EXCEEDING
\$250,000 (APRIL 1, 2022 TO MARCH 31,
2023)

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following three documents: Plain Language Summary for Bill 92, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act, No. 3; Inter-activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 (April 1st to December 31st, 2022); and, Inter-activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 (April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2023). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to request we return to item number 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item five. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. I would like to introduce to the House Members of the Northwest Territories Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscience, or NAPEG as they are more commonly known. NAPEG is the delegated regulator under the Engineering and Geosciences Act.

Mr. Speaker, NAPEG asked the department to consider several proposed changes to the Act to modernization the association's powers and responsibilities, and the association has been instrumental in development of Bill 93. They have joined us in the House for first reading of the bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Melanie Williams who is the president of NAPEG. We also have Elaine Gillespie who is the NAPEG

councillor. We have Dinah Elliott who is also the NAPEG councillor. And we have Ed Hoff who is the NAPEG Act and bylaw committee chair. And I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, if Vince McCormick is behind me or not, but he -- no, he's not here, okay. Just checking. Quyananni, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to recognize the members of NAPEG that have joined us here today for the first reading of the bill. Yes, first reading of the bill - make sure I have that right.

One of the really interesting things about this group -- I've already acknowledged Ed so I'm not going to speak further about him -- is that all three of the women sitting up there are my constituents. I am also a former councillor for NAPEG. So it's very exciting for me to have them all here and to have such amazing strong scientifically-minded women in my riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Great Slave. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Member for Nahendeh.

HON. SHANE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I recognized a chaperon, she just walked out, so I'd like to now recognize the chaperon Teena Lafferty. Thank you very much for being here. And I saw your daughter here as well. So thank you very much for being in the gallery today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Nahendeh. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. First reading of bills. Minister responsible for Infrastructure.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 93:
PRACTICE OF ENGINEERING,
GEOSCIENCE AND APPLIED SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY ACT

HON. DIANE ARCHIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to present to the House Bill 93, Practice of Engineering, Geoscience and Applied Science Technology Act, to be read for the first time. Quyananni, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Bill 93 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Minister responsible for Justice.

BILL 94:
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW
AMENDMENT ACT, 2023

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to present to the House Bill 94, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023, to be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Bill 94 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Minister responsible for Finance.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 92:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE PETROLEUM
PRODUCTS AND CARBON TAX ACT, NO. 3,
CARRIED

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 92, An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act, No. 3, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act to establish an unconditional carbon tax revenue sharing grant payable to community governments and to establish an annual report with respect to the collection and administration of carbon tax under the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. I rise to speak to the principle and merit of this bill.

I want to sincerely thank the Minister for bringing forward the bill that addresses some of the concerns raised during the review and debate on Bill 60. Specifically, Bill 92 requires unconditional carbon tax revenue sharing grants to communities with a formula to be determined by the Minister. This is a much better solution than dealing with community government payments through the main estimates. I still -- there are still some issues around when the payments will be made and what other deductions may be made to gross carbon tax revenues. I am confident that these issues can be resolved when in review of the bill.

The other issues, though -- the other issue covered in the bill, Mr. Speaker, is mandatory annual reporting, which is a good move but there are no details on what is to be reported and when. Reports are to be on the collection

and administration of the carbon tax but there's no specific details required, such as financial information, money in or money out, or the cost of administration, predictions on greenhouse gas emissions, and whether the carbon tax is fulfilling its purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions as confirmed in this House on March 23 by the Finance Minister.

There's also no deadline for annual report that's set out in the bill. Of note, the three carbon tax reports issued so far have taken seven, nine, and seven months from fiscal year end to be made public. Bill 91, in contrast, does provide a list of financial items to be reported annually, greenhouse gas predictions and a discussion on the effectiveness of the carbon tax in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. There's also a six-month period for an annual report to be prepared and made public in Bill 91 providing some clarity over when it will be available. A draft of Bill 91, which only focuses on carbon tax reporting, was provided to Cabinet with a request for feedback but no response was received. It will now be up to the Standing Committee on Government Operations to sort it out, but I will come prepared with ideas.

Lastly, I want to comment on the narrow scope of this bill. Without diving too deeply into the tragedy and trauma of Bill 60 and the debate we had in this House in March, Bill 92 does not resolve the need for separate accounting as well of the carbon tax from the consolidated revenue fund. There's also the outstanding issue of fair treatment for all businesses and NGOs as only the large emitters, the diamond mines, will get an effective 72 percent rebate. There's also issues, Mr. Speaker, around the exclusion of methane emissions from the carbon tax, which I believe should also be revisited. And there should be mandatory public engagement before regulations are made or significantly changed.

Mr. Speaker, those are my remarks on Bill 92, and I look forward to working with people in this House to get this resolved. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Frame Lake. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Any abstentions? Bill 92 has had second reading and is referred to the committee.

---Carried

Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Bill 23, 29, and 72, Committee Report 52-19(2), Minister's Statement 264-19(2), Tabled Document 681-19(2), Tabled Document 940-19, Tabled Document 941-19(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 now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Monsieur le President. Committee wishes to consider Bill 72 and Tabled Document 940-19(2) and Tabled Document 941-19(2). Mahsi, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, committee. We'll take a short recess and resume with the first item.

---SHORT RECESS

MS. SEMMLER: Committee, we've agreed to consider Bill 72, Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act. I will ask the Minister of Justice to introduce the bill.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am here today to present Bill 72, Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act.

The purpose of Bill 72 is to permit the Government of the Northwest Territories to file a lawsuit to recover from manufacturers and distributors of opioid drugs, the past and future health care costs incurred on behalf of Northwest Territories' residents for opioid-related illnesses. The opioid crisis has incurred substantial costs to federal, provincial, and territorial governments who have spent increasing amounts on health care to address the fallout of opioid over-prescription.

British Columbia has enacted its own opioid cost recovery legislation and is in active class action litigation before the Supreme Court of British Columbia. This action could include all federal, provincial, and territorial governments as potential class members in this lawsuit and seeks to recover the opioid-related health care costs of the potential class members.

Currently, the GNWT's ability to independently recover opioid damages is in question as the

applicable limitation period has expired under the Limitation of Actions Act. As our legislation stands, the GNWT may be unable to recover health care costs under British Columbia's opioid action. The proposed legislation would not only remove the existing limitation period barrier to such a claim but also improve the likelihood of the opioid action's success by establishing a common issue across all jurisdictions with that legislation. This would simplify the advancement of the opioid action.

The proposed new act will:

- Provide a statutory basis to sue manufacturers and distributors of opioid drugs directly for opioid-related wrongs;
- Provide the ability to sue opioid producers and distributors on an aggregate basis without having to identify particular insured persons who suffered harm;
- Provide simplified formula to determine the individual share of liability for each opioid producer and/or manufacturer named in a lawsuit;
- Provide the ability to base claims of harm on statistical and sociological data; and,
- Extend limitation periods applicable to actions based on opioid-related harm.

Approximately eight other jurisdictions have enacted their own versions of this legislation, and the wording of the proposed new act is virtually identical to the existing legislation in other jurisdictions.

This concludes my opening remarks, and I would be happy to answer questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Yes, I would.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Madam Chair. On my left is Maren Zimmer, legal counsel for the Department of Justice. And on my right is Laura Jeffrey, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. I will now turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Development, the

committee that reviewed the bill, for any opening comments on Bill 72. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I am pleased to speak to Bill 72, Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act in my capacity as chair of social development.

This bill allows for the Government of the Northwest Territories to participate in a class action lawsuit filed by the government of BC to allow the GNWT to recover health care expenses incurred from opioid damages. Committee supports this legislation.

During standing committee's review of Bill 72, committee heard from Indigenous governments and community stakeholders. Committee heard that at the time BC filed the class action lawsuit, the NWT was experiencing the fourth highest rate of opioid-related death and hospitalizations in the country. Committee recognizes that communities and Indigenous governments respond to the needs of their residents by providing frontline response. Whether it's through counselling, costs for addictions treatment, or other programs and services, communities in the NWT bare a cost for opioid addictions. Committee also recognizes that this bill is limited in scope to allow the GNWT to participate in the class action lawsuit with other Canadian jurisdictions. The strength of class action lawsuits is that interests of all participating jurisdictions align so we want to acknowledge that it was important to keep the bill the same as other jurisdictions. To respond effectively to the impacts from opioid addictions, committee encourages the GNWT to work with Indigenous governments to begin tracking the full cost of responding to the opioid crisis. Committee also encourages the GNWT to allocate any future revenues received from the class action lawsuit to be distributed among Indigenous governments in their response to this national crisis.

Madam Chair, I just wanted to make a couple of comments here. Within committee's review, they did look at some of the definitions to see that although the scope of the bill was narrow and needed to be narrow to allow us to align with other jurisdictions, we did think it was really important to acknowledge the expenses that Indigenous governments specifically are incurring for costs that are recognized under the definitions here.

On page 1 of the bill, under the definition for health care benefits, while (a) refers to insured services as defined in subsection 1(1) of the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act, (b) speaks to

benefits and insured services, both as defined in section 1 of the Medical Care Act; and (c) -- this is the one that was of interest to committee -- speaks to other expenditures made directly or through one or more agents or other intermediate bodies by the Government of the Northwest Territories for programs, services, benefits, or similar matters associated with opioid-related disease, injury, or illness.

Madam Chair, it's really important to be specific here that committee is not asking for additional social costs to be covered by this bill. But the costs that the GNWT is prepared to capture and bring back to the territory through this suit, there are other entities that are incurring the same types of costs, for example treatment through Indigenous governments, and it's really important to committee that these expenses are captured and that revenue for current and future costs can be shared with Indigenous governments. So thank you very much, Madam Chair. And thank you to my colleagues for hearing me out on that one.

This concludes my marks on Bill 72, and my colleagues may have additional questions or comments. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. I will now open the floor to general comments on Bill 72. Member for Great Slave.

MS. NOKLEBY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't really have anything to add to what my colleague has already expressed, which I think she did a very good job on capturing how the discussion went through the committee and noting, in particular, the concerns of Indigenous governments and organizations around their expenses and their costs. And while I do wish we could expand the scope of the bill to include all the social and indirect costs that we are paying as a territory, it's unfortunate that that is not something we can go after these opioid companies or these pharmaceutical companies for. However, I do also agree that there is a way within this to ensure that we could recover their costs through just the legislation as it is, and I do also want to stress that I hope the government thinks really creatively here, when they are rolling up all the costs and taking this forward, that they do work with the Indigenous governments to include theirs. It's been my sort of experience now in this role that, you know, obviously governments put forward bills, legislation, policies, etcetera, and it's only by the testing of that or someone else looking at that that a new idea or something that's been unthought of comes forward. And so I think while maybe it's not totally in the scope here, perhaps just trying to get it in there might spur someone at a higher level, and I'm not a lawyer

and I'm looking at lawyers in the room and I'm sure they probably think this might be tough but, you know, maybe it'll spark something at a higher level where they will acknowledge what the price is to Indigenous governments. And I think a really tangible example of this is with the loss of the Poundmaker's contract from the Department of Health and Social Services, I am aware of instances now where Indigenous governments and organizations are footing the bill themselves to send their members to treatment, which is great. Any way that anybody can get into treatment, I'm all for, but that's where, again, like my colleague said, worry that that cost, because they are filling the gap for our government, won't be then recouped. So just want to say the same things. I do think we need to work with that. I really want us to ensure that we are fulsomely evaluating these costs and that I hope that committee would have an opportunity to continue to weigh in on this as it moves forward. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, thanks, Madam Chair. So as I understand it, committee received a written submission from the Deline Got'ine government, and I'm sure the committee will find a way to get that posted to their web page, to make that submission public. But they were asking for revenue sharing with regard to any settlement that might be made. And I guess I want to ask the Minister and his staff how they intend to interpret this: "health care benefits" means item (c) found on page 2 of the bill. Do they actually intend to try to recover costs where they have reimbursed Indigenous governments for health care benefits that have been reimbursed in some way to an Indigenous government? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. So the legislation covers costs that would be incurred by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Those could include costs that were contributed to Indigenous governments, flowing through Indigenous governments. But if Indigenous governments incurred costs on their own and tried to bill back the Government of the Northwest Territories, those types of costs are not included. I can hand it to Ms. Zimmer for a response. I knew her first name; her last name escaped me for a moment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Ms. Zimmer.

MS. ZIMMER: Thank you. I don't know if I have a whole lot more to add; I think that was a good

answer. Just looking at (c), it does include any situation where the Northwest Territories would have expended cash through a contract or some other arrangement with an Indigenous government.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, thanks, Madam Chair. So what is the current practice if an Indigenous government covers someone's health care -- one of their member's health care costs in some way with regard to an opioid issue or, say, travel for treatment or whatever, does GNWT make reimbursement to the Indigenous government upon request; is that the practice right now? And are those costs tracked? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. So that would be a question for the Minister of health. I don't have an answer. But I don't believe that is the case. And I don't believe that, you know -- receipts are submitted and then the GNWT reimburses, I don't believe that's the practice. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, thanks. If that's not the practice, what's the purpose of this section? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: So this is for instances where perhaps -- for example, I believe, that money is flowed from the GNWT to the Tlicho government so that they can then pay for their members to go to Poundmaker's. So that's an instance where the GNWT has incurred costs. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Okay. So just so I understand this a little bit better, is this going to work just retroactively to the date that this bill is passed, or is there sort of a proactive aspect to this bill where it could be used to cover future costs? And I'm sorry, I just don't know that answer so -- maybe I'll go to the law clerk and ask the law clerk that question. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: That is for the law clerk, I believe the Member said?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Law clerk.

MR. KRUGER: Thanks, Madam Chair. So there is a provision in the bill "cost to health care benefits" which is in the definition section and deals with either the present value of total expenditures by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the present value of estimated total of future expenditures as well. And so the cost of health care benefits that have been discussed here could be included in those amounts sought to be recovered. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, thanks. So this could be used, moving forward, for health care benefits that are incurred related to opioid damages and the GNWT can, and perhaps should, start tracking these costs that are covered by other agents? I guess that's a question for the Minister. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Justice.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. So the question is whether the GNWT can and should start tracking these costs? Perhaps for a discussion of -- part of the reason for things like this class action are that we don't have to prove damages for every individual, don't have to prove that an individual became addicted to opioids due to, you know, the actions of a company and then prove the number. So what we are doing is looking at damages on an aggregate basis. Perhaps I can hand it to Ms. Zimmer to maybe explain things a bit more concisely. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Ms. Zimmer.

MS. ZIMMER: Yes, so part of the purpose of the bill is to create some evidentiary shortcuts through the litigation and doing that through the calculations, and you'll see the formulas in there in order to prove aggregate harm, and that would be based on a population basis and the overall expenditures. And so by creating that, you're not sort of looking at it at that granular level and it allows the government to move forward and to better recover costs for the harms that have been incurred.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, so, yeah, I get that there's a formula in here and that it's some kind

of pro forma calculation then of what the damages are. But will GNWT then include costs that have been incurred by Indigenous governments in seeking damages as part of this class action suit? That's my first question. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. This is costs that are incurred by the GNWT only. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, then what's the purpose of, you know, (c) here which does cover through one or more agents or in other intermediate bodies. Does that potentially include Indigenous governments and why wouldn't we roll those costs into this if there's a way to do that? So, yeah, thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Justice.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. So those intermediates, those agents would -- the example I used earlier, the GNWT flows money to an Indigenous government, the Indigenous government then uses that money to send their members to treatment. So it's not the GNWT directly sending somebody to treatment, it is another body, and that is what that is intended to cover. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Okay, maybe this is just semantics then. So GNWT has to initiate giving money to Indigenous governments on their own before we're going to seek reimbursement. What about in cases where Indigenous governments incur some costs and then seek and maybe even get reimbursement from GNWT for opioid-related damages, would those sort of costs -- could they be rolled up in this as part of the claim? Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. So if the GNWT pays the costs, then it's my understanding that those costs could be recoverable. But I don't believe -- and, again, this is not my area. But it's not my understanding that the reimbursements like the Member is talking about are commonplace. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, okay. I'm just trying to get to the bottom of this in my one minute that's left now. And I haven't got an answer about what the current practice is, or the practice will be moving forward. And is any of this going to be communicated in any way to the Indigenous governments that their costs related to opioid damages, if they seek and maybe even get reimbursement from GNWT, they would be included in the claim and that there might even be the potential, at some point, for sharing some of the claim money. Thanks, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. At this point there is no such plans that I'm aware of. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Did you have any final -- okay, Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Yeah, thanks, recognizing I have 13 seconds left. Yeah, this is obviously an issue. At least one Indigenous government has raised this issue and I am going to suggest to the Minister, and maybe the Minister of Health and Social Services, that you need to have this discussion at the Council of Leaders' level to get their views about this. If we're going to do things, we are going to do things with Indigenous governments, you have an obligation to talk to them about this. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Are there any further questions? Member for Thebacha.

MS. MARTSELOS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to ask a couple of questions because I mean, each one of us in the room has been touched by addiction in our lives, whether it be someone close to you, someone in the family, and it's always someone you love. And for clarity, we're putting -- I just want to make sure that, you know, there's situations where things happen and people have to go back to -- we're putting a lot of onus on Indigenous governments for their -- I'd rather -- I just wonder how that's going to work because I'm just wondering, you know, where's the anonymity that is going to -- is supposed to be for the person that goes to treatment? There's a lot of times, you know, you're supposed to try and keep everything private and confidential and if we're going to have to go to an Indigenous government to get approval, if you're Indigenous, to send someone to treatment, I don't know how that's going to work. I just have a little bit of a problem with that

because, you know, I have experienced this most of my life and I want to be very honest about that. It's a very thing -- it's a situation where it's very close to your heart and many times people don't understand the whole situation. And the whole situation is not -- it can't be government -- it can't be done in this way. There has to be -- there has to be better ways of doing it. And I'm just wondering -- I support the bill. I think it's a good idea that we get the funds that are -- that we've spent to clarify this but it's the -- it's what you're suggesting afterwards as a group that I have some problems with because I never really paid attention to this and -- because I'm not into a lot of social issues. I don't -- you know, I'm very much a -- my knowledge is in a different place. And sometimes, you know, I just -- I don't know, I just -- I have a lot of questions, and I just wonder how people are going to be able to get to treatment quicker. That's my number one issue right now. By giving it to an Indigenous government, does that mean it's going to be quicker or the whole town's going to know? You know, and most of our people are of Indigenous descent and many times they don't want that to happen. And so I don't know. I just want some of these questions answered. And I know that we'll have a -- hopefully -- because I can't support something that I know is not -- is not correct because I dealt with this in my family for most of my life and it's -- it's a very hurtful situation. And with that, I just -- that's it. I just wanted to make a comment. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member for Thebacha. Are there any further general comments on Bill 72? Member for Monfwi.

MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madam Chair. I know that in many of the small communities, lately we've been seeing a lot of young people, you know, fatalities involving young peoples with -- you know, in the fatalities where it all involves alcohol, drugs, you know, the addiction issues. We have a lot of issues in small communities. And even in Yellowknife, we have issues with addiction. Living in Yellowknife compared from the 70s, 80s, 90s, it's not the same no more. It's not safe to walk downtown Yellowknife because there's all kind of other people, you know, on the street. And especially -- and the people that we see there are all Indigenous. And in our communities, in many of the small communities, it's all -- they're all Indigenous, just like what my colleague said, you know. And we do have lot of addiction issues. We have a lot of mental health issues in small communities. And we know where that problem came from and how we got there. And like I've said in the past before, that these were

not an issue before. So I just wanted to ask the Minister or, you know, it's more of a comment too. If he wants to answer, that's great, that's okay with him. But what I would like to see if this money, you know -- when we get this money, what I would like to see is that for the money to be shared with the Indigenous government. Will the Minister -- will they -- you know, like can we get any commitment or anything like that to see, or what their thoughts is on this because like I said, the addiction is not going to go away any time soon unless we do something about it. And we all know someone -- in our communities, we know someone in our families. And we had -- we even have some young people that are, you know, driving under the influence of, you know -- well alcohol, but a lot of them are driving under the influence of drugs too as well. We know that. I know that they are legal, marijuana is legal but we know that there's a lot of them are doing that, driving under the influence. So I know we need to do more. And especially with drinking and driving. And there was -- there is a court case. It was yesterday. So, you know, like I mean it's not just individuals. There's the whole family. Everybody is, you know, not just the whole family, but there's friends, the community are affected by the whole process. And you guys seen or heard about what happened in my region, one in another small community that just recently happened and another that happened in May and another one that happened in 2021. The court case, you know, just finished yesterday. So I just wish that this government would do more to help our people. And with this, with this opioid -- with this money, I would like the government to share this with the Indigenous governments so they can deal with their problems, with the issues that's affecting them in the small communities, in the regions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister of Justice.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. So I cannot commit to spending money that won't come to the Government of the Northwest Territories any time soon. I expect this to be years away if we get any type of money. And who knows what the landscape will look like by then. Perhaps Indigenous governments will be delivering health services themselves so it might be a different discussion. But the idea of this legislation is to allow us to participate in a class action lawsuit open to federal, territorial, and provincial governments. I don't think there's anything stopping Indigenous governments from starting filing their own class action lawsuit. You know, municipalities probably want to be included in this conversation too. They have a lot of expenses related to, you know, the

first responders that they hire. So the costs go well beyond health care costs. I think we all know that the cost of opioid addiction in particular, because that's what this is about, go well beyond what the Government of the Northwest Territories incurs. And so we could sit here all day and have a wide range of conversations, but that is beyond the scope of this bill here. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. Are there any further -- Member for Monfwi, did you -- oh, you have --

MS. WEYALLON ARMSTRONG: Well, if we had the resources, I'm sure the Indigenous government would do -- you know, will do their own class actions. But in many of the small communities, we don't have the resources. And even the Auditor General in the 2016 report said that a lot of community governments are underfunded. So we don't have resources. So that's why we're -- I'm saying that if this goes through, if the money, you know -- if they get the money, then I would like to see that money being shared with the Indigenous government. So he can help us not just keep it in Yellowknife -- or with the GNWT. You know, and I know that there are others -- I would like to -- for the Cabinet to share what they're saying there. I know they're yapping over there and they're saying things, but I would like -- you know, it would be nice if that Cabinet would listen to us and work with us and work with the Indigenous government. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. What was going on over in Cabinet was just something other than this topic and so it wasn't had to do with this conversation, so. If there's any other further questions, your time has expired for this Member and I'm going to move on to Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: Yeah, thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, just listening to the questions and comments that are happening today and I mean, the Member for Frame Lake just spent ten minutes kind of, I believe, getting to this question. And so I am wondering if we can just kind of get on the record whether or not the Minister will commit to working with the GNWT to establish a mechanism for Indigenous governments to track and recruit and report approved opioid damage costs and expenses as defined under "health care benefits" in Bill 72? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Minister.

HON. R.J. SIMPSON: Thank you. Not at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Member for Kam Lake.

MS. CLEVELAND: That was my only question. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. Is there any further questions from any Members that haven't spoken to Bill 72? Seeing none, is committee agreed that there are no further general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Can we proceed to a clause by clause review of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, we will defer the bill number and title until after consideration of the clauses. Please turn to page 1 of the bill.

Clauses 1 to 5, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 6 to 10, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clauses 11 to 13, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Clause schedule, does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Committee, to the bill as a whole, does committee agree that Bill 72, Opioid Damages and Health Care Cost Recovery Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 72, Opioid Damages and Health Care Cost Recovery?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister, and thank you to the witnesses. Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we have agreed to consider Tabled Document 940-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2023-2024.

Members, we have concluded all departments prior to deferring the tabled document. Do Members have any comments? Seeing none, Minister, did you have any comments?

HON. CAROLINE WAWZONEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I was hoping to do some brief closing remarks, largely for the sake of ensuring that the purposes here are clear to the members of the public, so if I may, with that, Madam Chair, we are indeed seeking some supplementary funding for infrastructure expenditures in the amount of \$124.5 million. This will bring total proposed expenditures for 2023-2024 to \$462.146 million. As I outlined in Committee of the Whole yesterday, the additional numbers are mainly comprising capital carryovers.

Madam Chair, the GNWT does intentionally budget an amount above what we are expecting to spend for the simple reality that across hundreds of millions of dollars and multiple communities in a large jurisdiction, this ensures that when something may be delayed or it needs changing that, given the large infrastructure deficit that we have, we don't allow any of our capacity to go unused. But, Madam Chair, I did want to make clear, as I don't know that I was honestly quite clear yesterday, that in 2022-2023, the GNWT spent \$285.8 million on capital projects in the territory and that this is indeed above the average of \$226 million of the last ten years. If we take into consideration incremental costs and increases as a result of inflation, which I know was asked yesterday, the GNWT has spent almost \$50 million more than the average fiscal year. However, Madam Chair, not all of the budgeted amount for capital expenditures in 2022-2023 was expended. And, again, I want to be clear about this given the questions that arose yesterday. Accordingly, departments are proposing here the capital carryover of \$129.7 million in order to continue some of the work that was begun now into the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

We do continue to drive a decrease in the annual amounts that are carried over. And in last year's carryovers were, I acknowledge, almost at 40 percent of the capital budget. But, Madam Chair, again, a number that I ought to have perhaps clarified yesterday but I'm happy to do so now, this year the GNWT is proposing to carry over only approximately 24 percent of its annual budget.

Madam Chair, as I noted previously, changes to public sector reporting standards do require the GNWT to report some third-party funding as revenues for the related expenditures in order to be appropriated now and voted on by

Members of the Assembly. This is a new change, so I wanted to clarify that.

Of the total \$462.146 million capital budget that we now have, \$95.3 million of that is in fact related to federally-funded projects administered by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs that previously had been reported as work on behalf of others and therefore not appropriated. But that has now changed. Without the change in reporting, the GNWT's total 2023-2024 plan would be approximately \$366 million. So that would have been a figure much more aligned with the realistic responsible capital plan that we are now trying to put forward. I.

Also do want to note, Madam Chair, most of the \$129.7 million as carry over is required to provide funding for the continuation of infrastructure projects which were not complete in the 2022-2023 year. But, again, almost \$35 million of that, in those capital carryovers, is itself a result of the change in accounting treatment.

Madam Chair, I also wanted to take an opportunity, there was questions about what some of the different projects were, and so I wanted to address that here in the House and bring attention to some of the major projects that were indeed completed or that had substantial work completed in the last fiscal year. And those include:

- The completion of the Ecole Itlo here in Yellowknife;
- Continued work on the runway extension in Inuvik;
- Inuvik airport resurfacing adaptation work;
- The completion of the Fort Smith airport surfacing overlay;
- A completion of the Fort Smith airport electrical;
- Work on the Stanton Legacy facility which will be opening this year; and,
- Work on the Hay River Fish Plant which will also be opening now this year.

Further to this, there's a few multi-year projects that are now underway for 2023-2024 as a result of this supplementary estimate, or which we would hope will be underway as a result of the supplementary estimate; namely, including:

- The wellness and recovery centre
- The territorial fire centre, and
- Electronic client health record charting.

Madam Chair, the right sizing efforts were also subject of discussion and so I wanted to clarify that we are, indeed, committed to the right sizing efforts. I believe they are starting to bear fruit and that efforts in the capital budget in working with communities in this regard is happening. Right sizing is reducing the growth in debt. Madam Chair, Budget 2022-2023 had projected debt growth of around 6 percent and that the GNWT would, in fact, reach our mandated borrowing limit by 2025-2026. But with the reductions to the approach in capital planning, Budget 2023-2024 reduced our projected debt growth to 1 percent and forecasts a more comfortable cushion of \$300 million, approximately, from underneath the borrowing limit over the next five years.

This is going to continue into the future, Madam Chair, with an overall smaller capital plan. I think I did mention this yesterday. When we go into the construction season, we then see less carryovers into future years when we start out from a smaller spot.

That said, as I acknowledged yesterday, we are absorbing impacts from what was an ever-growing capital plan, something that began prior to this Assembly, or to anyone in this House. That does mean that there are some carryovers from those years of large growth and from the increased overall capital plans in those years and that was still the case with the items that are before committee here.

That said, Madam Chair, I do appreciate the support of committee through the supplementary appropriation process to get some of those key projects moving, concluded, and indeed to now get some of them started including the fire centre, the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway, and initiatives such as the fish plant also completed. Thank you, Madam Chair. That concludes my remarks.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Minister. If there are no further comments, Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madame la Presidente. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 940-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2023-2024, be now concluded, and that Tabled Document 940-19(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): (audio) it was caught on the end. Member for Frame Lake.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Madam Chair. Would you like me to repeat the whole thing? I'm sorry,

I couldn't get the computer screen to scroll up at the right time.

COMMITTEE MOTION 465-19(2):
CONCURRENCE MOTION – TABLED
DOCUMENT 941-19(2): SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES (INFRASTRUCTURE
EXPENDITURES), NO. 2. 2023-2024,
CARRIED

I move that consideration of Tabled Document 940-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2023-2024, be now concluded, and that Tabled Document 940-19(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Mahsi, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried. This concludes consideration of Tabled Document 940-19(2).

---Carried

Committee, we've agreed to consider Tabled Document 941-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2023-2024.

Members we've concluded all departments prior to deferring the tabled document. Do Members have any comments? Seeing no comments, Member for Frame Lake.

COMMITTEE MOTION 466-19(2):
CONCURRENCE MOTION – TABLED
DOCUMENT 941-19(2): SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES (OPERATIONS
EXPENDITURES), NO. 2. 2023-2024,
CARRIED

MR. O'REILLY: Merci, Madame la Presidente. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 941-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2023-2024, be now concluded, and that Tabled Document 941-19(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in a formal session through -- I don't have a paper copy. Sorry, Madam Chair. Now I do. Thanks.

Madam Chair, I move that consideration of Tabled Document 941-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2023-2024, be now concluded, and that Tabled

Document 941-19(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Mahsi, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried. This concludes consideration of Tabled Document 941-19(2).

---Carried

Member for Frame Lake.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Semmler): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MS. SEMMLER: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 72, Tabled Document 940 and 941 and would like to report progress with two motions carried, and that Bill 72, Opioid Damages and Health Care Recovery Act, is ready for third reading and that consideration of Tabled Documents 940 and 941 are concluded, and that the House concur on those estimates and that the appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes. Do we have a seconder? Member for Deh Cho. All those in favour? All those opposed? Any abstentions in the motion is carried.

---Carried.

Third reading of bills. Member for Kam Lake.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 90:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ACT, NO. 5,
CARRIED

MS. CLEVELAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 90, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 5, be read for the third time. And Mr. Speaker, I request a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Member for Kam Lake. The motion is in order. To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Rutland): The Member for Kam Lake. The Member for Frame Lake. The Member for Yellowknife North. The Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh. The Member for Monfwi. The Member for Great Slave. The Member for Nahendeh. 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 Thebacha.

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

The results of the recorded vote: 17 in favour, zero opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 90 has had third reading.

---Carried.

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Glen Rutland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Friday, June 2nd, 2023, at 10 a.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
 - Oral Question 1548-19(2), Indian Day Schools
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to the Commissioner's Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Motions
 - Motion 82-19(2), Extended Adjournment of the House to August 16, 2023
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 93, Practice of Engineering, Geoscience and Applied Science Technology Act
 - Bill 94, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 64, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3
 - Bill 93, Practice of Engineering, Geoscience and Applied Science Technology Act
 - Bill 94, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023
20. 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

- Committee Report 52-19(2), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly
- 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

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 72, Opioid Damages and Health Care Cost Recovery Act

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, June 2nd 2023, at 10 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:42 p.m.