

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, December 4, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: I will now call the House to order. We will proceed at this time with prayers.

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Outside the Cube

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It's my honour to rise today to pay tribute to a local company that has quickly risen as a leader in traditional and on-line marketing — Outside the Cube management consulting agency. Outside the Cube is the Department of Tourism and Culture's agency of record and they worked with the department on an innovative marketing campaign called, "Tourism Yukon Portals: Breaking Through the Urban Landscape".

This campaign has received two awards, both presented in Toronto in November. The first, a silver at the 2013 Media Innovation Awards ceremony held November 7. The silver was awarded in the Best Use of Digital Place-Based Media category. Canada's Media Innovation Awards, now in its 14th year, honours the growing role of media and marketing and the implementation of breakthrough advertising media programs.

The second is a bronze at the Canadian Marketing Association Awards ceremony held November 29. The bronze was awarded in the Community Engagement (Public Relations/Social Media) category. A second noteworthy item is the gold winner in this category — the Canadian Tourism Commission's 35 Million Directors campaign, which prominently showed several Yukon video submissions.

The Canadian Marketing Association awards recognize creativity, innovation and the ability to put a campaign together that exceeds traditional marketing methods and tools.

The Portal to the Yukon campaign surprised and entertained pedestrians on the streets of Toronto. The campaign gave pedestrians a truly unique glimpse into the Yukon through portals that appeared to be openings transforming on the sides of concrete and glass buildings outside of the Air Canada Centre, Rogers stadium and the Eaton Centre. As each portal opened, amazing light shows and impressive videos began that showed images of Yukon's natural and breathtaking landscapes, culture and activities. Onlookers were given a glimpse into Yukon's magical worlds that include the midnight sun, iconic drives, heritage and culture, the Klondike Gold Rush, northern lights, wilderness and wildlife. The campaign was then shared on social media, which expanded the reach of this innovative marketing method across a global, on-line network. The innovative

award-winning Portal to the Yukon campaign effectively promoted Yukon to an urban audience in Toronto, many of whom have never been north to experience Yukon's quiet, solitude, breathtaking landscapes, pristine wilderness, rich history and vibrant arts and culture that we all enjoy.

Outside the Cube began its operation in 2004 with headquarters in Whitehorse and offices in Vancouver, Yellowknife and Kingston, Ontario. Since then, their accomplishments include: Scotiabank Hockey Day in Canada activities celebrated in 2011, where they worked with 30-plus planning volunteers to promote city-wide events; the multi-year Canada's North campaign that showcased Nunavut, Northwest West Territories and Yukon as a northern destination not to be missed; and their extensive support to the department and to Yukon government during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games that elevated Yukon's profile across sport, art and culture, and First Nation events held at Canada's Northern House.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Yukon, I congratulate all those working with Outside the Cube who were involved in the execution of the Portal to the Yukon campaign presented to the Toronto public this past April. We applaud the vision of the department to promote Yukon to potential visitors through inspired, non-traditional marketing methods and social media that captured interest and awareness and generated excitement for this great land that we call home.

So, congratulations to Outside the Cube, their dedicated team and to the department on achieving this remarkable recognition for their work. I invite everyone to view the six portal videos hosted on the travelyukon.com website, with links to the [travelyukon](http://travelyukon.com) YouTube channel. There you will find the Yukon portal videos and see first-hand the amazing and creative work that went into this unique, award-winning campaign.

I'd like to recognize some people who have come here from Outside the Cube to the gallery today. If all members can just hold off their applause until the end, we will recognize people who worked extremely hard on this campaign. Please put your hand up so we all know who you are.

I'll start with Alastair Smith, Martha Taylor, Pixie Ingram, Echo Ross, Emilie Joslin, Cody Hougen, Mark Rutledge, Dan Macdonald and Chantelle Rivest. From the Department of Tourism and Culture, also joining us — and if all members can now join me in welcoming everyone — Stephen Reynolds, who is the digital marketing strategist.

Applause

In recognition of Operation Nanook 13

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I rise today on behalf of the Assembly to pay tribute to all the individuals from various governments and organizations who played an instrumental role in the success of Operation Nanook 13. Operation Nanook is the most well-known annual training operation held in the north by the Canadian Armed Forces and is an important part of asserting Canada's Arctic sovereignty, as

well as preparing our northern forces for what may come down the road.

Operation Nanook brought more than 550 Canadian Armed Forces personnel to Yukon, as well as representatives from various governments and agencies across Canada, interested in emergency preparedness work and to participate in this exercise. In all, approximately 900 individuals participated in Operation Nanook 13, including a special visit from the Governor General of Canada, His Excellency David Johnston.

The Yukon portion of Operation Nanook 13 was led by the Government of Yukon's Protective Services branch of the Department of Community Services. It took place between August 4 and 9 of this year and was the result of two years of planning. The Yukon operation was designed to test our emergency preparedness and response under realistic scenarios. Our partners, including the Canadian Armed Forces, the City of Whitehorse, Whitehorse General Hospital, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other government branches and organizations, were all very keen to participate in and jointly test our emergency systems.

A series of simulated emergency exercises were conducted in the Whitehorse area involving the multiple agencies and governments responsible for emergency management and coordination. A simulated biohazard, mass casualty event and evacuation of the Whitehorse Copper country residential and Mount Sima industrial subdivisions were just some of the mock exercises that helped test and strengthen emergency capability.

Yukon government and its partners were certainly up to the task and we've learned valuable lessons that will help improve systems and be more efficient and effective in future real-life emergency situations should those occur.

We couldn't have done it without the leadership and professionalism of the Canadian Armed Forces whose expertise, dedication and assistance were not only instrumental in the success of the operation, but enriched our relationship as well and have paved the way for future opportunities to work together in a similar capacity.

In addition to the Canadian Armed Forces and the various Yukon agencies and organizations involved, Operation Nanook 13 also attracted participants and observers from British Columbia, Alberta, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec and the United States. With their support, Yukon was able to test existing mutual aid agreements. For example, the State of Alaska was involved in the establishment of a mobile command unit. In addition, there are many individuals from across government and from our partner organizations who worked tirelessly to pull this major exercise off. I would like to thank all of them for their efforts.

We have also already started the important task of analyzing results from this operation and making connections that will help strengthen emergency management capacity and response in the future. We look forward to sharing those findings with our partners and with Yukoners. We sincerely hope that this is the first of many such operations alongside

the Canadian Armed Forces and with our many local and national partners.

So again, on behalf of the Government of Yukon, I extend our sincere appreciation to the Canadian Armed Forces for their support and to all of the various organizations and Yukon government staff who participated in Operation Nanook — very well done on behalf of myself and the government to all who were involved.

I would like to ask members to join me in welcoming to the gallery today Gerry McLachlan, who is the Operation Nanook 13 lead for the Yukon government, and Major Bob Saunders from Joint Task Force North, based in Whitehorse, who is the Yukon liaison with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Applause

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Also joining us in the gallery — who probably works with Outside the Cube on a daily basis — from the Department of Tourism and Culture is Robin Anderson. He is our market manager for Europe and the UK. Welcome.

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Nixon: For tabling today I have the 2014 vacation planner travelyukon.com. I also have for tabling the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board 2012-13 annual report.

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: For tabling in the House, I have the Fleet Vehicle Agency's 2012-13 annual report.

Speaker: Are there any reports of committees? Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 15 — response

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the petition tabled on November 25 requesting confirmation that the Minister of Environment will — and I quote: “stop all activities toward the development of the Atlin campground; commence discussions with C/TFN to develop the Conrad Campground and honour the C/TFN Final Agreement; and, uphold the honour of the Crown by engaging TRTFN in meaningful consultation.”

I note that the petition is signed by four people.

The Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board has reviewed the proposed development of the campground on Atlin Road at the north end of Atlin Lake. After considering the proposed development plans, reviewing public comments and input from various stakeholder groups, the evaluation report from the Teslin designated office of the YESAB recommends that the campground development

proceed with specific conditions. The next step is for Yukon government to review the recommendations provided in the evaluation report. After that review is complete, the Yukon government will issue a decision document which will outline our next steps.

The Yukon government will take the proposed mitigations suggested by YESAB into account and also consider any additional First Nations input that is provided in the context of the proposed mitigations identified by YESAB as we prepare our decision document. This will include seriously considering the input of affected First Nations, including the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

As I have indicated previously, we will continue to fulfill our obligations to the TRTFN through consultation and, where appropriate, provide for mitigations or accommodations with respect to potential impacts on their asserted aboriginal rights.

The Conrad campground opportunity referenced in the *Carcross-Tagish First Nation Final Agreement* is an area of partnership the Yukon government would pursue in future when the decision is made to develop this site. As I noted earlier, there is great potential for this beautiful site.

We are committed to working collaboratively with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation if we do go down the road of developing Conrad. The potential campgrounds at Conrad and Atlin do not have to be mutually exclusive. There is certainly a need for multiple new campgrounds in the southern Yukon. Yukoners and visitors alike would benefit greatly by the development of both of these campgrounds.

In regard to the specific requests contained in the petition — that government “uphold the honor of the Crown by engaging TRTFN in meaningful consultation” — I can say that the Yukon government did indeed initiate formal consultation with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation on this project. I believe the Yukon government’s willingness to do our best to mitigate any impacts that the development of the campground might have on the TRTFN’s asserted rights is a reasonable response.

In summary, I assure the members of this House that we intend to complete our review of YESAB’s Designated Office evaluation report on the Atlin campground as soon as possible. The government’s process for developing the decision document will fully take into account our consultations with First Nations and will consider the mitigations recommended by YESAB as a result of First Nation input on this project.

The Yukon government remains interested in the future development of Conrad as a territorial campground and, when appropriate, we will do so in partnership with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation in a manner that respects its final agreement.

Petition No. 16 — response

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I rise today to respond to Petition No. 16, which was tabled with regard to the Ross River bridge. In responding to that petition, I would note first of all that we thank the Yukoners who have expressed their interest in this bridge and who have expressed their views of the

heritage value and value to the community of Ross River of the Ross River suspension bridge.

I would note in responding to this petition — as I’ve said before in the House — that the only reason that government has even given consideration to the possibility of demolishing the Ross River suspension bridge was the result of the engineering report we received from David Nairne and Associates in September of this year. I will quote from the memorandum we received from the engineers, which noted:

“This memorandum summarizes our findings and recommendations following the results of a site inspection of the north and south bridge towers carried out by Klondike Welding Ltd. on September 26 and 27, 2013;

“1. There is severe structural damage occurring in the north tower head beam. This damage [was] much worse than anticipated. The head beam is overstressed and laterally unstable and can no longer safely support the bridge suspension cables.

“2. The north tower head beam is in a critical condition and is at the point of failure and can collapse at any time without warning. The collapse of the head beam will result in the collapse of the bridge deck and possibly the collapse of the north and south towers. The north tower head beam is structurally unsafe in its present condition and we recommend that no further inspection or any repairs to the head beam be carried out.

“3. In consideration of the critical condition of the north tower head beam and the poor overall condition of the bridge structure, we believe that it is no longer practical from a structural and construction safety perspective to repair and salvage the bridge. As a result, we recommend that the bridge be demolished as soon as possible for safety reasons.

“4. In the interim, the bridge should continue to be securely closed to all public use with a danger zone established around the base of the north tower.”

Again, in responding to this petition, I would note — as I have previously in the House — that we very much appreciate what we’ve heard from Yukon citizens who value this bridge.

We understand the value that the community places on it and in response to that, as well as specific requests from my colleague, the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin and the Chief of the Ross River First Nation, we arranged for a peer review to be done of this engineering report by Dr. Ellis of Stantec, who is a respected authority on bridges. Once that report has been received and given consideration by department staff, we will be sharing that with the community of Ross River, including the Ross River First Nation, prior to making a decision about what steps to take with regard to this bridge.

Speaker: Are there any petitions to be presented?
Are there any bills to be introduced?
Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Ms. McLeod: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to develop and produce educational materials to increase public awareness of aquatic invasive species.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to work collaboratively with First Nation governments through initiatives such as:

(1) providing over \$24 million of gas tax funding to Yukon First Nations between 2005 and 2014 in support of projects including bus shelters, street lights, water distribution, geo-exchange heating systems and energy retrofits;

(2) investing millions of dollars under the Building Canada program in projects which included new water wells and water treatment facilities and investments in roads;

(3) supporting FireSmart projects;

(4) providing CRA grants to First Nations;

(5) funding for Dempster Energy Services alternate fibre optic study, Kwanlin Dun recreational facility upgrades and land development conceptual plan, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations renewable mini-hydro and wind power assessments, Canyon Creek playground development and culture camp literacy, Chief Isaac including Klondike UNESCO world heritage site feasibility assessment.

Mr. Hassard: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to conduct a fall composition survey of the Chisana caribou herd, in conjunction with the census being conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Elias: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the White River First Nation, the Kluane First Nation, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service to implement the Chisana caribou herd management plan.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to work collaboratively with First Nation governments and their respective development corporations through initiatives such as:

(1) community soccer field development plan for Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, in addition to community traditional healthy living retreats and Hats'adan learning storybooks;

(2) the Moving Forward initiative: building capacity in Ross River for the Ross River Dena Council;

(3) Mayo industrial incubator high-level feasibility study for the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun;

(4) human resources policy and procedures manual and board protocols training for the Na Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation;

(5) bird-viewing sites for the Carcross-Tagish First Nation;

(6) Daana Jili Trust strategic planning for the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation;

(7) forestry research and planning for the Liard First Nation Development Corporation;

(8) exhibition research and planning for the Teslin Tlingit Council;

(9) through the rural strategy initiative, working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on new rural education models and added language/culture space in the school;

(10) land-based experiential education with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School continue.

Ms. Stick: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to honour the years of professional, local and international research into the benefits of midwifery for mothers and babies by regulating and funding midwifery within one year.

Ms. White: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to present to the public its land use plan for the Peel watershed on or before December 18, 2013 or, if it does not, to extend the temporary withdrawal of subsurface mineral rights to at least January 31, 2014.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Ross River area resource management plan

Ms. Hanson: For several years, the Ross River Dena Council has been working on a resource management plan. For awhile, the Yukon government was an active partner, but this commitment has fallen to one side. Like other Yukon First Nations, the Ross River Dena believes strongly that land and resource management planning is a path to fair and sustainable economic development.

Land and resource management plans as a form of land use planning create economic certainty. These plans create the conditions for jobs and economic opportunities for the Ross River Dena and for all Yukoners. This is good for the economy and it's good for Yukon.

Has the government fulfilled its commitment to the Ross River Dena Council to complete the Ross River area resource management plan?

Hon. Mr. Kent: This is a file that we're actively engaged with the Ross River Dena Council on — the completion of that resource management plan. We recognized

— the Premier and I — when we met with the Chief of the Ross River Dena Council and one of his councillors how important the completion of this plan was to not only the two of them, but also their First Nation. We're actively engaged in completing that plan and identifying the different opportunities that exist within the Ross River area for economic development as well as the wildlife and other values that are associated with that area.

Ms. Hanson: I'm pleased to hear that. Following the December 2012 court decision, the Ross River Dena Council requested a temporary withdrawal of the Ross River area from mineral staking. This would allow for the land and resource management plan to be completed and would also address one of the court's two declarations. The Ross River Dena want to ensure that the past year's court battles are not repeated. A temporary withdrawal will allow for meaningful consultation with the Ross River Dena in order to create the certainty that the First Nation and industry are calling for.

Given the progress that the minister is talking about, will the government agree to a temporary staking withdrawal of the Ross River area to expedite the completion of the Ross River area resource management plan?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As I've mentioned on a number of occasions over the past few weeks on the floor of the Legislature, there are two declarations that the Yukon Court of Appeal has asked us to act on.

One is with respect to notification of class 1 activities. We currently have amendments before the House and a regulatory package, and we're very confident that we can meet the December 27 deadline imposed by the court with respect to that.

The second declaration is being led by the Executive Council Office. There are government-to-government negotiations currently underway between Yukon government and the Ross River Dena Council. As I've said before, I don't believe it serves any purpose to speak about the details of those negotiations on the floor of the Legislature nor conduct those negotiations in a public manner.

We're looking forward to those negotiations continuing. They will identify lands within the Ross River area that should not be available for staking, thus meeting the second declaration of the Court of Appeal ruling of last year.

Ms. Hanson: The Ross River appeal court decision provided an excellent opportunity for the Yukon government to work with Yukon First Nations to modernize Yukon's mining legislation and put the Yukon on a path to economic certainty. The government squandered this opportunity and came up with last-minute fixes to the legislation in a desperate attempt to maintain the status quo.

We are now a few weeks away from the court deadline and important First Nation concerns have not been addressed. The Ross River Dena Council and all Yukon First Nations have been engaging with the government in good faith in an attempt to resolve the issues that the court laid bare.

Despite the fact that the government squandered the timeline, Yukon First Nations are willing to support the government in asking for a court extension. Will the

government seek an extension to the December 27 court-ordered timeline?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I think it's important to clarify for members of the House that the court action was between the Ross River Dena Council and the Yukon government. It's not between all Yukon First Nations and the Yukon government, so we would require them to support a court-ordered extension before we would even consider going down that road.

With respect to the class 1 notification aspects, we notified First Nations last March, conducted a two-month consultation with First Nations, industry groups, interested members of the public in June and July, and then began to work on the amendments in the regulatory package — the amendments that are before this House right now and the regulatory package that we would envision coming into effect prior to the December 27 court-ordered deadline.

With respect to the other declaration, I don't believe it serves any purpose for us to conduct negotiations on the floor of the Assembly or in the media. There is a table that has representatives of the Yukon government as well as the Ross River Dena Council working on that second declaration as we speak. I think it serves their purpose well to allow them to conduct those discussions. Once they are able to come to some level of mutually acceptable conclusion, then we'll be in a position to announce to the Yukon public what that is.

Question re: Ross River sewage treatment

Mr. Barr: Mr. Speaker, the issue of Ross River's seeping sewage lagoon has been going on for some time now. For over eight years, the government has been in violation of its water licence and yet there has been no meaningful action on this file.

We have a situation where the sewage treatment lagoon is seeping sewage into the groundwater. The Government of Yukon is in non-compliance with its water licence. This is a public safety issue, an environmental health issue and it needs to be addressed.

When will this government fix the problem by building a new sewage treatment lagoon and comply with its water licence?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Again, unfortunately, the member has mischaracterized the situation. The Department of Community Services is working closely with appropriate regulatory authorities to resolve the compliance issue with the septic facility in Ross River. As I pointed out to the member previously, some of the issues within the water licence were technical administrative issues. The department is currently working to ensure that steps are taken to address the situation. Regulatory authorities have stated that the department has a mechanism to achieve compliance with the continued use of the existing pit through an amendment to the water licence.

Staff are taking steps to ensure that the situation is handled appropriately.

Mr. Barr: According to the officials, the minister's department is still trying to get the seepage issue sorted out. Officials note that they are still examining alternate locations.

The minister avoids and deflects. The elders say that, for generations, the water they drank from a spring adjacent to this lagoon is no longer usable.

The contaminants have been leaking into the groundwater from the government-run Ross River sewage lagoon for over eight years. Why won't the minister address the problem of the sewage leaking near Ross River's groundwater and ensure this government is in compliance with its own water licence?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Once again, the member is mistaken. I would point out that the operator is actively working to become compliant with the water licence. The operator is, of course, the Department of Community Services and it has submitted a plan to ensure appropriate steps are taken to come into compliance with the water licence.

In May of 2013, this very year, a new drinking water treatment plan was commissioned in Ross River to ensure that the community's well water meets the Canadian drinking water quality guidelines and the Yukon drinking water regulation. The issues around that, which were driving the need for this investment, were not related to the sewage pit because there has not been any contamination to or near where the community water well is. This significant investment — roughly a \$7 million investment, I would point out to the members opposite — was part of the many investments we've made in Yukon communities to come into compliance with the new Canadian drinking water standards around arsenic and the cumulative lifetime acceptable allowance of arsenic. Again — \$7 million investment in improving the quality of drinking water in Ross River. Perhaps if the member went to Ross River he would see some of the investments that we've put in this area.

Question re: Mineral staking on settlement land

Mr. Silver: Earlier this week, the Premier received a letter from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation in Dawson regarding Bill No. 66. This bill is the government's response to the 2012 Ross River court decision. The letter from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is only the latest in the string of correspondence the Premier has received from First Nations and from the mining industry. A common message in all of the mail the Premier has received concerns a lack of consultation because of a rushed nature of the government's actions. The letter from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in begins, and I quote, "We write this letter under the pressure of an unrealistic deadline imposed by the Yukon Government."

The Premier had 12 months to meet the court deadlines, but didn't talk to anyone until the first six months were over and now we're out of time. Another option available to the government was to ask for an extension from the courts.

It's not only the Ross River Dena Council who is looking for these timelines. Why was an extension never considered as an option?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Just again to outline the process going back to December 2012 when the Yukon Court of Appeal issued the two declarations with respect to this case. The Yukon government decided to accept one of the declarations — that's the one that we're speaking of now — with regard to

the class 1 activities and notification of class 1 mining activities that take place within the Ross River area. In March 2013, a letter was sent to First Nations letting them know that we would be appealing the other declaration, but accepting that declaration.

In June and July there was a 60-day public consultation that included submissions from 10 of 14 First Nations, I believe, as well as industry submissions and discussions with other interested parties. Throughout August, September, October and November, we built the enabling amendments and have built the regulatory package that led to the deadline for comments and submissions of the day before yesterday. So that's when many of these letters started to arrive from First Nations.

We'll certainly be responding to all of the letters after we've been able to give them full and fair consideration. Again, with respect to the extension of the deadline, we would certainly want to have assurances from Ross River that they were able to support any extension and to date we have not received those indications from the Ross River Dena Council.

Mr. Silver: The government had the option to seek an extension from the courts. They could have asked for more time and I would say that, given the concerns raised by lots of different First Nations and industry, that might have been the right thing to do.

An extension was never even considered by this government and the result is that the stakeholders are angry at this government for its rushed approach. Here's what the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in had to say about the consultation process, and I quote, "Alongside other Yukon First Nations, we have cooperated with Yukon's last-minute and irregular schedule as much as we could."

Now, the Teslin Tlingit Council had described the consultation process as vague, confusing and contradictory. The mining industry said simply back in June that the consultation period for amendment is too short.

Why is the government ignoring these requests for more time to discuss these major changes to the territory's mining legislation?

Hon. Mr. Kent: This court action is between the Ross River Dena Council and the Yukon government. That's what the Court of Appeal ruled on in coming up with the two declarations last year.

We would certainly want some indication from the Ross River Dena Council that they would be in support of going after an extension. I'm curious as to how the member opposite can characterize that the government has never considered an extension. That's certainly something that surprises me — that he would say something like that. In the latest correspondence from Chief Ladue of the Ross River Dena Council, he has indicated to me and the Premier that they would not be in support of an extension to the December 27 court-ordered deadline.

We are working to that deadline with respect to the class 1 notifications. We are working to that deadline with respect to identifying land in the Ross River area that will not be available for mineral staking going forward. That is what we

are committed to doing. We're committed to meeting those two declarations of the Court of Appeal: the one that we accepted; the one that we appealed and were denied appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada in September.

Again, this court-ordered deadline of December 27 is fast approaching, but we're confident — especially with respect to the class 1 notification — that we can meet that deadline.

Mr. Silver: The reason why I continue to ask about extensions is because we have yet to hear an answer from the minister as to whether or not they did. If you could say that in the House today, that would be great.

It's bad enough that the government has allowed so little time for consultation to occur. It's even worse that the government ignored almost all of what it did here. Stakeholders didn't even see the legislation until it was tabled in this House because it wasn't ready until then.

With regard to the regulations, stakeholders were given 14 business days to review them — 14 days. Here is what Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in says of the bill, and I quote: "...we were astounded to discover that our efforts had borne virtually no fruit. Not only did most of our recommendations go unheeded, but the tabled bill is also inconsistent with the Discussion Paper..."

They went on to say, and I quote: "TH is troubled by the Yukon's tabled amendments and regulation plans..."

My question is simple: what does the minister have to say about Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's submission?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my initial answer, we have received a number of letters from many First Nations with respect to this issue and we'll be giving those letters full and fair consideration and responding to each letter that we receive from our First Nation partners.

Again with respect to options that we're considering, I have mentioned that, especially with the declaration related to the areas to be withdrawn from staking, it serves no purpose to discuss those issues on the floor of this House. I don't believe it helps with the process. We have received in correspondence from the Ross River Dena Council that they're not willing to support an extension to the deadline imposed by the courts of December 27. We're working through notification and consultation, as well as dialogue with affected First Nations, industry stakeholders and others, throughout the fall in developing the regulatory package and the amendments.

That's what we've been engaged in. With respect to the extension that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other First Nations have asked for, we certainly have not received indication from the Ross River Dena Council that they are willing to support an extension so we're not prepared to seek one.

Question re: Microgeneration policy

Mr. Tredger: The Yukon government recently announced a new microgeneration policy. This is a good first step, albeit tentative. I have spoken with many Yukoners who want to participate in microgeneration programs but don't have the resources to invest up front. Other jurisdictions in Canada have learned that microgeneration policies need to be inclusive and cost-effective so households and businesses can

benefit from the saving that will make microgeneration efficient and sustainable and ensure wide public participation.

Will the government provide up-front loans or incentives to households and business owners who want to get into the microgeneration in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Kent: With respect to the program that we announced, details are available for Yukoners who want to participate on the Energy, Mines and Resources website. I encourage any Yukoners who do want to participate in this program to visit that website, and perhaps phone officials in the department and speak to them about the options.

With respect to up-front capital commitments, that's not something that is part of the program and it's not something that we're considering.

Mr. Tredger: An effective and robust microgeneration policy would be accessible to all Yukon citizens, not just those who have extra money to invest.

Microgeneration policies and programs have the potential of making power generation a viable home business with uptake from many Yukon households. For this to happen, the potential barriers that make it harder for households and businesses to get into microgeneration need to be addressed proactively. The government needs to address the approval process and the lack of standardized equipment that make it challenging for those who want to participate in microgeneration programs.

What is this government doing to ensure that households and business owners who want to be involved in microgeneration can do so without facing unnecessary barriers?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Members will know that the microgeneration policy is something that has evolved from the net metering policy that was considered in the energy strategy of 2009. It is something that is in there coupled with an independent power producing policy — work will begin shortly on public dialogue with respect to that. There is a biomass strategy as part of that energy strategy as well. We're making significant gains in addressing renewable energy sources here in the territory.

Members will know that on the first day of this legislative sitting, I did table a motion with respect to a clean power future for Yukon that includes additional hydro development as well as exploring wind and biomass options.

So again, with respect to the microgeneration policy, there is a premium on the rates that are paid. It is more than the deferred cost of strictly hydro, and in non-hydro communities it does meet that deferred cost of diesel. There are premiums that are paid on the rates.

We certainly want to encourage as many Yukoners as possible to get involved in this program. I would encourage Yukoners to contact the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to answer their questions and see how they can participate in this exciting clean-power initiative.

Mr. Tredger: I have visited the website. It is very introductory in nature.

Microgeneration policies and programs can provide important benefits for all Yukoners by reducing the need to

build new power lines and plants, increasing the diversity of the local energy supply and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Microgeneration policies and programs can also benefit the local economy by providing opportunities for small- and medium-sized Yukon businesses to participate in the generation and installation of micropower. What is the government doing to ensure that local small- and medium-sized businesses can benefit from the anticipated demand for microgeneration products and services here in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I will pass on to officials that he is not pleased with the quality of the website and perhaps have them take a look at that.

Again, I do invite Yukoners to contact the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources if they aren't finding what they need on the website. There are officials available to speak to them about this program.

We're very excited about this program. It is an important step in our clean-power future and our energy strategy.

As I mentioned in my previous answer, coupled with the independent power producers policy, the biomass strategy, our commitment to adding additional hydro capacity in the territory, as well as investigating wind and biomass opportunities really increase the renewable energy options for options for Yukoners as we continue to move toward our targets of providing the cleanest power available to Yukoners.

With respect to this microgeneration policy, it is available to businesses and individuals, and I would encourage anyone interested to contact Energy, Mines and Resources.

I did have conversations at the recent agriculture banquet with many interested individuals from the agricultural industry as well in accessing this program and contributing clean renewable energy to the Yukon's grid.

Question re: Death at Watson Lake hospital, public investigation of

Ms. Stick: Three unexpected deaths after treatment at Watson Lake hospital were investigated by the coroner within one calendar year. Recently through the media, Yukoners heard of another group of community members concerned about the care at the same hospital. Although questions about care at the Watson Lake Hospital have been openly discussed for weeks, it was only this Monday that we heard from the Yukon Hospital Corporation. The chair of the board of the Yukon Hospital Corporation said the stories people are telling are one-sided and represented a disservice to the staff of the hospital.

Does the Minister of Health and Social Services agree with the chair of the board of the hospital that people who have been expressing concerns about care at Watson Lake hospital are doing a disservice?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I don't particularly care to speak for the hospital chair. He has his own opinions as do I, but I am quite confident in the ability of the Yukon Hospital Corporation to run a high-quality program in the community of Watson Lake as they do in Dawson — or as they soon will

do in Dawson City — and as they have done for a number of years in Whitehorse.

So, do I have the confidence that the Hospital Corporation is doing a good job? Yes, I do.

Ms. Stick: People who voice concerns about the care they receive are taking a risk. It's hard to understand the defensive and polarizing posture of the chair of the board of the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

The Yukon NDP believes there should be space for concerns about public safety to be expressed and addressed. Given the attitude of the chair of the hospital, its unlikely patients will go to him with their concerns. If people are concerned about the quality of care they receive at any Yukon hospital, where should they go? Can the minister tell Yukoners who in the system is there to listen to patient concerns and what is the follow-up once issues are identified?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I really have difficulty understanding the purpose behind these questions. Personal attacks on individuals on the floor of the Legislature — protected by the Legislature — to me are incomprehensible. I don't believe in it. I won't do it myself.

I have confidence in the Hospital Corporation to do a good job. They have processes and policies in place that allow individuals who have concerns with the service they receive at the hospital to express those concerns openly and without fear of recrimination. I really have difficulty understanding why the member opposite would initiate personal attacks at a time like this.

Ms. Stick: The minister does have a responsibility for the Yukon Hospital Corporation. These people have come forward with their concerns. Has anyone followed up with them to talk to them about that? I don't think so. We're talking about patient-centered care. That means listening to what people have to say. It's not what we've witnessed of late.

Three families mourn the loss of loved ones. More families are worried about their care and they've not been listened to and are being blamed for being one-sided. Listening and understanding patients' and families' concerns are central to patient-centred care.

Regarding collaborative care, the minister said this collaborative approach is underpinned by a patient-centred continuum of care. Well, in other places patient and family advisory committees ensure patients' input is included. Will the minister direct the Yukon Hospital Corporation to implement patient and family advisory committees?

Speaker: The member's time has elapsed.

Hon. Mr. Graham: We hear from patients and users of the hospital system on a daily basis and we listen to those people on a daily basis as well.

I'm not sure if the Hospital Corporation is following up with all of the folks who made comments on the radio. I have a tendency to believe that kind of public airing is a non-productive method of handling difficulties as well.

As we said before, we are focused on a patient-centred system of care within our hospitals. We have an advisory committee on health matters that I meet with from time to time and makes recommendations to the department on an

ongoing basis. We communicate with the Hospital Corporation on almost a daily basis on any number of issues. I will continue to do that to improve patient care in our hospital system.

Question re: F.H. Collins Secondary School reconstruction

Ms. Moorcroft: Yesterday this government refused to answer whether they had a new independent estimate done on the latest redesign and tender of the F.H. Collins School.

The refusal to answer can only mean that, after boasting about fiscal responsibility and how important independent professional estimates are, they did not bother to get one. So now I would like to ask the Minister of Highways and Public Works about addenda to the F.H. Collins project. We have heard there is a second addendum to the tender.

To the Minister of Highways and Public Works: will the minister confirm that there is a second addendum coming out for the F.H. Collins design and tender?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I've spoken in this House before and, like I said before, 40 percent of Yukon government budgets is expended through contracts. The Yukon government issues over 6,500 annually, many to Yukon businesses. The professionals working in the department are flexible and responsive to the input of the local contracting community. Addenda to contracts, including changing timelines, are not uncommon. You can go to the registry and look at it. There are addenda — it's something that happens in every jurisdiction in Canada when it comes to contracts.

Such changes simply reflect the government's priority, which is to ensure that projects are done well and in a fiscally responsible manner, even if that requires some flexibility.

I'd just like to add some of the things I've heard in this House. I've heard the contract being called a tender design. They're wrong on that — it's a design/build. I also heard that it's a school for 450. They're wrong — it's a school for 750. I also heard we were tendering next year — actually it's out right now. I also heard that we weren't going to meet the building code. All our construction projects are to meet or exceed building codes. This is a LEED standard in leadership and energy and environmental design. The NDP are wrong on quite a few things.

Ms. Moorcroft: Again, the minister is not answering the questions. It would appear that this government has no independent estimates for the rebuild of the F.H. Collins school. The last time the government went to tender, they had three independent professional estimates done. Now there are none. There's one addendum to this project already and we hear that a second addendum is on its way. Each addendum increases the cost of a project, Mr. Speaker. There is also the unknown of the multiplier effect for Yukon cost — another large unknown — and the minister, as he said yesterday, thinks the costs are just a "detail."

How can this government preach fiscal responsibility when it has no idea what the full costs are for rebuilding F.H. Collins school?

Hon. Mr. Istchenko: I want to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the minister and the department for the member opposite. She appears unable to distinguish and grasp how government functions. Mr. Speaker, the details and contracts that go out are the responsibility of the department officials, with their expertise in those areas.

The department and I also work with other agencies — in this case, the Minister of Education and her department — as the final product must be balanced with input from these parties. My responsibility as a minister is to be fiscally responsible to Yukoners, to represent the interests of our local contractors and to ensure that we have a modern learning space to support Yukon students for decades to come.

Like I said earlier in my first answer, addenda are things that come with contracting across jurisdictions everywhere.

Ms. Moorcroft: Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General and others have had lots to say about ministerial responsibility — and this minister is failing to meet it.

Again, no independent professional estimates; one public addendum and one in the works — both of these will increase the costs. This government has already spent and committed at least \$6.7 million on this project with nothing yet built. The Premier on Monday echoed the Minister of Highways and Public Work's refrain, when he too said it is not easy building a school.

We know that in Alberta the school would cost a minimum of \$25 million for the building alone, but this government has no idea what the new F.H. Collins school will cost to build. They've set an arbitrary budget based on a previous design and are hoping that it will come in around or below that. That is not fiscal responsibility.

Will the minister tell Yukoners how much the new F.H. Collins school will cost? Plain and simple, Mr. Speaker, how much will it cost?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Again, today, what we hear from the NDP is an attack on the professionalism of the government employees who work and serve Yukon citizens every day. Just today, we've heard them express their low opinion of the Highways and Public Works staff dealing with the design contracting. We've heard them talk about the poor work of the web designers. We've heard them talk about the poor work of project managers, Energy branch and health care professionals. That's just today. They continue to attack the esteem and the professionalism of those good, hardworking professionals. Yukon public servants are here every day to serve Yukoners and to ensure that we continue to live in the best place on this Earth.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OPPOSITION PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 332

Clerk: Motion No. 332, standing in the name of Mr. Silver.

Speaker: It is moved by the Leader of the Third Party:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to inform all Yukoners of the date of the next Yukon Forum.

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, the motion today is very specific, but it speaks to a larger issue and that is the importance of intergovernmental relationships with Yukon First Nation governments.

Let's start with what the Yukon Forum is. The Yukon Forum was created in 2005 with the signing of the memorandum of understanding involving the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon government and self-governing Yukon First Nations. The Yukon Forum provides a means for the Premier, the Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations and chiefs of Yukon First Nations to identify opportunities and common priorities for collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006, the Yukon Forum was formally established upon the passage of the *Cooperation in Governance Act*. This legislation received the support of all parties in the Yukon Legislative Assembly and recognizes that First Nations and Yukon government both have jurisdiction and authority over many similar matters. This is an important point and I will get back to an example of this later on in my deliberation.

In theory, it sounds great. In practice, it hasn't really existed the way it's supposed to exist. The forum has met — I believe — once since the Premier has taken office. It's supposed to meet four times a year and it has met once, so those are seven opportunities that have come and gone.

On March 27 of this year, I asked a question of the Premier about Yukon First Nation relations. It came on the heel of the fall 2012 decision the Premier made to cancel a scheduled meeting of the Yukon Forum on very short notice. Chiefs from around the territory had actually already travelled to Whitehorse for a meeting, only to be informed by the Premier that they would not be able to meet with him.

One of the items on the agenda for that Yukon Forum was a new resource royalty agreement. On October 29, 2012, the Premier announced that a new deal with the Yukon First Nations was in place, but he said that he wouldn't make it public until it was signed at the Yukon Forum. Well, it turns out that the announcement was a little bit premature, as the deal wasn't done after all. The forum was postponed indefinitely. It has been more than a year since the proposed deal was announced, but it remains under wraps and has yet to be signed off.

As recently as August of 2012, the government said it wasn't interested in giving First Nations a better deal on

royalties. Now I'm happy the Government of Yukon is going ahead with improvements to the resource royalty sharing agreement with Yukon First Nations. After initially refusing to give Yukon First Nations a bigger share, the government has changed its mind and has decided to negotiate. This could be good news. It could be a good-news story. I hope that the government is still working on this issue.

Now, the Yukon Forum would have been an ideal place to discuss the outstanding, remaining differences. Unfortunately, the forum has still not met. The Yukon Forum would be the perfect place to hammer out an agreement like this. Since the Premier was elected — I believe — like I said, there has only been one meeting of that Yukon Forum. It is supposed to meet four times a year. In the tenure of the Yukon Party governments, the forum has never met four times a year. If the government has a different method to consult — to accommodate — and feels that they have a comprehensive strategy or process currently outside of the forum, well then, they should share that strategy with us today.

The Government of Yukon's relationship with First Nations is probably one of the most important ones that it has — the most important one that it has. The forum could be a valuable tool to discuss common interests, agree on priorities and to resolve disputes. I think we're seeing, too often, meetings are happening in the judicial systems — in the courts, in front of judges. Communication is broken and this is the evidence.

I've heard another couple of examples this week where the Yukon Forum would have been very useful — discussions and consultation on amendments to the *Corrections Act* and amendments to Bill No. 66, the territory's mining legislation. The government had the option and failed to use it. Yukoners are left wondering why. Instead it is barging ahead with amendments, giving First Nation governments 14 days to look at complicated regulatory changes and calling that good enough.

The Premier received several letters this week, telling him his approach is not good enough, yet this government passed up a golden opportunity to discuss, to debate and to accommodate, when it bypassed the Yukon Forum.

The Premier told the House back in March this year, and I quote: "...as we speak now, officials are working on finalizing a date for the next Yukon Forum, putting together the information that needs to be done so that it can be presented to the leadership so that we can have good, frank discussion and move forward on topics of mutual interest and benefit for all Yukoners."

Well, we're still waiting Mr. Speaker.

In May, I asked again about the Yukon Forum and this government's relationship with First Nations. The government had recently announced plans to meet with the Yukon First Nation leaders outside of the Yukon Forum and put out a news release to let the public know about these other meetings. The Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations did not, however, share the Premier's excitement and she told the media, and I quote: "...it's the government's feeling that we shouldn't have to sit down and rehash issues,

but we should be able to celebrate at the Yukon Forum. If we're going to celebrate anything, the legwork has to be done."

The Grand Chief clearly laid out the differences in vision for the forum that exist between the government and First Nation leaders. It is obvious that difference has not been bridged because the forum has still yet to meet.

It's supposed to meet four times a year. That did not happen under the previous Yukon Party government and nothing has changed since the last election. The Council of Yukon First Nations has a long list of topics to discuss with the Premier, including land use planning, health, Bill No. 66, resource revenue-sharing — among others.

Yukon First Nation chiefs are obviously frustrated with this government's command-and-control approach when it comes to the Yukon Forum. It is clear that the Grand Chief is interested in using these meetings to discuss issues. The government does not want to talk about contentious problems but prefers to meet and use these meetings as celebrations.

One chief whom I spoke to recently said that until the government drops the command-and-control approach and allows Yukon First Nation leaders to jointly set the agenda, there probably will not be another Yukon Forum. The Chief of the Liard First Nation summed it up very well when he said earlier this year that relations with the territorial government are still strained at best. He said, and I quote: "I'd say unfortunately because of the government's ongoing conduct of divide and conquer it's not a positive relationship at all..."

This government has been in office for two years. It's long enough for the public to see that its approach with working with the First Nation governments is not working. It is time for a change. This spillover effect will affect everybody in the Yukon, not just First Nation governments. It affects our economic growth. It affects our social, our educational and cultural identity as a territory.

There is ongoing dispute over the Peel land use plan. The decision by this government to strip the Kaska of its vote under the *Oil and Gas Act*, the Ross River lawsuit, the lawsuit of White River over the Tarsis mining project — and the list goes on.

I urge the government to acknowledge this problem as they are today. It could start by scheduling a Yukon Forum meeting and allowing First Nation leaders to put items of their choice on the agenda.

The motion today is very specific in its language but, once again, it is very broad in its impact. It speaks about the relationships between government and First Nations. I urge the government to consider the impact of its approach and the impact that it's having, not just with First Nations but with the whole and complete territory.

There is no forum yet. It is legislated to happen. First Nation leaders are very frustrated. They have invited the Premier to in-camera meetings to discuss issues. At times, he is accompanied by ministers. I believe the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources referenced a meeting like this last week. He said that one of the topics was the government's plan for a

new hydro dam. There have been two such meeting so far. The last one occurred in October, I believe.

The in-camera scenario is not a solution nor is it a substitute for the Yukon Forum. Yukon First Nations need support on many issues and they want to work on implementation of past resolutions, but they want one conversation, one room and all First Nations.

The objectives are very simple: build relations, have consultations and plan accommodations. There is concern that the Premier makes commitments and the commitments disappear, never get acted upon and there is no follow-up.

From there I will go to the letter from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. We received a letter dated December 2 from Chief Eddie Taylor, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and in this letter it does outline a lot of issues and concerns that, if the Yukon Forum was happening, it would be a great time to actually sit together and talk about their mutual needs and where to move forward on some of these issues. I'll quote from the letter.

Chief Taylor says: "Not only did most of our recommendations go unheeded" — when talking about the Bill No. 66 and the consultation process — "but the tabled bill is also inconsistent with the Discussion Paper and what your officials told us over the summer. Beginning with the Addendum to the Discussion Paper, Yukon officials alerted us to the possibility that Class 1 notification might only be required above certain activity thresholds...Yukon seems deaf to these requests. Since January 2013, we have been saying that we want to work collaboratively with Yukon on new mining legislation, in keeping with the co-management spirit of our Final Agreements. We do not consider the 27 December 2013 effective date of the Ross River declarations an impediment to this collaboration. A variety of simple options for addressing the court declarations on a temporary basis are open to Yukon."

What we have here are some concerns and issues and, once again, what a great forum — there you go — is the Yukon Forum to discuss these things. That must be why they call it that.

I do agree with the minister responsible that maybe this isn't the best place to debate these ongoing issues that are in front of the court, but I do know that the Yukon Forum is a great venue to discuss these things.

The forum is also about treating another level of government with respect. Consultation currently — well, it's not necessarily the big-C consultation that is asked for by the First Nations. CYFN gets notification via e-mail for consultation. During meetings, they are asked to participate and told that their opinions will be taken into consideration. This is not enough, and it doesn't go far enough to honour previous MOUs and legislation that determine the processes to be used in regard to big-C consultation. Relationship building, consultation and accommodations are the most important issues to First Nation leadership.

The forum is where the Government of Yukon is legislated to communicate with Yukon First Nations. It is where the conversations of relations and consultations and accommodations are supposed to be taking place.

I am going to close with another example of an issue that could be worked through the Yukon Forum. Once again, this would give us an opportunity to actually know whether or not certain things were considered. This issue would be the Minister of Justice's decision to appoint five out of six positions on a recently-created Yukon Police Council.

Mr. Speaker, the minister — I have the paper here. We have the terms of reference for the Yukon Police Council and under membership it says that: "The Minister of Justice will appoint six members to the council. The Minister will appoint three members from persons nominated by Yukon First Nations." So it's an even split. CFYN spent many hours labouring over these applications and applicants — not just First Nation applicants, but all of the applicants. The leadership, through resolution, submitted the names of three individuals. The minister took it upon himself to only select one name from this resolution, yet it is clear in the terms of reference that this is not the protocol.

Once again, there probably is a very good reason for this action, but these reasons have not been communicated to CYFN. Maybe the minister received names from other First Nation governments. The forum would be an excellent medium for these discussions. We hear time and time again that this Yukon Party government promotes collaboration, yet we see little face-to-face collaboration and even less accommodation. That's the most important part — it is the accommodation based upon these collaborations.

Telling Yukon First Nation governments that their opinions will be taken into consideration is not consultation and it is very, very far from accommodation.

We don't want to create an "us versus them" mentality. We need to have one voice for all Yukoners and the forum is a great opportunity for us to get closer and closer to this united voice.

In closing, it's a very simple motion put forth; it's just asking for the Yukon government to inform all Yukoners of the date of the next Yukon Forum. I look forward to hearing some responses from my colleagues here on the floor. I know that the Yukon Party in motions today went on at length to explain to us all of the good things they are doing for the First Nation communities. That's not the point here today. I'm sure that there is and I hope that there is. That's the government, right? We should be doing these things and of course there's a great identified list. That's excellent. That's not the question. The question is: when is the date for the Yukon Forum?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I rise today to debate on Motion No. 332 from the interim Leader of the Liberal Party, the Member for Klondike. I'd like to get started by simply saying that it's become obvious from the motion put forward by the member opposite that he doesn't understand the process on which the Yukon Forum does exist. Perhaps in a way it indirectly speaks to his leadership style — a dictatorial type of leadership — that he has in terms of how he moves forward.

I probably won't get into some of the inaccuracies that the member put forward during his debate, but I will spend a little bit of time to talk about some of the things that we have

been doing outside of the forum proper in terms of both in an across-the-territory — a pan-territorial — approach to relationships with First Nations, but also on a bilateral basis with individual First Nations.

I would like to start by just saying that the forum was established through a memorandum of understanding that was signed between the Premier and the chiefs of the Yukon First Nations and Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations in 2005. The forum was then formalized by a passage of the *Cooperation in Governance Act*, assented to on December 19, 2005 by the Yukon Party government under the leadership of then Premier Dennis Fentie. The Yukon Forum was conceptualized with the noble intention to identify common priorities and areas for Yukon government and First Nation governments to collaborate. We have not strayed from that intention.

The title of the act, which gave official life to the Yukon Forum, is instructive — the *Cooperation in Governance Act*. The elected chiefs of Yukon First Nations, like the elected members of this government, are responsible to Yukoners whom they serve. Mutual respect of our shared responsibilities as public servants was inscribed into the act. It was written into the preamble that members recognize "...the goal of improving the quality of life for all Yukoners and the benefits that may result from intergovernmental cooperation."

For that reason, it was conceived as a forum of equals, a venue that recognizes the different responsibilities of various parties while acknowledging the importance of each. Understanding this background of the forum's establishment is important, for the original intent of the forum is what gives its actions validity and gives them virtue. The forum was not intended to be a hall of debate. Certainly constructive debate is a component of forum discussions, as it is a component of most government-to-government discussions. But the forum was never intended to be a venue for parties to air their grievances against one another. It was intended to be a venue in which to celebrate our mutual successes, move forward our shared opportunities and agree on shared priorities. That is what the Yukon Forum is.

To that extent, there have been a number of things that continue to go on, in fact, on a daily basis. For example, bilateral meetings occur regularly between officials — between Yukon government and all First Nations — on a daily basis. There are also bilateral meetings, both formally and informally, that occur at the elected officials level as well. In fact, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I met just today with the Chief and Council of Kwanlin Dun First Nation. We have bilateral meetings that occur throughout the year and continue to go on.

Now, the member alluded to saying that if there is a process outside of the forum where we are communicating, that we should share it. Then he continued to speak to exactly that and the fact that through meetings with the chiefs we agreed to establish a process where we sit down to discuss issues that we mutually agreed upon. Those are the informal meetings that occur and there isn't a press release. There isn't a lot of hoopla around that, because it is the opportunity for

me and, depending on the subject, some of the ministers as well, to sit down with the First Nation leadership, because it's not just Council of Yukon First Nations. There are members — as you are aware, Mr. Speaker — and there are First Nations who are not members of CYFN. So this is an opportunity to sit down with First Nation leadership in Yukon to talk about issues of mutual respect. We agreed to that early this year and we agreed to meet on a quarterly basis. That's precisely what we have done, with the first meeting occurring in the spring of 2013. We have in fact had three meetings since, during this year.

In May 2013, a letter of understanding on the holding of informal government-to-government meetings was signed by this government and the Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nation chiefs. The letter of understanding outlines how the parties will work together to increase collaboration and strengthen their working relationship through respectful, informal discussions on a broad range of common issues.

The letter of understanding includes mutually agreed-to criteria that the parties will follow to create and foster a meeting environment that allows for straightforward and mutually respectful discussions. The newly agreed-to informal government-to-government meetings are intended to help the parties better prepare for such events as a Yukon Forum.

Approaches such as intergovernmental accords also exist for bilateral collaboration on joint initiatives between Yukon and individual First Nations. As I mentioned, meetings have been held on April 26, May 30 and October 3 of this year and we look forward to the next meeting, which will be at some point in the first quarter of 2014.

We've also been engaged with First Nations on having intergovernmental accords. As we have stated to all First Nations, we are interested in entering into intergovernmental accords with those Yukon First Nations that wish to do so. The objective of these accords is to help governments work together on identified common priorities.

Accords were recently signed with Kluane First Nation on July 29 of this year and Vuntut Gwitchin re-signed their intergovernmental accord on August 1. Both of those agreements were for five years. These accords help both governments to focus on efforts of common priorities, where we sit down and we agree on areas that we mutually agree to work on together. This agreement then holds each other's feet to the fire to ensure we continue to work on those issues that have been identified.

In the past, formal accords have been signed with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in 1999 and renewed in 2003, the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun in 1999 and renewed in 2009, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in 2000 and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in 2008.

Although these accords remain in effect, we continue to work with them to identify interest at times — whether they want to renew. When they do renew, the negotiations begins on what the priorities are that will exist within the new agreement.

I would also like to note that the Gwich'in Tribal Council has recently expressed interest in pursuing an accord as well. The accord process has recently been revised to broaden their purpose to more effectively manage and work with individual First Nations on priority issues. The process also includes jointly developed action plans that incorporate timelines and lead contacts.

Some of the past successes of these accords include the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations — it led to the agreement and funding regarding the Champagne and Aishihik Cultural Centre, finalization and ongoing implementation of a bison management plan and the establishment of an elk management committee.

With the Na Cho Nyäk Dun accord, it resulted in a health and social services working group being established. This has made substantial progress toward addressing mental health issues in their community. The First Nation land and resource manager spent a year working on secondment with Energy, Mines and Resources, Mineral Resources branch to help build capacity for NND.

Energy, Mines and Resources provided funding to enhance First Nation capacity in the mining sector through the negotiation of impact benefit agreements. Some examples with success with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation intergovernmental accord include ongoing collaboration work with VGFN on oil and gas development, implementation of the fishing branch management plan and one that I think all of us are indeed very proud of, which is the public school program in Old Crow adapting to meet the needs of the community through the experiential on-the-land programming, which is something that I know that our Member for Vuntut Gwitchin is very proud of, as is the chief and the entire community. The results of that programming have been significant.

I also would like to talk a bit about some of the other accomplishments that occur through our government-to-government relationships that we have and some of the successes. I thought the best way to describe this would be perhaps to do it by department to keep it less confusing.

Starting with Community Services, I'd like to highlight the FireSmart program: TTC, CTFN, Kwanlin Dun, TKC, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations — maybe I shouldn't use acronyms — Kluane First Nation, White River First Nation, Little Salmon-Carmacks, Ross River Dena Council, Selkirk First Nation, Na Cho Nyäk Dun and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have all worked together with the FireSmart program. It has also developed a long-term recreation strategy in cooperation with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to guide recreation planning.

Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources staff worked with: the Carcross-Tagish Management Corporation to look at opportunities to streamline the planning, zoning and regulatory approval of their proposed Carcross land development project; worked with Executive Council Office to develop a land-action item for inclusion in the Kluane First Nation accord; community recreation assistance grants to Old Crow Recreation Society and Selkirk

First Nation; partnering with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for the operation of the solid-waste gasification system and for the development of a community solid-waste strategy; working with Canada, First Nations and municipal governments to support upgrades and construction of high-quality community infrastructure through funding arrangements with Canada through the gas tax fund.

Since 2009, the implementation fund has supported a First Nation emergency preparedness planner to provide emergency management planning and policy assistance to Yukon self-governing First Nations. This project is ongoing and communicates regularly with all First Nations to discuss and implement emergency management programming.

As we heard earlier, over \$24 million of gas tax funding has been allocated to Yukon First Nations from 2005 to 2014. This funding has supported projects such as bus shelters and street lighting, a new water distribution line, the Albert Creek water quality project, a water truck shed, geo-exchange heating systems and daycare energy retrofits. The Whitehorse Public Library continued collaboration with Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre on programming and other initiatives.

Continuing on with Community Services, there are works with Canada, First Nations and municipal governments to support upgrades and construction of high-quality community infrastructure through funding arrangements with Canada under the Building Canada program. Ongoing projects include construction of new wells, pumphouses, treatment plants in communities such as Burwash, Carcross, Haines Junction, Mayo, Ross River, Tagish, Takhini River subdivision and Teslin to improve the quality of potable water. Projects also included improvements to road drainage and surfacing in Burwash and in Teslin. We will continue to work with Kwanlin Dun and Carcross-Tagish First Nations in developing and implementing the Yukon asset construction agreements.

What I pulled out of some of the things in Economic Development include things like: funding to support a delegate from the Yukon First Nations Tourism Association to attend the Premier's tourism and trade mission to Europe earlier this year; working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Kluane First Nation and the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun on regional economic development and opportunity planning initiatives; funding for five First Nations or First Nation development corporations to attend economic development-related conferences; support to Yukon First Nations Tourism Association to showcase Yukon First Nation arts and crafts at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region summit in Anchorage; alternate fibre study with Dempster Energy Services, which includes the Vuntut Gwitchin Development Corporation, Na Cho Nyäk Dun Development Corporation, Chief Isaac Incorporated and the Gwich'in Development Corporation.

Funding for Kwanlin Dun projects include recreation facility upgrades, CHOICES, youth sexual health conference, and land development conceptual plan. Funding for Champagne and Aishihik First Nations projects include: Canyon Creek playground development, fitness room equipment and culture camp literacy; commercial property

scoping and pre-feasibility for Champagne and Aishihik Community Corporation. There is funding for Career Exploration Week for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as well as Dome trails project — development of the mountain bike trail and procurement strategy and partnership forums. There is funding for strategic planning for economic development for Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; Kluane community recreation complex for Kluane First Nation; community soccer field development plan for Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation, in addition to community traditional health living retreats and learning storybooks; Moving Forward, building capacity in Ross River for Ross River Dena Council; bird-viewing sites for Carcross-Tagish First Nation; and forestry research and planning for Liard First Nation Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, pulling a few things out of Education — and I know the minister could probably talk out the entire day on some of the great work that has been done — there is, through the rural strategy initiative, working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on a new rural education model and added language and culture space in the school. We have heard about the great success that the REM program is. I'm proud to say that my daughter, as a teacher up in Robert Service, is one of the teachers who are instrumental in that programming, and I'd like to recognize her, as well as all the great teachers up there. The feedback from the people, the students and the teachers from all those communities was truly incredible.

Again, continuing to work together with First Nations — land-based experiential education with Vuntut Gwitchin, as I already spoke about, and a tripartite memorandum of understanding between Canada-Yukon and CYFN with a focus on improving learning outcomes for First Nation students. CYFN hosted a Yukon First Nation education summit in March 2013 with service providers to develop educational opportunities that will lead to a draft strategic plan. Education partnership initiatives include a student achievement strategy, literacy framework and a pilot project in community consultations.

In partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in working to develop residential school curriculum using the "Finding Our Way Home" scrapbook project, Yukon education has reprinted the book for use in schools. A teacher's guide for grade 10 is being developed in collaboration with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. In July of this year, a 17.7 education agreement was signed with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in that sets out a work plan for implementing key initiatives: traditional knowledge camp, accreditation independent learning centre, cultural education, and residential school curriculum development.

A number of other agreements will be amended to provide the development of similar things in other First Nations. Almost all of the other First Nations have looked at this agreement and are eager to trigger their ability, under most favoured nation, to be able to also be engaged in this.

I know the Leader of the New Democratic Party doesn't like to hear all the great things that this government is doing in collaboration with First Nations, but we will stand up loud and proud to talk about some of the great accomplishments that are occurring right across this territory.

A First Nation experiential program for students in Whitehorse — CHAOS 9 and 10, which is community, heritage, adventure, outdoors and skills — is operating out of the Wood Street Centre for grade 9 and 10 students. A new course — Ancestral Technology 9 and 10 — will be piloted in the CHAOS program, starting this fall, I believe.

We support Kwanlin Dun House of Learning to support upgrading, employment and trades-specific training, certifications and tickets, career and personal counselling, personnel growth programs and capacity-building for Kwanlin Dun citizens.

Intergovernmental accords were signed with Kluane and Vuntut Gwitchin in July and August. Action plans are being developed containing specific initiatives to address key priorities on alternative learning and land-based experiential learning.

Mr. Speaker, an intergovernmental accord is a bilateral agreement that this government is willing to sign with all First Nations.

In Advanced Education, and in partnership with Yukon College and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, we are working on a memorandum of understanding to expand the goals related to apprenticeship and trade, First Nations language and culture and support for disengaged students that were identified in the secondary report.

Skookum Jim Friendship Centre is receiving \$900,000 over three years to run a youth employment centre and community outreach service to provide youth 16 to 30 with skills, knowledge and work experience to participate in the workforce. The program is funded by the youth-at-risk and labour market agreement programs.

There is continued support of the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle to provide aboriginal youth with work experience and training in sport and recreation combined with mentorship. This program is funded through the labour market agreement. There is also: continued support for a human resources advisor training project for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council as part of the Yukon asset construction agreement, or YACA, for the building of the new F.H. Collins School; funding support to Kwanlin Dun First Nation for the creation of a job centre to increase employment support for KDFN members; and two years of salary funding to develop an employment services trainee for KDFN's job centre. This position is funded through community training funds.

If I look at Energy, Mines and Resources under Agriculture, as an example — Energy, Mines and Resources works with various First Nations to answer questions related to agricultural capability on their settlement lands. Mapping of agriculture potential on settlements lands occurred in 2012 and the Agriculture branch hopes to present the results to two central Yukon First Nations in 2013.

Under Assessment and Abandoned Mines — the Faro mine reclamation project. Since 2004, over \$7 million has been provided to affected Yukon First Nations to support their participation in the Faro Mine Remediation Project. Affected Yukon First Nation businesses have received subcontracting, direct employment and training opportunities related to care

and maintenance activities, site improvement projects and preparations for final remediation and closure.

The future of Mount Nansen — Yukon government, Canada and Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation have reached an agreement on remediation of the Mount Nansen site. EMR continues to work with each party on preparing and implementing the remediation project. Over \$962,600 has been provided to Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation to support their participation in the Mount Nansen remediation project, working together.

Energy Solutions Centre — Kluane First Nation solar microgeneration project has been completed. The project involved the installation of 4.7 kilowatt solar photovoltaic array on the roof of the First Nation's fleet vehicle building. This array is projected to produce 4,000 kilowatts of power annually, approximately 45 percent to be consumed at the fleet vehicle building with the remaining electrical energy to be supplied to the Burwash Landing/Destruction Bay electrical grid. EMR is assisting this project by analyze the economics of the new system.

Forrest management planning — the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan was approved by the Yukon government and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on March 20 of this year. Yukon government and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have begun working collaboratively on implementing the plan priorities. EMR — I think you're sounding surprised, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing more rhetoric from the other side again — surprised at just a few things I'm showing and showcasing for the record for the listeners out there and mostly for the members opposite to realize some of the outstanding work that is going on, in working with First Nations.

EMR is implementing the updated forest management implementation agreement with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, signed back in August 2012, to carry out shared implementation priorities under the integrated landscape plan and the strategic forest management plan for the Champagne and Aishihik traditional territory.

Under Land Management, EMR and the Teslin Tlingit Council are working together, using common planning and engineering criteria on joint land development initiatives for planned country residential lots on Sawmill Road. TTC is also supporting the Yukon government planned recreation lot initiative in Morley Bay. The Sawmill Road subdivision phases 1 and 2 are ready for lottery this fall, and the department anticipates the Morley Bay plan will be reviewed by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board in the winter of 2014.

EMR and Kwanlin Dun First Nation are discussing options for assisting Kwanlin Dun First Nation in developing its land registry to support KDFN's efforts in making residential land available. EMR is also assisting KDFN in cancelling outstanding titles that exist on settlement land parcels. This is further to the YG/KDFN letter of understanding that was signed in August 2011 between me and Kwanlin Dun First Nation Chief Rick O'Brien.

EMR is working together with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on joint land development initiatives for planned

rural residential lots in Canyon Creek. EMR is also working closely with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation on joint land development initiatives for future planned development in Carcross.

Building on work carried out under the northern strategy initiative, EMR continues to assist First Nations as requested to develop geographic information mapping systems — tailored support to the needs of the First Nation.

In the North Yukon, the *North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan* continues to be implemented through the joint party implementation group. In spite of the NDP and the Liberals having been in power, the only government to succeed in drawing to conclusion a land use plan is the Yukon Party government with the conclusion of the North Yukon plan. We are now moving toward completion of the *Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* and are now actively engaged as well in the Dawson plan.

In Dawson, EMR is working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nations through the technical working group and the senior liaison committee developing a regional land use plan for the Dawson region. The Dawson planning commission has completed its resource assessment report, incorporating comments from the Yukon government and from First Nations and is starting to develop alternative land use scenarios for the planning region.

We can talk about collaboration with local area planning. West Dawson and Sunnydale — Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon government have approved a plan — a formal public announcement we are looking forward to. Carcross-Tagish First Nation and the government are jointly reviewing a plan recommended by the planning committee. In Marsh Lake, EMR is working with Kwanlin Dun First Nation. The steering committee is expected to agree on a recommended plan shortly.

Fox Lake — EMR is working with Ta'an Kwäch'an Council and Kwanlin Dun First Nation on the establishment of a steering committee, with the selection of a planning consultant and the preparation of a background report for the planning area. In Tagish, EMR and Carcross-Tagish First Nation are seeking support from the community to advance the planning process for the Tagish community.

Under major mine permitting, EMR provides funding support to First Nations for their negotiations with companies for socio-economic partnership agreements. Some examples include: the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun with Victoria Gold, \$25,000; Kluane First Nation with Prophecy Platinum, \$25,000; and Ross River Dena Council with North American Tungsten, \$35,000.

In oil and gas, EMR meets with the memorandum of agreement First Nation working group on oil and gas legislation with the objective of developing a common oil and gas regime. EMR estimates it will provide up to \$172,000 over the next three years to allow for support for Council of Yukon First Nations, Liard First Nation and Kwanlin Dun First Nation participation in reviewing amendments to the existing regulations and development of two new regulations.

The group is currently reviewing the gas draft processing regulation.

EMR continues to collaborate with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to facilitate an informed public dialogue on oil and gas for Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation citizens.

The Yukon Geological Survey has completed its summer 2013 field activities and will be following up with affected First Nations to provide information on the results of their projects. Affected First Nations include the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun, Kluane First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, Ross River Dena Council, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Inuvialuit.

Yukon Geological Survey undertook community-scale mapping of superficial geology around Dawson City, Faro and Ross River in 2013. The mapping will assist community development by delineating areas susceptible to erosion and permafrost degradation and documenting aggregate resources. The project was part of a broader project coordinated by the Northern Climate ExChange at Yukon College. Yukon Geological Survey will share the project results with the community members over this fall. First Nations and communities have on-line access to spatial data maintained by the Yukon Geological Survey.

In Environment, Pickhandle Lake Habitat Protection Area management plan was developed with Energy, Mines and Resources, White River First Nation and Kluane First Nation.

A First Nation liaison officer, Conservation Officer Services, continues to work with settled First Nation government staff who are tasked with local resource-management responsibilities in resolving subsistence harvest issues. This position is also tasked with presenting on responsible harvesting. These presentations are sometimes joint efforts with First Nations: collaborative harvest management discussions with Kluane First Nation for Kluane-Duke moose population and with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation for Fortymile caribou herd; community-based fish and wildlife workplan implementation; activities related to fish, wildlife and habitat management priorities in the Little Salmon-Carmacks, Vuntut Gwitchin and Na Cho Nyäk Dun traditional territories; and collaborative management systems in place with various First Nation governments to develop community-based fish and wildlife plans and to monitor local-area wildlife populations. This includes: bison and elk management teams, Porcupine caribou management, moose population studies as well as habitat protection area management plans. There is: Porcupine caribou monitoring and Porcupine caribou harvest monitoring with Inuvialuit, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in; developing a protocol with the Teslin Tlingit Lands and Resources branch respecting conservation and environmental education and environmental compliance; public engagement and targeted outreach to Yukon and transboundary First Nation governments and the development of a Yukon water strategy; recent visitation to Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to assist Water Resources branch staff in future implementation

of the water monitoring sampling program in the Eagle Plains Basin; collaborative work with TRT, TTC, CTFN, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, TKC, CAFN in the implementation of the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee's recommendation for wildlife management; park management planning for Kusawa Territorial Park in collaboration with Champagne and Aishihik, Carcross-Tagish and Kwanlin Dun; collaboration with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation regarding the management of Tombstone Territorial Park via the Tombstone Territorial Park management committee; collaboration with Vuntut Gwitchin regarding the management of Fishing Branch protected area through the committee of managing agencies; and collaboration with Inuvialuit regarding the management of Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park.

Through ECO, we continue to work with other parties to the agreements on the self-governing awareness campaign known as "Mapping the Way" to enhance Yukoners' awareness and understanding of the final self-government agreements.

Governments work together to celebrate First Nation anniversaries throughout this year of 2013. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the presentation of *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* by Yukon First Nation leaders to the then Prime Minister in 1973. This year also marked the 20th anniversary of the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the first four Yukon land claim and self-government agreements in 1993.

Various initiatives to celebrate these important milestones have been undertaken, including: a tribute that occurred in the spring session of this Legislature; Yukon, along with provincial and territorial counterparts and national aboriginal organizations, joined together to call for a national public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls; continued discussions with White River First Nation and Liard First Nation about consultation protocol; negotiated resource revenue-sharing agreement with the self-governing First Nations; and cooperation with Canada concluded a personal income tax room-sharing agreement with Carcross Tagish First Nation.

The youth leadership and activities program is a new annual funding program that is an amalgamation of three former seasonal programs: the youth leadership program, the winter youth activities program and the community youth activities program. It is a stable funding source for 16 rural communities and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

Planning is underway for the 2014 annual First Nation Governance and Capacity Development Conference. The 2013 conference had 32 local and international presenters and 160 registered delegates, over 60 percent of whom represented First Nations.

Added to the list is: facilitate informal government-to-government meetings with the Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nation chiefs in preparation for future Yukon and intergovernmental forums.

Yukon First Nations, Yukon College and the Government of Yukon have worked to develop and deliver the First Nation

governance and public administration program for aboriginal students representing Yukon, federal and First Nation governments. This spring, the first graduates successfully completed their course work and obtained their college certificate, currently working with the University of Saskatchewan on the development of a future joint degree.

There is: developing and implementing the administrative and workflow systems in collaboration with the Carcross-Tagish First Nation; the organizational and capacity development initiative in partnership with the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun; a land management framework and model that can be shared with Yukon First Nations as a template for developing their settlement lands in collaboration with Kwanlin Dun First Nation; the development of procedures and protocols in partnership with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; and the development of a made-in-Yukon capacity assessment tool that recognizes Yukon's unique, multi-jurisdictional self-government landscape and is designed to be informative and a practical tool. This tool enables First Nations to assess and evaluate the operations and structure of their departments and assist in targeting capacity needs, continuing to work to build capacity for First Nations.

There is a land-based healing working group with three First Nation representatives and four YG representatives. The working group was established after the spring of 2012 Yukon Forum and has met a number of times since then.

I mentioned the signing of the intergovernmental relations accords this summer with Vuntut Gwitchin and Kluane First Nation. We continue to negotiate Yukon asset construction agreements with Carcross-Tagish and Kwanlin Dun First Nations. To date, YACAs for 16 projects have been negotiated with Kwanlin Dun and YACAs for three projects with Carcross-Tagish First Nation.

A few things that we're doing with First Nations through Health and Social Services include — Family and Children's Services participates in regular meetings with First Nation health and social directors to discuss policy issues and operational matters related to the *Child and Family Services Act*. There is also active and ongoing collaborative work between Family and Children's Services and First Nations in planning the decision-making with and for children and families. There has been significant progress in this regard.

A memorandum of agreement was signed in October 2012 between Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Health and Social Services.

This MOA formally provides guidelines to support the cooperative work that was already occurring between Health and Social Services and Kwanlin Dun First Nation with respect to child welfare matters.

In 2011-12, funding was provided under the northern strategy telehealth expansion project to complete the installation of telehealth video conferencing equipment in First Nation offices throughout the territory. The Yukon home care program continues to work with First Nation home and community care programs to deliver prevention programs and education. As part of the strategy for home care for the homeless, the Yukon home care program has a formal

partnership with Kwanlin Dun First Nation health programs to deliver a once-a-week outreach drop-in clinic through the Salvation Army. Both organizations provide staff and volunteers to collaborate on delivering this service to people in need.

The palliative care program provides consulting services, public and professional education and training and support to volunteers and communities. The ADM of Health and Social Services meets regularly with the director of Health and Social Development at CYFN to share information about current activities, to collaborate on research opportunities and to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

The ADM of Health and Social Services also supports the Council of Yukon First Nations Health Commission, which has representation from all 14 Yukon First Nations. Similarly, the director of Community Nursing engages with First Nation leadership at the community level to discuss health care operation on a regular basis.

Health and Social Services has been committed to enhancing our relationship with First Nations to collaboratively develop better and more culturally relevant alcohol and drug services. This work formed part of the workplan that resulted in the Kluane First Nation accord. ADS has been developing a First Nations service protocol with CYFN health directors and has consulted with First Nations on the development of a new program redesign.

We are also taking an incremental approach to developing formal networks to support after-care and delivering training and mentoring to local service providers, along with ongoing community building through prevention programs. Health and Social Services provides funding of \$150,000 per year to the Jackson Lake land-based healing program operated by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. This program has been open to all First Nations in Yukon — and indeed all Yukoners — and consists of one treatment group per year. Health and Social Services is part of a newly created health table that consists of territorial and federal ADMs of Health, the Grand Chief of Council of Yukon First Nations, chiefs from First Nations not represented by CYFN, the director of health partnerships of CYFN and the federal regional director general of health. This table provides a forum where CYFN and other First Nations can bring policy matters forward for discussion and action.

The Department of Highways and Public Works was approached by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation about the possibility of collaborating on the construction of a winter road to Old Crow in 2013. Highways and Public Works has been working with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for several months now as they developed a business case for the winter road and of course, we all know that that announcement has been made, truly to the benefit of the community of Old Crow and of course, also to the benefit of the Yukon government.

To date, Highways and Public Works has concluded or is managing Yukon asset construction agreements on the following capital projects: Atlin Road upgrade; airport parking lot; Whitehorse airport terminal building extension; Whitehorse Correctional Centre; F.H. Collins; Takhini Hot

Springs Road upgrade; airport water and sewer extension; and the emergency response centre.

In Justice, the Justice Wellness Centre opened in Whitehorse to service Community Wellness Court clients. The Justice Wellness Centre provides access to programming and services seven days a week. There is a joint venture between Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Dominion Construction to build a new correctional centre which features flexible programming, separate remand facilities and a healing environment reflecting Yukon First Nation culture and values.

Justice is: working in conjunction with CYFN and its members to implement the recommendations of the *Sharing Common Ground*, the final report of the 2010 police review; working in cooperation with six service delivery carriers — Council of Yukon First Nations, Northern Tutchone Tribal Council, Liard First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and Ross River Dena Council — to deliver aboriginal courtworker services; working collaboratively with eight community justice projects — Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Carcross-Tagish First Nation, Liard First Nation, Ross River Dena Council, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Teslin Tlingit Council and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in — to support community-based alternative justice systems; working in corporation with Kwanlin Dun First Nation, CYFN, the RCMP and Health and Social Services within the Yukon prolific offender management team to ensure intensive supervision and appropriate programming for prolific offenders; working in cooperation with Kwanlin Dun First Nation to explore alternative service delivery models for community correctional supervision and victim services; working cooperatively with First Nations to implement safer communities and neighbourhood legislation on settlement land, including new protocols with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Na Cho Nyäk Dun; supporting the revitalization of the Liard First Nation police advisory board within the community tripartite policing agreement, which provides First Nation community police services, led by the RCMP and the Liard First Nation; and collaborating with government and non-government organizations to participate in the Victims of Crime Strategy Advisory Committee.

First Nation, NGOs and governments represented on this committee include CYFN, Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, KDFN, NNDFN and LSCFN.

Within the Public Service Commission, there has been the implementation of the newly reinvigorated *Final Agreement Representative Public Service Plan*, which is well underway. The Public Service Commission is working closely with the departments to educate and inform them of the legal obligation and to assist with implementation efforts. This has resulted in creative recruitment drives and a more focused approach in striving to meet obligations.

Services and funding has been increased to support the recruitment and retention efforts of aboriginal people. Yukon government continues to meet with participating Yukon First Nations on implementation of initiatives, along with providing

updates and reports to the tripartite land claims implementation working group.

The Staff Development branch is piloting an aboriginal development program, with a roster of 15 First Nation, Inuit and Métis employees who aspire to play a more effective role in their departments while seeking new professional challenges and growth. This learning program is about personal as well as professional growth and is completed by modules to support these outcomes.

Recently at the Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour gathering, there was a great discussion and great recognition of this program, and not only by government officials, but by those 15 people who were involved in the first intake for that program.

The Corporate Human Resource Services branch has met with four participating self-governing First Nations to discuss the final agreement representative public service plan, implementation and initiatives specific to their government, which are Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Carcross-Tagish, Kwanlin Dun, and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

The First Nation Training Corps provides training and employment opportunities to Yukon First Nation people to support the goal of having a public service representative of the people it serves. The FNTC program is under an ongoing review. The Public Service Commission and several self-governing Yukon First Nations participated in the review and the redevelopment of the Yukon government's Yukon First Nation history, cultural, land claims and agreements course. The training provides Yukon government employees with an overview of the Yukon First Nation cultures, traditions and land claim agreements.

Yukon and First Nation governments provide temporary assignments for each other's employees through the Yukon government First Nation temporary assignment protocol.

The Aboriginal Employees Forum provides an opportunity for aboriginal employees in the Yukon government to network, learn about organizational values and have a cultural support system and to connect with aboriginal role models within the organization. Currently there are approximately 135 aboriginal employees who are members of the AEF. The AEF also hosts the annual Aboriginal Employees' Award of Honour celebration, which occurred just last week. I have had the honour and the privilege to attend this now for my third consecutive year, and each year the number of people who are participating continues to get larger.

The quality of the nominees continues to grow and it is truly an acknowledgement of the great work that has been done by the Aboriginal Employees Forum. I'd like to recognize all of those people who have been working together to strive to ensure those great opportunities for all Yukon First Nations.

Under Tourism and Culture, the museums contribution program provides partial funding support for the annual management and operations of Yukon First Nation cultural heritage centres, including Big Jonathan House in Selkirk; Dä Ku with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in Haines

Junction; the cultural centre of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in Dawson City; John Tizya Centre of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre on the riverbanks of the Yukon River; the interpretive centre with Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation in Carmacks; and the Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre with the TTC.

Tourism and Culture entered into a 10-year lease in 2012 with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to house the Yukon government's visitor information centre in the Dä Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Junction. The Yukon archaeological program provided staff and technical support to the Yukon College heritage and culture field school at Canyon City. The field school is funded through the northern strategy fund administered by the Yukon government with Yukon First Nations Heritage Group and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation as partners.

Tourism and Culture arts fund awarded \$35,000 to Adäka Cultural Society for the 2013 Adäka Festival, working with Yukon First Nations Tourism Association on its efforts in partnership with the Adäka Cultural Festival to restructure the organization to support the development of both the First Nation cultural and tourism sectors.

The First Nations heritage training coordinator continues to work with various First Nations and the Yukon Historical and Museums Association to develop and deliver training opportunities for First Nation cultural centres and museums.

Yukon Archives is providing an 18-month training internship for a member of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to become an archives records officer. The position is funded through the Yukon government's First Nation Training Corps, which has assisted with educational and training opportunities in a number of disciplines. Following the 18-month internship, the person will be employed at the Da Ku and will be responsible for their archival materials.

The Yukon archeology program is working with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation to publish a popular booklet on the results of a two-year long KDFN archeological site inventory project in the M'Clintock River basin.

The Yukon paleontology program worked with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation heritage department staff to publish *Ice Age Old Crow: Yukon's ancient history from north of the Arctic Circle*, which documents paleontological research in the Old Crow region and VGFN resident involvement.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun are assisting in the CanNor-funded Yukon archeological program project to inventory, map and model the archeological site in the Dawson and Mayo mining districts. The project will support YG heritage resource management and assist the mineral industry with project planning.

A contribution agreement is in place with the Yukon First Nations Tourism Association for \$60,000, in order to promote the development of First Nation tourism.

There is a transfer payment agreement for \$21,000 to the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for identification and research of heritage trails in the Van Tat Gwich'in navigational system project and a transfer payment agreement with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for \$15,000 for identification and research of

heritage trails in their traditional territory; member of the intergovernmental working group for KDFN waterfront heritage working group to oversee the drafting and plan of a written and pictorial history of Kwanlin Dun, in relation to the Whitehorse waterfront; contract with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for hiking trail research at Rampart House; annual transfer payment of \$44,000 to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for restoration work on historic Fortymile buildings; collaboration with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on inventory and documentation of historic resources in the Klondike goldfields.

A funding agreement is in place for \$40,000 for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to help refurbish the exterior of the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre. The department entered into a lease with CTFN Development Corporation to operate the Yukon visitor information centre out of the Carcross Commons for the 2013 season.

Tourism and Culture is providing \$345,000 to the Northern Cultural Expressions Society for its carving program. The arts fund awarded Selkirk First Nation \$9,000 for their summer Live Art program. The arts fund awarded the Teslin Tlingit Council \$20,000 for their 2013 celebration, Part of the Land, Part of the Water. It awarded \$9,100 to Dakhká Khwáan Dancers to help them attend the 2013 Coastal First Nations Dance Festival; annual contract with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for \$49,950 for restoration work at Rampart House; annual transfer payment agreement with Selkirk First Nation for restoration and maintenance at Fort Selkirk historic site for \$115,000; annual transfer payment agreement with Selkirk First Nation for interpretation for \$10,000; and artifact backlog project with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation for \$20,000.

Mr. Speaker, the Women's Directorate funded six community-based projects in 2013 to 2015, for a total of \$200,000, to help prevent violence against aboriginal women. Since 2004, the Women's Directorate has provided nearly \$1.5 million for 60 projects through the prevention of violence against aboriginal women fund for violent prevention projects conceived and delivered by and for aboriginal women. In 2010, Yukon government, aboriginal women's groups and Yukon First Nations began implementing some of the recommendations from the 2007 Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit with funding from the northern strategy trust over a three-year period. All projects will be completed by the end of this year.

In October 2012, the Women's Directorate and the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues hosted the second Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit in Whitehorse. The summit's theme was "Strong Women, Strong Communities: Restoring Our Balance." The purpose of this second summit was to reflect and build upon the success and determine our collective priorities to advance aboriginal women's equality.

Beginning in April of this year, the Women's Directorate has committed \$450,000 over three years to support aboriginal women's organizations in developing projects that respond to the recommendations made by the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Summit II. Three aboriginal women's groups were funded through the women's equality fund. The women's

equality fund is three-year funding that runs from 2013 to 2016. This funding program assists Yukon organizations in their work toward women's legal, political and social equality in the north.

The Yukon Housing Corporation has worked with Habitat for Humanity Yukon and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations on design and technical aspects of their first Habitat for Humanity home built on First Nations settlement land and worked with Kwanlin Dun's construction company to construct a six-unit family townhouse building in the Ingram subdivision and three duplexes in Takhini North under the Yukon asset construction agreements with Kwanlin Dun First Nation. These agreements also enabled the tradesperson working on them to be trained to SuperGreen building practices.

In December, the Conference Board of Canada report commended the collaborative efforts of the Yukon Housing Corporation, Han Construction Limited, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on the design and construction of sustainable, culturally appropriate and energy-efficient housing in the north. To date, two of these energy-efficient housing projects have been built in Dawson: a duplex and a single detached residence. It has delivered hands-on modules as part of the housing maintainer program in cooperation with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation to allow abandoned units to be brought back into use. Also it collaborated with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to co-deliver a home maintenance course in Old Crow.

These were just a few of the things that I thought would be worthy of identifying as we speak about working together with Yukon First Nations, the accomplishments that have been accrued to date, the good work that is ongoing and what we look forward to continuing to do.

As I had mentioned at the beginning, while we continue to do a lot of work together, there will be times where governments don't always agree. That is a fact. I think I've said that in this House. I've certainly said that when meeting with First Nation chiefs. I would say, "You know what? I don't always agree with my wife either. We don't always agree on the same thing. We do both agree on the Riders, I will have to say that." But, Mr. Speaker, sometimes there will be a difference of opinion and sometimes we have to agree to disagree. But we have to be respectful of each other's responsibilities and that is important to this government, certainly whether it's dealing bilaterally with the First Nation governments or if it's dealing with municipalities as well. This government believes in supporting the municipalities whether we agree with their position or not, which is not always the case, as we know, with the other side of the House.

We will continue to work with First Nations; we will continue to do the consultation that is required — and consultation is required for a number of reasons as you're aware, Mr. Speaker. It might be articulated right within the agreements; it may be just for relationship building. There are many reasons for consultation. However, we have to make sure that we don't confuse consultation with consent. Our

obligation is to consult. That doesn't necessarily mean that if we don't agree with the First Nation on an issue — that that means that wasn't adequate consultation. We have to always take notice of the fact that consent and consultation are in fact not the same thing.

But getting back to the Yukon Forum — as I said, I think it was a bit of a disappointment that when the interim Leader of the Liberal Party brought forward this motion, it became obvious that certainly he didn't understand the process. As I said, I wonder whether this speaks to the style that he has. He insists that I should just declare the date of the next Yukon Forum. That is not how the Yukon Forum works. I did try to articulate that. Based on that comment, I would like to move an amendment to the motion.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move:

THAT Motion No. 332 be amended by adding the words “to work with Yukon First Nations governments” after the words “Government of Yukon” and by deleting the words “to inform all Yukoners of” and replacing them with the words “to establish”.

Speaker: The amendment to the motion is in order.

It has been moved by the Hon. Premier:

THAT Motion No. 332 be amended by adding the words “to work with Yukon First Nations governments” after the words “Government of Yukon” and by deleting the words “to inform all Yukoners of” and replacing them with the words “to establish”.

Hon. Premier, you have 20 minutes on the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: This motion calls for the Yukon government to inform all Yukoners as to the date of the next Yukon Forum. Our response is simple: the date of the next Yukon Forum is not for the Government of Yukon to unilaterally decide.

As is written plainly in the act, it is up to the members, not the Premier alone, to collectively decide on the number of meetings to be held in a given year and the dates of those meetings.

As is also stated in the act, the purpose of the Yukon Forum is to provide a means for the members to discuss issues of common concern and identify opportunities and common priorities for cooperative action. It would be wrong to assume that discussions between Yukon Forum partners cease without the forum as a venue to host them. Yukon First Nation engagement is built into the Yukon government code of conduct, and I think I have given some examples of some of the great work that has been done, both at the officials' level and on the elected officials' level.

At the political level, we continue to engage with Yukon First Nation chiefs and councils in pursuit of our mutual goals of improving the quality of life for all Yukoners. At the departmental level, government officials consider First Nation engagements at every stage of planning to ensure that departmental policies and actions are to the benefit of all Yukoners and to the exclusion of none. We work with First

Nations at the political and departmental levels because we recognize that cooperation provides richer and more lasting benefits to Yukoners than discord.

That is a sentiment that I believe our Yukon Forum partners share. We have countless examples of the many ways in which we work collaboratively with Yukon First Nations on a number of fronts, originating in a variety of departments.

The benefit of all Yukoners through cooperation in governance of our respective administrations — that was and remains the core intention behind the Yukon Forum. We will continue to work with First Nations to discuss options for the next Yukon Forum, just as we continue to work with First Nations on issues of mutual concern, regardless of when the next forum takes place. When we do announce another Yukon Forum, it will not be because of a motion in this House. It will be because the members of the forum decided — in partnership — that it was beneficial to do so.

Hon. Mr. Kent: I'll be brief on the amendment. I think that the amendment proposed by the Premier definitely strengthens this motion. It takes away that unilateral and dictatorial aspect that was contained in the Member for Klondike's original motion.

I plan on speaking to the motion, as amended, after we have the opportunity to vote on it and address some of the things with respect, particularly, to Bill No. 66, as well as some of the positive aspects that Energy, Mines and Resources is currently engaged in with First Nations, and some of the positive aspects that I was able to engage with First Nations on, as Minister of Education.

Again, with respect to this amendment, I believe it strengthens the motion and recognizes the true partnership that exists between the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations. I shouldn't be surprised that the Member for Klondike didn't recognize that in his initial motion. Earlier today, in Question Period, he suggested that we seek an extension to the Yukon Court of Appeal case, without the support of the Ross River Dena Council.

We see time and time again from the member opposite a unilateral and perhaps even dictatorial method of dealing with not only First Nation governments but other governments and other individuals. I am pleased to support this amendment to the motion that the Premier has introduced here today.

Mr. Silver: Dictatorial — that's a new one. It's great.

They're not necessarily my words — just to answer the Energy, Mines and Resources minister. I was merely putting forth arguments from other First Nations with regard to the court case. It's unfortunate that the minister is going to pin this on me, as opposed to actually opening up the conversation to other First Nations, which I think — well, as we all read through the submissions, there are a lot of communications and conversation on that one coming forth, as far as opening up regulations and the method in which this minister and his department has decided to work in a silo — and I'm the dictator.

Okay. Let's just move on to the amendment. We can sit here and talk back and forth about the wording. Clearly what we've noticed from the Yukon Party government is they really feel that they can't allow a motion to go forth without an amendment. We can argue over the words and, right now, I guess I'm being dictatorial because I want to see a Yukon Forum. I want to see the Premier show some leadership and reach out and communicate and have the forum because, really, yes, it is up to a whole bunch of shareholders to actually get this forum to move forward. We noticed, the last time that it was supposed to be held, the chiefs showed up; they were here; they were ready to go. It was the Premier who backed out.

It's about showing leadership. It's about coming together as a group.

We wouldn't even be here today if the forum had met as it was supposed to — as it was legislated to in the last handful of years since the former Premier of the Yukon Party formed this MOU with the shareholders and the governance that he's supposed to be working with. But we are here today having this conversation, because there hasn't been any leadership shown on this file.

Really, sure, we can amend this. That's fine. That's great. Time will tell whether or not this forum meets at its legislated times. We know that the First Nation representatives — the First Nation governments — absolutely want these to happen. They want to share the agenda. I wouldn't say that necessarily the stall is on their behalf, that's for sure. I would say that the stall is on the Yukon Party government, so we can word this any way you want. That's fine. I'll support this amendment, no problem, but time will tell if this meets four times a year as legislated and time will tell if leadership is shown on these important First Nations agendas by this current Premier.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I would like to thank the Premier for bringing forward this motion to improve on the relatively flawed motion brought forward by the Member for Klondike. I think in his attempt to make decisions on behalf of First Nations, he has gotten ahead of himself a little bit. I know that hearing his most recent comments, I believe he feels he speaks on behalf of First Nations, which I'm sure will be of great interest to First Nations, who will be, I'm sure, reading Hansard and reviewing his comments.

Also, I think First Nations will be disappointed to note his term for them in this process, and that is "shareholders". That's the term he has chosen for the role of First Nations here, when we are very clear that First Nations are certainly not "shareholders". They are partners; they are self-governing First Nations. They are governments and the *Cooperation in Governance Act* sets out an opportunity for our governments — the public Yukon government and the self-governing First Nations — to come together and discuss issues of common concern and common interest.

I was disappointed in the initial motion in that it did not include any reference to working with First Nations to do this, because that is fundamental to making this work and is fundamental, in my opinion, to the *Cooperation in*

Governance Act. Now the Member for Klondike can heckle all he likes off-mic, but that's the fact and that's the reality. The *Cooperation in Governance Act* specifically contemplated a role for First Nations much greater than simple shareholders and much greater than simply being told by the Yukon government when to meet and where. I believe that this act suggests a much more meaningful role than the one imagined by the Liberal leader — or the interim Liberal leader until his coronation as leader this week.

I think it would help the interim Liberal leader to review section 5 of the *Cooperation in Governance Act*, because of course that sets out the process by which meetings of the Yukon Forum are to be established. As I indicated earlier, that suggests that the members agree to hold these meetings, not simply have the Yukon government dictate to the First Nations when and where those meetings are to occur. I think section 5 of this act contemplates a much more meaningful role for First Nations.

I'm happy to see this amendment come forward to what was otherwise a flawed motion and one that I certainly wouldn't have been able to support, but I think with the amendment put forward by the Premier we can perhaps move forward and continue to debate this motion as amended and hopefully pass it today in this House.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I want to, first off, thank the Member for Klondike for bringing forth this motion for debate today. I know that the member opposite, perhaps, may feel differently than this side of the Legislative Assembly, but nevertheless, I want to thank the Member for Klondike for bringing forth the motion and I also want to bring —

Speaker: Please — you are speaking to the amendment, correct?

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Yes.

Speaker: Okay, you mentioned "motion," but I just wanted to make sure.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I also wanted to thank the Premier for bringing forth the amendment to the motion, which I was just about to get to, but thank you.

Mr. Speaker, again this is all about an opportunity for all members to partake in the debate and to be able to help strengthen motions that are put on the floor of the Legislative Assembly and that is what has just transpired.

I don't want to be repetitive here today. A lot of good remarks have been stated so far and we will be hearing a lot more throughout the day. Back in 2005, when the MOU was first struck and of course the act went through, the emphasis was on cooperation and it continues to be on cooperation. It continues to emphasize the government-to-government relationship. The Yukon Party government was elected on a mandate back in 2002 and was re-elected and re-elected again to do just that. Adding the words, of course, having the emphasis on working with First Nations governments is very key, because it does emphasize the need for collaboration.

In looking to the act and the actual initial intent of the act when it was first introduced and when it was enacted — and

ever since — it was really to work government-to-government on setting the agenda and being able to have a formal forum to be able to bring forth issues of importance and priority to all the respective parties at the table and to be able to come together and come to an agreement — a consensus — and to be able to task their necessary senior level officials to go to work and come up with a workplan. Of course there has been a lot of great success.

I do think that the amendment to the motion at hand does nothing but strengthen it. I am pleased to hear that the MLA for Klondike has accepted the amendment going forth in the spirit of collaboration. I do want to thank him and I do want to acknowledge his efforts on that part.

We certainly look forward to hearing what the Official Opposition has to say in support of this amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this. I look forward to hearing the remainder of the debate today.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the amendment, I felt that it was important that I stand up and again correct the record. It is unfortunate that a lot of times when we do stand up to speak in the Legislature, we are correcting the record and people who listen to us on-line need to realize that just because the opposition members say something on the floor of this Legislature, it doesn't necessarily mean that is always correct. We do spend some time correcting the members opposite and, in fact, it seems to be more often than not.

I'll speak to the Department of Tourism and Culture first — on the amendment, of course, as I'm standing on the amendment — just to indicate to this House some of the work that the department is doing that speaks to the amendment that the Premier has added in here to work with Yukon First Nation governments to establish not only the forum, but to establish and maintain relationships.

Within the Department of Tourism and Culture, we just need to look at things like the Carcross Visitor Information Centre and the good relationship that we built with that community. Now they see a nice new visitor information centre in that community as well as a number of other investments that this government has brought forth.

Also we need to look at the support for Air North, Yukon's airline, and the relationship that this government has with Air North as well as the Vuntut Gwitchin. It's a true testament to see that those relationships can pay dividends.

We look at, through the Department of Tourism and Culture, product development initiatives. We look at the recent European trade mission that the Premier led to Germany and the UK and the involvement of the First Nations Tourism Association, and the component that they brought to the table was truly invaluable.

There are a number of things I can speak to. There is the Archives' vault. The information and the assets that the First Nations bring to that vault are again invaluable. It's the same with the permanent art collection in the storage at the Yukon Arts Centre.

There is also the relationship we have with First Nations cultural and heritage centres that the Premier spoke very eloquently about, and there is some great progress being made with the heritage centres. We then need to look at the relationship that we've built through the Department of Tourism and Culture with Northern Cultural Expressions Society and the valuable assets that they bring to our community.

Also, in speaking to artifacts, we know that the Parks Canada situation that the member opposite —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: The Leader of the Third Party, on a point of order.

Mr. Silver: On Standing Order 35(b) — I think we have to correct the member opposite. He'll get his opportunity to speak to the motion as amended later on and we'll have to correct him, but right now we're talking about just the amendment.

If the minister can make his comments based on the amendment, that would be great. He can have his opportunity to talk about his department later on when we talk about the motion as amended.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Listening to the Liberal leader give what sounded like he thought was the ruling, I think the minister believes he is speaking to the amendment.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: I'll decide who's talking about rulings.

At any rate, looking at the amendment as opposed to the actual motion, the amendment says "adding the words 'to work with First Nations governments'". But then it goes on to further replace some words to have it say "establish the date of the next Yukon Forum".

Without hearing exactly all of the words that the minister is going to impart to us, I can't tell you how he's going to tie it directly into the amendment. I'm forced to give some latitude.

When speaking to this amendment, there are two pieces to the amendment, not just one — not just the "to work with Yukon First Nations governments" but also "to establish" a date.

The motion as amended, if this amendment is in fact passed, would broaden the scope of the original motion and allow for further discussion — in particular, on working with First Nation governments.

I would ask the minister to keep his comments in relation to the amendment and the addition of the words "Yukon First Nation governments" and "to establish" a date.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am speaking to the amendment. I do appreciate the fact that there are two components to this amendment. Right now, I am speaking to the relationship between the Yukon government and Yukon First Nation governments. Speaking to that relationship is truly key to establishing a sense of pride —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Nixon: If the Leader of the NDP would like to continue to heckle, I can sit down and —

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order. Minister, I appreciate your discussion on the amendment. Heckling in this House is very minor. If it draws your attention, that's unfortunate, but I would ask you to speak to me and ignore the heckling. Imagine the difficulty you would have if you were in the House of Commons with 308 people constantly talking and heckling. I'm sure you can keep your attention on your notes and your speech to the amendment.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Again, I am speaking to the relationship that the Yukon government prides itself on with Yukon First Nation governments.

Prior to our recent discussions here, I was talking about artifacts and the important relationship that Parks Canada has with First Nation governments, as well as the Yukon government.

We know the history from the interim Liberal leader when it comes to the Parks issue again.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I know the interim Liberal leader would prefer not to hear about his relationship with Parks Canada, and —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, on a point of order.

Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker — Standing Order 35(b). Are we having déjà vu here? What does this have to do with the amendment? I would say, respectfully, for the member to please get to the point.

Speaker: Government House Leader, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The Leader of the Liberal Party now seems to be under the impression that uttering the words "Parks Canada" is contrary to our Standing Orders.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: There is quite an amount of heckling going on, on both sides. The heckling is not part of the discussion or the debate at hand. It doesn't help. It doesn't lead to anything positive on both sides of the House but, at the same time, we've had several points of order here and we're continuing to have basically the same point of order. Whether Parks Canada is in fact part of the First Nations — I'm not going to debate that. I'm not going to look at it. I don't care.

I would ask the minister — this is the last time — to keep your statements on the amendment and address only the amendment. As you have not spoken to the main motion yet, you will have an opportunity to speak to the main motion, amended or not.

Minister of Tourism and Culture, please.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That wraps up my comments.

Ms. Hanson: Simply put, on the motion as amended, the Official Opposition will support the motion as amended.

Mr. Elias: When we come to serious issues like we're talking about right now — about legislative forums and how we're going to conduct ourselves as responsible governments, the Premier's amendment to the motion was how it should originally have been tabled on the floor of the Assembly if it was well-thought-out and cared about, because these types of originally weak motions —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Order please. Member for Takhini-Kopper King, on a point of order.

Ms. White: Standing Order 19(g), imputes false or unavowed motives to another member — to insinuate that the Member for Klondike came at this in any way but in an altruistic fashion is inaccurate.

Speaker: Government House Leader, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: On the point of order, I believe the member was indicating his view that he didn't think the amendment was well-thought-out, which, in my opinion, doesn't appear to be anywhere close to 19(g).

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: I don't believe there is a point of order. The member did not imply that there was a motive in bringing the motion forward, other than the motion.

Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, please continue.

Mr. Elias: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to focus on a couple of things on the amendment. One of them is to work with Yukon First Nation governments, and what I have to say about that is, as far as I'm concerned, the Yukon is a world leader in autonomous self-governing First Nations. They all have active constitutions and solid governance legislation that spell out how Yukon First Nations will be responsible governments in our territory, in partnership with all other levels of government, and participate in the well-being of our territory.

I fully expect that they're going to use all the tools — not just the Yukon Forum tool or the intergovernmental forum tool as the be-all and end-all. I'm fully confident that they will meet. I fully expect that all of the self-governing First Nations will act in the best interests of their citizens, as they always have and they always will.

Furthermore, in terms of "to inform all Yukoners," I'm going to put myself in a hypothetical position of a chief of a self-governing First Nation, responsible for my citizens.

If a Premier came out and decided to tell me, as a government leader, that a forum is going to happen with the Yukon public before talking to me first, I'd pick up the phone

and there would be a lot of unparliamentary language between me and the Premier. That's why the original motion is flawed.

Amendment to Motion No. 332 agreed to

Speaker: Is there any further debate on the motion as amended?

Ms. Hanson: It's a pleasure to speak to this motion as amended this afternoon. I think it has been kind of fascinating and a little difficult to get one's head around exactly how it got off track, but I think that we can bring it back to the motion, which really is and was all about the important intergovernmental relationship that is spoken to in the *Cooperation in Governance Act*. I was a little perplexed when I heard the Premier, because I'll have to admit, it did take me until about the second or third "E" in the listing of government departments, that I realized, my goodness, there must have been a call gone out from the Premier's office to every single department and agency in the government that said, "Do a quick word search. I want you to tell me every First Nation — everything that has to do with First Nation individuals, First Nation organizations, First Nation governments, and tell me how much money is spent and what the program was.

You know, that's interesting, Mr. Speaker. It speaks to what we expect the Government of Yukon to do. The government does have a relationship with First Nation people as citizens, as First Nation governments and First Nation organizations. That's the job of this Legislative Assembly; that's the job of this government.

For sure — as their due — citizens of the Yukon who are First Nation members and First Nation governments will expect that there are those arrangements. It's how we describe them and how we give effect to them, Mr. Speaker, that is really at the core of what is talked about with respect to the *Cooperation in Governance Act*.

Let's go back to why we have a *Cooperation in Governance Act*. Despite the fact that the previous Yukon Party Premier and I had many disagreements on a personal level, I think he fundamentally got some of the elements of the new relationship. He got it sometimes because it was effectively spoken to him by members of certain First Nations, some of whom resided in his riding. There was a fundamental switch in some of the thinking that I saw happening there in those early years. But the reality is that this act came into effect — and the process that led up to it — as a result of the fact that the Yukon government, Yukon First Nations and the federal government completed some really important agreements — the building blocks for governance in this territory. They completed First Nation final and First Nation self-government agreements and the devolution transfer agreement.

We sometimes keep those sort of stuffed away on a shelf somewhere. As I was listening to the Premier giving the litany of various programs and — you know — we've done this and we've done that, some of them — I wondered if he actually does understand that some of these are not just funding. They

are not just we're giving or we're providing money to do this or we have achieved that. There are actually obligations that arise out of those negotiated agreements.

So when the minister speaks to — oh, I don't know — the various creation of Pickhandle Lake or various special management areas, those aren't something that this Yukon government chose to do because of their vision. They're required to do them because they are the government that is charged with the jurisdiction and the obligation arising out of First Nation final agreements on those matters.

When he speaks to the various asset agreements — chapter 22 of First Nation final agreements — of course we have to do that, and we must do that. When we don't — as we saw with the airport, and they ignored the chapter 22 provisions on the obligations to work with and to involve Kwanlin Dun on certain developments on certain levels, thresholds — you run into problems. So the good thing is the Yukon Party can learn from its mistakes, but to suggest that this is the largesse of this government, that they are giving First Nation people or First Nation governments something — no they are not.

That's why this *Cooperation in Governance Act* is so important. That's why the Yukon Forum is so important. The forum is, as the act says, "...a means for the members" — that's the Government of Yukon and First Nation governments — "to discuss issues of common concern and identify opportunities and common priorities for cooperative action and to formulate directions which the members ... will endeavour to reflect in their respective strategies, activities, undertakings and as appropriations..."

You know, Mr. Speaker, the challenge here — the challenge of the forum is to come up with those things that together as governments we're going to agree we do things differently. So yes, we have tools like memorandum of understanding and protocols. Those are common. You do that anyway. They're the effective ways of doing bilateral activities between levels of government. But the forum was envisioned as a way of talking about cooperation in government so that, for example, when we talk about how, when we both have jurisdiction — the Yukon government and First Nation governments — we deal with our children and ensure that the children and families that are so important to us all — that we don't just talk about doing cosmetic changes to the *Child and Family Services Act*, but we actually involve and envision an approach that is meaningful and embraces First Nation cultures. That didn't happen. We missed an opportunity there. But this *Cooperation in Governance Act* is really talking about where we share jurisdictions, where we can think about ways as leadership to talk about doing government differently in this territory.

The same as the missed opportunity this last number of months — a year ago, the court said, "You know, you have a problem here with respect to how the mining legislation works in this territory." This government, as a party to the devolution transfer agreement, agreed — agreed, Mr. Speaker — in respect of working with First Nations, they agreed to set up a working group to deal with successor resource legislation.

It's often forgotten how much First Nations gave up in terms of settling these First Nation final agreements. First Nations understood that there was a contract, a covenant between them — the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon. They understood that we were establishing a new way of doing business in this territory. It's really unfortunate that their faith in the Government of Yukon has proven to be misplaced. Time and time again I'm told by leadership that this is not what they hoped for. This is not what they envisioned and that's why they have sought to have this government fulfill its obligations to ensure that the Yukon Forum meets and actually talks about issues that are of importance — mutual importance — talking about how we do government differently in this territory.

It's not about the Yukon government saying, "Well, this is what we got and this is what we're going to do and this is how we're going to do it First Nations. You can apply for funding — you can apply for our funding — and we'll tell you that we're giving it to you by transfer payment or by contribution agreement, but you'll meet our terms and our conditions." How about talking about, as First Nation leadership would like to, what the things are that we want to work on together as a group and choose some priorities. That's what the forum provides an opportunity to do.

This government — the Premier in one of his — and I've heard him and the various ministers go on and on about how they are so gracious in giving First Nations this money.

Most of the time, it is federal money and First Nations have said — and I recall and ministers across the way will recall — since some of them were there when the \$50-million housing strategy money was put in place — that the Yukon Party wanted to hold it all. They said, "It's ours". First Nations said, "For goodness' sake, no way. It was intended to address the severe housing shortages in the whole of the Yukon."

I can tell you Mr. Speaker, the northern strategy funding, over and over again — if the Government of Yukon wants to describe itself or play the role of the benevolent hander-out-of-money, they can do that, but it defies the whole responsibility and the obligations that they have undertaken with respect to First Nation final agreements, self-government agreements and the DTA. It explains why they're so reluctant to actually meet in the Yukon Forum.

I see similar patterns evolving here. It's the same Yukon Party government that puts this kind of legislation forward, creates an understanding, creates an obligation and then ignores it. In effect, it's violating its own law. It has done the same thing with the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment. The *Environment Act* requires it. Now, I know the Minister of the Environment is making amendments so that he can make it discretionary. He might want to look at chapter 22 of the First Nation final agreements with respect to the participation and obligations with respect to the Yukon Council of Economy and the Environment.

We cannot repeatedly go and say that we want to have a new relationship, but you know what, the relationship is all on our terms. It's a transfer agreement; it's a contribution

agreement; it's not talking about what are our resources. How are we, as mutually respectful levels of government, coming together? How do we say to Yukon First Nation leadership and the Yukon government leadership — we come into the room and we talk about what are our common priorities, not what the Government of Yukon is prepared to give First Nations.

That language is actually offensive: the notion that we're providing, transferring, giving, awarding. It's not for First Nations, it's with First Nation governments. Until we get that distinct difference, we're still rooted in the colonial past. That is a really unfortunate circumstance to find ourselves in.

I think that there may be opportunities for this government and for First Nation leadership — it's the government who sits at it, if they ever agree to work with the First Nation leadership — to convene a Yukon Forum, since their record on that has not been stellar. But perhaps it's time to sit down and look at and to review, in cooperation with First Nations governments, the purpose and the mandate and the operations of the Yukon Forum.

This is an intergovernmental forum, so we can seriously, seriously begin to address the political, social, environmental and economic priorities of all governments in this territory. This is not something that's driven by the Yukon Party or any one First Nation. It was intended to be a forum for all governments in this territory. It was intended to respect what the governments of this territory negotiated — First Nation governments and the Yukon government.

As long as this government is prepared to think that it's satisfactory to stand and give a listing — a litany — of various lists of funds and little activities — I mean, those are important — but I think the Premier missed an opportunity here, where he may not get it and where his Cabinet ministers may not get the fact that there are obligations arising out of these agreements.

It's clear from my work over the years with Yukon public servants, and it's clear from my work since I've become Leader of the Official Opposition, that there are many within the public service of both First Nation governments and the Yukon government who do get it. We should be working to create an environment where we can foster that creativity and not be thinking that, in 2013, we're just beginning to implement, as the Premier said. Representative public service is required under chapter 22 of the final agreement — my goodness, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier said again the thing about this government taking such great credit for getting the *North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan*. I would remind the minister and the Premier — the minister responsible for aboriginal affairs and intergovernmental affairs — that land use planning could not really begin until you completed the First Nation final and self-government agreements, so those negotiations did not end until 2003. I say this because I don't think he has reflected this in his comments to date. Because of the overlapping boundaries between various First Nations and their traditional territories, until you have the whole of the agreements that

you're going to get completed, you don't have the ability to move forward on the land use planning.

I know the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin knows that and recognizes that, and one of the reasons why it did, despite the fact that Vuntut Gwitchin came into effect in 1995 — it took time. It took time until Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in was completed. So, yes, it is admirable. It is good that the North Yukon plan is completed, but that makes no excuse for the lack of progress since 2003 on the remaining land use plans.

There is reasonable and understandable concern expressed within the First Nation leadership I have spoken to over the last number of years about the failure of this government to fulfill its obligation with respect to ensuring that they are available and show up for Yukon Forum, that they indicate that they're prepared to deal in a serious way with the issues that the First Nation leadership of this territory believes are priorities and are prepared to sit down and actually do that prioritizing as opposed to saying, "We have an initiative and we want to come to talk to you about it." That's not intergovernmental respect. It's coming up with a mutually agreed-upon agenda and moving that forward.

We do encourage the Government of Yukon to move forward, to be available, and to take a proactive position and contact the First Nation leadership with respect to working to establish an early date. Then let's keep with the obligation that's set out in this legislation to have those quarterly meetings.

I commend the Member for Klondike for bringing this forward because his intention was to reflect, as I said earlier, the concerns of many, many Yukon First Nation leadership that the failure to fulfill the objectives of this legislation is a reflection of a failed relationship. They don't want that. They do not want that.

First Nation leadership has made it clear. We heard the tributes in May for *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*. They have made it clear for over 40 years that they are partners. They are not going away and they want to work with this government. We can either turn our backs on them or we can figure out a way to make it happen.

The *Cooperation in Governance Act* is an enormously useful advancement in respect of that intergovernmental relationship. Let's make it work. Let's see First Nation governments and Yukon government carrying on and getting it back on track. Simply put, let's get it back on track. The Premier has a leadership role to play here. He can take the first step. He can make the first call, saying, "Let's do it." It's not directing; it's not dictating; it's simply inviting. He has the ability to do that. Does he have the leadership desire and capability?

Mr. Elias: I stand in support of the motion as amended. I'm going to be speaking on a couple of things — some specific sections within the *Cooperation in Governance Act*, some connections to the intergovernmental forum, and a bit about past successes that haven't been brought forward on the floor of this House that came directly from the Yukon Forum.

I just find myself having to address the Leader of the Official Opposition's exhibition of some bravado here today because she's chronically inadequate in communicating some facts that I know about.

It seems to be that she's making to the Yukon public to be a self-proclaimed messiah of First Nation issues all of a sudden. I don't know where she was in 2007, but I remember the Leader of the Official Opposition making a career of implementing the paternalistic and — what's the other word? — oppressive policies —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Order please. The Leader of the Official Opposition, on a point of order please.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, Standing Order 19(g), imputing motive — if he's going to go on about my personal history, in 2007, I was retired.

Speaker: Government House Leader, on the point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin was describing what he believed to be the attitude shown by the Leader of the NDP as regional director general for Aboriginal Affairs.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: I'm going to have a look at the Blues in the morning just to confirm —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Speaker: Wait a minute. I take personal offence to that. You don't like my comment? Throwing your pen and gesturing like that when I'm in the middle of making a statement — because I said I'm going to look at the Blues, you throw your pen? I take offence to that. That's directed at me personally. Please have your seat.

I may not look at the Blues in the morning — I will have a look at the Blues and I will look at the words exactly how they are presented in the Blues and, if needed, I will give a ruling. But I'm going to caution everybody right now. My foot is sore. I'm irritated. The actions of the members in this Assembly are at an all-time low right now with this debate and there is no need for it. Choose your words carefully. Think before you speak. This is an important issue. There is a lot that needs to be discussed on this.

Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, please carry on.

Mr. Elias: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, I sat at the land claims table, and there are only two of us in this Assembly who did. I remember — and so do my colleagues remember, so do my elders remember, and so do the negotiators remember — about some of the facts that the Leader of the Official Opposition is not putting on the floor of the Assembly, and they are long.

With regard to the motion at hand here, it's also important for the Yukon public to recognize that the intergovernmental forum that provides an opportunity for Canada, Yukon and the

self-governing First Nations to affirm their partnerships around the implementation of land claims and self-government agreements, discuss areas of mutual interest and advance intergovernmental relationships also exists in our territory.

I also want to put on the public record that, in terms of the Yukon government putting forward a long litany of things that they are giving to First Nations as the Leader of the Official Opposition puts it — I find that troublesome, as well. If I look at my own First Nation — and the Premier mentioned it today — it's a cooperation between the most isolated, remote community in our territory and the economic opportunities it provides for this territory alone. A community of 300 plus working together on a government-to-government basis, saying, "Look, there's a demonstrated need here to build a winter road, because of a whole litany of things that we want to accomplish with just our small community of Old Crow."

Hopefully there is enough snow and that winter road goes into Old Crow, because there are millions of dollars that are going to be spent by First Nation governments, our development corporations, the public government, the federal government, Parks Canada, the RCMP — everybody in collaboration pushing in the same direction. There is going to be food bought. There are going to be partnerships from Edmonton to Manitoba to Saskatchewan and Ontario. There is going to be training. There is going to be fuel bought locally. There are going to be engineers hired. There are going to be electricians, plumbers, all the tradespeople hired and they are going to ensure that, whether it's Finning working with our community or whether it's Kingland Ford in Edmonton or the Arctic Co-op or consulting firms in Vancouver, whatever it may be — I'm so proud of our little community of Old Crow, because this was not in the land claims agreement and it wasn't discussed at the Yukon Forum, but this is just one out of thousands of things. So that's just one success from my community of Old Crow that I'm so proud of, and hopefully there is enough snow.

With regard to the *Cooperation in Governance Act*, there are a couple of important sections in here that haven't been mentioned today. One of them is with regard to the members, which has been touched on.

It looks like, to me, that there are about 15 members of the forum, not including senior officials. Thirteen of them are self-governing First Nations or First Nation governments. I realize the Leader of the Official Opposition — I call all the First Nation governments "self-governing", because they have been — not in terms of the way that the Leader of the Official Opposition characterizes them with a self-governing agreement. So we have all the First Nations, we have a public government and we have a society. So this is not a unilateral decision, by any means. It's based out of consensus and a cooperative effort to actually call a Yukon Forum to be successful in our territory.

With regard to the *Cooperation in Governance Act* again — I'm sorry Mr. Speaker, I've already spoken to that section.

I'll move on to something that is a bit of a historical record with regard to the Yukon Forum. In 2007 — and I

believe there are only three members in this Assembly who were present in the Assembly during this time — the Yukon Forum confirmed the commitment to work together.

Maybe the newly elected members don't realize this, but during that time, the Yukon Forum agreed to approve 39 projects in our territory that were valued at \$15.8 million that were spread across all four corners of our territory. This is a success of the Yukon Forum that no one has touched on. I'd like to go over some of these projects. Many of them are already completed.

There was the district central services for C-6 subdivision core community that was for \$150,000 for design infrastructure and centralized services for C-6 subdivision and a sewer treatment emergency power. There was a Tago Cho Hudan Cultural Training Centre feasibility study. It was for the feasibility and design analysis to upgrade and/or replace the cultural centre for \$150,000.

There was satellite base mapping for \$500,000 to develop high-resolution base maps for priority areas in the Yukon. There was a therapeutic community resource feasibility study for \$150,000. There was training to develop municipal and First Nation government capacity for \$700,000 to expand the capacity of the Association of Yukon Communities to oversee the training for elected officials and staff of municipal and First Nation governments that deliver on municipal-type services. There was the feasibility study for the Whitehorse emergency shelter for women, which was for \$58,500, to study the determinants of women's homelessness and examine the space and programming needs for homeless women.

There was the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council new mandate implementation for \$250,000 to explore the Southern Tutchone First Nation implementation commitments on their land claims agreements through a regional organization.

There was the — something that I'm very well aware of — Old Crow roadway and drainage upgrading feasibility and design for \$150,000, and that, for the most part, is 100-percent complete.

We deal with climate change for over \$300; there was the Fortymile historic site access; there was a First Nations record diffusion project for \$200,000 for the Teslin Tlingit Council; and the Southern Lakes justice development. There was the Little Teslin recreation lots implementation phase; there was the executive development program for \$1 million. There was capacity development for \$1 million. There was Yukon First Nations justice network and traditional justice summit steering committee for \$56,000. The list goes on and on and on. There are pages and pages of it here.

I think that what we need to do is to focus on the positive and we need to work toward using one of the multitude of tools that we have in our territory to ensure that we move forward, progress and ensure that the day-to-day lives of our citizens in our territory are good and that we all work together to ensure that our future is prosperous and bright. I think it is important for me to put those words on the floor of the Assembly today and on the public record, because I felt that they were important and so do my constituents.

For the record, as well, today's debate is going to be cut and pasted in my e-mail and I'm going to send it out to every one of my constituents to be posted in Old Crow. So, I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time and indulgence today.

Hon. Mr. Kent: I'm pleased to rise to speak to the motion as amended. I'm going to touch on a number of the positive aspects that the Premier touched on with respect to Energy, Mines and Resources, as well as some of the educational initiatives that we've had strong partnership successes in and some of the housing initiatives in my previous portfolios as well.

But again, Yukon government works together in partnership with First Nations on many fronts and we're very proud of that work that we accomplished together. I will be highlighting some of that work a little bit later on during my time here this afternoon.

On some fronts, of course, there are differences of opinion and when it comes — I feel that given that often the time in Question Period is limited, we don't really get an opportunity to get into the level of detail that perhaps we'd like to during that limited exchange that occurs at the start of our proceedings each day, so I'd like to speak a little bit more to Bill No. 66 because I think it's important. It's important to First Nations, it's important to the industry and it's important to our government with respect to the changes to the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act* — those amendments that are before the Legislature during this sitting and that we look forward to bringing forward in debate in the nine or so days remaining in this sitting.

As I mentioned during Question Period, this bill is in response to declarations that were made by the Yukon Court of Appeal in December of 2012. There were two declarations. One we decided to appeal and we were denied that appeal by the Supreme Court of Canada. The second, after consideration, we took our time — the maximum amount of time allotted, I believe — and determined that we wouldn't be appealing that. That's the class 1 notification in the Ross River area that has morphed into the enabling amendments that are before this House and the regulatory amendments that we're also considering to meet that court-ordered deadline of December 27 of this year.

As I've mentioned, in March the previous Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources informed First Nations that we would not be appealing the declaration with respect to class 1 notification. Then officials went to work to prepare the documentation that we require as a government to ensure that we're putting forward a consultation package that will work for industry as well as First Nations and the general public. That process concluded and then we launched a 60-day public consultation on those amendments, commencing in June and lasting until the end of July.

Members in the House will know that in early August there was a Cabinet shuffle and I became the new Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources at that time. I embarked on a number of meetings, particularly with industry stakeholder groups such as the Chamber of Mines, the Yukon Prospectors'

Association and the Klondike Placer Miners' Association with respect to this legislation.

At the same time, we began to develop the enabling amendments that are before the House that will lead to the regulations, and worked with First Nations, even to the point where we had a planned workshop with First Nations and industry stakeholders scheduled for the end of September but, for a number of reasons, that didn't come together. We have to respect the wishes not only of our First Nation partners, but industry stakeholders, as well, with regard to that workshop. We're hopeful that we can get industry and First Nations in a room to discuss what industry needs to be successful and what First Nations are looking for as far as notification. It's something that I certainly haven't given up on. We can still meet the declaration of the Court of Appeal by December 27 and look to hopefully have some sort of workshop in the very near future in 2014.

We did receive feedback during that consultation process from 10 of 14 First Nations, plus the Council of Yukon First Nations. Further discussions were held with First Nation land offices in regard to the proposed regulatory packages in September and October. Detailed documentation was provided to First Nations in November of that year.

Many of the First Nations have provided positions through the letters. I know the Member for Klondike referenced the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in letter during Question Period today, and I believe earlier on during his opening remarks on this motion. Many of the First Nations feel that the proposed amendments and links to obligations under the successor resource legislation working group provisions of the devolution transfer agreement trigger that and, again, we respectfully agree to disagree with our First Nation partners on that aspect.

The successor resources legislation working group was established through section 2.27 of the DTA — or the devolution transfer agreement — which was signed in 2001, the cooperative working arrangement between Yukon government and First Nations in respect of the development of a workplan in preparation of successor territorial legislation pertaining to the administration and control of public land and rights in respect of waters and the other resource legislation that we took responsibility for post devolution.

My understanding — and again, I wasn't in the Legislature at this time — is this working group established and agreed that the top priorities for the resource legislation working group would be forestry and lands. I should also give the chronology and timing of that. It was a number of years ago — fall 2005. The *Forest Resources Act* was tabled in the Legislature in October 2008, and I know there has been much discussion about the *Lands Act* and moving on that, as well.

The Premier did send letters out to First Nations in September of this year and — although we believe that our immediate focus is and must be on addressing the order of the Yukon Court of Appeal and ensuring the effective implementation of those legislative changes — the Premier did mention there that he did think it would be useful for officials from First Nations and Yukon to meet at some point

to discuss potential priorities for the development of new resource management legislation.

That said, of course when it comes to the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act*, I have on a number of occasions stated my support for those existing pieces of legislation. They've served us well. They've led to significant hardrock discoveries over the years, such as the White Gold, as well as the excitement that is in the Rackla Range, the discovery of United Keno Hill and the Faro mine, as well as the work at Wolverine. Much of that can be owed to the clear and consistent aspects of the *Quartz Mining Act*.

The *Placer Mining Act* has led to tremendous success. We all know in this Legislature the importance of placer mining to the territory and the many First Nations that have been engaged in that industry, going back to the initial discovery of gold in the Klondike with the two First Nation partners who were involved in that discovery and the long success. I know that members on this side of the House, as well as the Member for Klondike, recognize the impact of placer mining and the success and, I guess, the pioneer spirit.

I'll compare — because of where I'm from in Canada — the farm-like attitude and work ethic of those individuals and the fact that they've been some of the most successful small- and medium-sized businesses in the territory for over 100 years, with many multi-generational families involved in that business.

They continue to provide not only opportunities for themselves, as well as a number of employees, but significant service and supply sector opportunities, not only in the community of Dawson or the communities of Mayo or Carmacks, but extending all the way down here to Whitehorse and even as far as the supply chain goes beyond our borders, when it comes to many of the supplies that are provided.

I guess in that, again, that's an area where we would agree to disagree with our First Nation partners, in that those would be priorities for the successor resources legislation working group to admit. As I mentioned, forestry and lands were the two identified — and agreed-upon — priorities for the successor legislation working group. Nevertheless, there is an opportunity for further discussion.

When it comes to some of the successes that we've had with First Nations, perhaps I'll speak quickly to a few that I worked on as Minister of Education and minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. I certainly won't get into a lot of details on these. There was the work with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on the 17.7 aspect of Education, where the Premier and I travelled to Dawson. I recognized, in the short time I was Minister of Education, the importance of this to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Perhaps I didn't recognize how important it was to them, given the level of excitement that was generated in the community when the Premier and I travelled up there to sign off on that important aspect.

Again, Mr. Speaker, these are some of the opportunities that have emerged for Yukon through the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the First Nations final agreements, and that is certainly one that we can point to as a success. I believe we'll continue to see the positive aspects of that agreement for years

to come. I believe we'll see other First Nations look to adapt that chapter in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

I know in July — my last month as Minister of Education — there were already conversations beginning with other First Nations, as far as adopting a similar principle.

There is the tripartite MOU that was signed on education, and I'm sure the minister will expand on that, but it led to a joint forum on First Nation education. I think we've seen some tremendous opportunities in growth. Even in my conversations with the current Minister of Education, some of the things that are happening in Dawson City and the community of Watson Lake, with the new rural education initiatives that are being undertaken in that community, as well as communities across the territory, as we look to build equity between what's happening in our communities and what's happening in Whitehorse, as far as education. These are extremely exciting and I'm pleased that the Minister of Education has continued that work and is seeing some of the positive impacts that are occurring as a result of some of that rural equity planning that the department and others have undertaken in partnership of course with First Nations.

I know that the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Premier and I travelled to Mayo to talk about building a new Mayo seniors complex. As excited as the Village of Mayo was — the mayor and the council and all of the individuals who were in attendance at the lunch that we hosted up there — there was equal excitement by the First Nation in bringing that much-needed and promised infrastructure to that community. I know that the minister now responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation is looking forward to concluding that project, and we look forward to opening that as soon as possible for the benefit of all those who live in Mayo and those who want to remain in their community — First Nation or non-First Nation residents of Mayo.

I know there has been significant interest in the request for qualifications and the subsequent request for proposals with respect to the balance of the northern housing trust money that we have in the bank that we're looking to leverage. First Nations received, I believe, \$32.5 million of the original \$50-million fund. We are engaged with First Nation development corporations, as well as potential partners. I'm hoping that many of them will take up that opportunity to submit a request for qualifications and request for proposals to leverage the balance of that fund.

I know the Premier touched on many of the First Nation relations successes in agriculture, assessment of abandoned mines, the Energy Solutions Centre, forest management planning, land management, regional land use planning in the North Yukon and in Dawson, as well as working to conclude the Peel Watershed plan. There have been many local area plans that have been done in cooperation with First Nations, such as Carcross and Marsh Lake and west Dawson and Sunnyside. There are many success stories with respect to mineral resources — not only partnerships between the Yukon government and our First Nation governments, but also between industry and First Nation governments. I think one of the biggest successes that we've seen is with respect to the

Selkirk First Nation and the fact that the Minto mine, owned by Capstone, is on its category A lands. I believe the most recent number that I've seen is over \$13.3 million in royalties from that mine paid to the Selkirk First Nation — again, a tremendous success story that we've seen with respect to industry and government-to-government cooperation when it comes to Energy, Mines and Resources.

Oil and gas benefits agreements have recently been signed between the Yukon government and Northern Cross Yukon, as well as the Vuntut Gwitchin government and the Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation, with respect to the work that is going on in the Eagle Plains area. Again, these are collaborative and cooperative arrangements to ensure that we maximize the benefits to local communities from resource development.

I recently signed off on another benefits agreement between Yukon government, Yukon Electrical and the Liard First Nation with respect to the biofuel conversion that is taking place in Watson Lake on that project.

To conclude, we certainly feel that much can be accomplished at the Yukon Forum, but there's much to accomplish outside of the Yukon Forum. Many of those initiatives that I mentioned during my time here this afternoon are initiatives that have occurred as a result of my attendance at leadership tables. I have been there at least three times — twice as Education minister and once as Energy, Mines and Resources minister, talking to leadership about opportunities. While I respect the need for the Yukon Forum and working with First Nation partners to establish those meetings, much can be done outside of that as well and I think we've proven that over the past while with respect to many of the meetings and initiatives that I have spoken about here today.

As governments, we're not going to agree on everything. A very high-profile issue that's before the Legislature right now that perhaps we are agreeing to disagree on is with respect to Bill No. 66. I think governments at all levels, including First Nation governments, need to decide and recognize if they support responsible mining in the Yukon. That's a question that industry is asking of them and of us. Our answer certainly is that we are very much in support of the responsible mining and exploration sector and its contributions to a healthy economy and healthy communities. That's why we need to continue to work together and continue to engage in dialogue. There will be circumstances where we don't agree on specific issues, but we each have responsibilities as public governments in this territory to ensure that we act on what we're responsible for.

I do look forward to future Yukon Forums and future leadership meetings and future bilaterals with First Nation governments as we look to enhance the partnerships that exist between us here in the Yukon to make it the best place that we can to live in.

Mr. Tredger: I would like to thank the Member for Klondike for bringing forth this motion. I thank all members for their comments.

I guess it's indicative of the concern that First Nations are expressing to their MLAs that we're even debating this. I look to a lost opportunity. It was interesting to hear members talk about the value of the forum and the accomplishments of the forum. I thank the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for reciting many of the things that the forum has accomplished.

I guess that's why we're talking about it, because we do see the value in it and First Nations see the value in it and it hasn't been happening. It's a lost opportunity.

Relationships in the Yukon are very special. They're unique in the world. When the First Nation leadership stood up over 40 years ago and released a document in Ottawa, *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, it changed the way we do government in the Yukon. The subsequent *Umbrella Final Agreement*, the self-government agreements and the MOUs set the course and showed us the way — a gift from the leadership and the leaders of the past to present day leaders.

No more would we have the old way — the way of colonialism where there were handouts, where one party controlled the decision-making, controlled the finances, chose whether or not and how to work with First Nation citizens. The new way is set in place and legally entrenched in agreements for Yukon people to work together for the betterment of all Yukon citizens. The promises of these agreements, the shared responsibilities and the partnerships that ensued guide us today. Many of the gifts that the Premier talked about are obligations being fulfilled under treaty rights and agreements. Many others are afforded to all Yukon citizens: education, health, seniors homes.

These are for all Yukon citizens. All Yukon citizens deserve the right and the dignity to them. They aren't handouts and they aren't gifts. They are part of who we are — legally entrenched — and the right of each and every Yukon citizen.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a time of change, a time of flux. Our governments are making some very, very crucial decisions — decisions that will guide us through the next generation and for many more. This government needs all the help it can get. Auditor General's report after Auditor General's report speaks to the lack of direction, the lack of planning and the lack of coherence. I quote from an Auditor General's report: "Strategic planning is a management tool that focuses on the future. It helps ... set priorities and goals and develop a plan to meet those goals. It also helps ... to assess how resources are to be allocated and gives it the scope to adjust its direction in response to a changing environment."

We expected to have a comprehensive strategic plan in place with clearly defined direction and specific measurable goals and objectives. We expected we had focused plans for managing key resources, such as human and physical resources.

Not one Auditor General's report, but many — Education, Highways and Public Works. What we're left with is a hodgepodge of well-intentioned but unconnected and intermittent responses to situations, to crises. We get piecemeal responses. There is no coordinated strategic plan.

The Yukon Forum can help us. What is needed is clear direction, a sense of purpose and a political will.

Yukon Forum — and I'll quote from the *Cooperation in Governance Act* — “Recognizing the purpose of the forum is to provide a means for the members to discuss issues of common concern and identify opportunities and common priorities for cooperative action and to formulate directions which the members, if they agree, will endeavour to reflect in their respective strategies, activities, undertakings and appropriations.”

A Yukon Forum is designed to provide just such a venue as is needed for cooperation, discussion and commitment. It is an opportunity to work with our partners.

First Nations have shown they want responsible development of their traditional territories and are willing to work cooperatively to achieve this. In my own territory, the Na Cho Nyäk Dun has developed a cooperative engagement process for economic activities proposed in the traditional territory of the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun. They've also developed guiding principles toward best practices, codes for mineral interest within First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun traditional territory.

Selkirk First Nation has co-managed Fort Selkirk with the federal government and the territorial government for over 30 years. They've worked closely with Capstone mine planning, and developed a long-term relationship. Little Salmon-Carmacks and Selkirk have cooperated with Western Copper, the potential developers of the Casino project.

We heard of many successful projects where First Nations are more than willing to work in partnership for the betterment of their people. Time and time again, First Nations have extended their hand looking for partnerships, looking for people to work for the betterment of their people.

First Nations have proven they are willing to work in mutual respect. They have recognized the need to work together in the implementation of self-government agreements.

There remain many issues to resolve. The Yukon Forum can go a long way toward resolving many of them. Land use planning is off the rails. The Peel River planning process has stalled. Self-government implementation proceeds in fits and starts. That is but one area. The First Nation governments strongly believe that land and resource management planning is a path to fair and sustainable economic development. Land and resource management plans, like land use planning, create economic certainty. These plans create conditions for jobs and economic opportunities for First Nations and for all Yukoners. This is good for the economy, and it is good for the Yukon.

Surely with the challenges we are seeing with land use planning, the Yukon Forum would be a good place to sit down with our partners and begin to work out some solutions. The Yukon Forum is an avenue for territorial leaders to come together for the benefit of all Yukoners, to discuss issues of importance to all. I was pleased to hear the minister for Energy, Mines and Resources reference Bill No. 66. What a wonderful opportunity it would have been for the Premier to hold a Yukon Forum, when he realized such a difference of

opinion. What a wonderful opportunity to call our partners together, to sit down to discuss and to look for mutual solutions.

There are challenges. We have challenges. We can discuss issues of importance. There are communities in my riding and First Nations that are very concerned about housing and about lot availability. There persists a horrible gap in the success rate of First Nation students and the success rate of other students in Yukon. The Yukon Forum may help set direction to discuss the delivery of health care and the transfer of services.

There is growing need for infrastructure in our rural communities. What an opportunity to sit down with First Nation governments and look at where we're going, to set priorities and to help achieve the political will so that our governments can lead Yukon citizens in the 21st century. There are many issues that need to be discussed but we need our partners. We need to develop our relationships.

Chief Carl Sidney recently wrote to the Premier — and I'll quote from his letter: “Our citizens and elders entered into the final agreement with an optimistic view that we were engaged in outlining an ongoing relationship of mutual respect and understanding. We believed and we were assured that our rights would be respected and protected and that a true government-to-government relationship would be developed, as laid out in a road map of our final agreement and self-government agreements. Sadly, this has not been the case and, instead, we are treated as an afterthought, a hurdle to jump over, rather than a respected participant in the governance of the territories and lands we share.”

If my partner wrote me a letter like that and I was interested in maintaining that partnership, I would bend over backward. I would use every means at my disposal to get into a discussion to look at resolving the obvious issues between us. Mr. Speaker, we're debating today just such a venue.

What a lost opportunity that our Premier hasn't used this. What an opportunity to align the interests of all Yukon people toward resolutions, to give direction and political will to resolve the issues confronting us, to build a future together all Yukon citizens can participate in. It may not be easy. It may involve diplomacy and leadership. It is time for the Premier to acknowledge his responsibility as a leader, to show courage and conviction in the laws and the people of the Yukon, to honour the agreements and treaties and to honour the spirit and dreams of past leaders. It is time to make the Yukon Forum the venue it was meant to be. It is time for the Premier to show leadership and diplomacy. It is time to obey the law.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Again, as I was mentioning earlier, I'd just like to again thank the Member for Klondike for bringing forth the motion and to members for accepting the amendment going forth.

I've been listening fairly intently throughout the afternoon on all that has been reflected and said. It has been — actually I'm not going to say exactly what's on my mind. But I have found it very interesting and intriguing. I am a bit bewildered about where some of the comments have come

from. That said, this is really — the motion of course speaks to the Yukon Forum.

I don't think we need to go over the importance of the Yukon Forum, where it came from, how it is legislated, the intent of the Yukon Forum or what it is there to accomplish. I think that we all agree that the way we govern in the Yukon — and just to back it up, again members opposite will know that I was born and raised in this territory. I'm from a rural community, Watson Lake, and I have seen and my family has seen first-hand significant changes — the evolution of the territory over the last many years. I can say it is for the betterment of our territory. It has made us stronger as a contributor to the national scene on all fronts — the economic side, the social side — and has brought us a much stronger country in how we contribute to the international global forum on many different fronts.

With the evolution of land claims and self-governance in the territory and of course the capacity of Yukon First Nations, Yukon government and the Government of Canada, we are all growing capacity because our relationship continues to evolve, just like any personal relationship would evolve. I can say that through forums, such as the Yukon Forum, it has indeed formalized our relationship, but it hasn't deterred those discussions from going on, on so many different fronts.

Over the years, I have served in the Government of Yukon. I have had the privilege and the honour in serving in a multitude of different departments and so I too have been able to contribute on behalf of the Government of Yukon working in collaboration with Yukon First Nations — all Yukon First Nations throughout the territory — on many different fronts. I think that what it does speak to is the importance of communication. It speaks to the importance of collaboration, and it speaks to sitting down and talking about those issues of importance, and coming together with a way forward to be able to work on those issues of importance to Yukoners. At the end of the day, we are all Yukoners and all of the successes that we attribute because of our relationships are for the benefit of all Yukoners.

I've seen significant investments by First Nation governments, investments in companies, investments in new enterprises, the partnerships between the private sector and First Nation governments and the partnerships between the Yukon government and the Government of Canada and many others is significant. It has made us a much stronger territory as a result of that.

We refer to: how do we govern? How do we come together to work on issues of importance? What we have been speaking to, from the government perspective is a litany — a number of different initiatives — that have been undertaken by pretty much every single department in the Government of Yukon, whether it's through memorandums of understanding, or memorandums of agreement, or through different plans.

There are many different agreements and of course it is guided by those treaties, the actual final agreements, which speaks to obligations. I always say that those are legal obligations — yes — but how we get there sometimes is not exactly spelled out succinctly in each of those final and self-

government agreements. So it is up to all of us to put our heads together and to come up with different ways to advance issues of interest.

Earlier this summer — I just wanted to spend a couple of minutes on a story that was told by the former chief, Mike Smith from Kwanlin Dun First Nation. I actually invited Chief Smith to come and co-present with me, as the minister responsible for local governance. We were hosting a federal/provincial/territorial ministers' meeting earlier this summer. The key was infrastructure and how we can work together. I knew there was a very important story to be told about the unique relationship between the Yukon government, Government of Canada and self-governing First Nations such as the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, but also the City of Whitehorse had a very big part, as well. That was really the story of the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre.

I had the opportunity to work as the previous Minister of Tourism and Culture and to work alongside Community Services and our Premier, at that time, and to be able to work collaboratively with many different orders of government. To hear Chief Mike Smith, it was very — “inspiring” is not even the word. He spoke of how everyone took a leap of faith, in terms of realizing the vision of the people of Kwanlin Dun and the evolution of their rightful place on the waterfront, to be able to articulate their story and their vision through the eyes of their people, but being able to work in partnership with others, such as the Yukon government. Of course it takes others, like the City of Whitehorse, to help bring that vision to reality.

He spoke about the long-term lease provisions that really enabled — widened — that fiscal capacity of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation to be able to sustain its operations. He spoke to building a facility, such as the Kwanlin Dun First Nation Cultural Centre, but also partnering up with the Whitehorse Public Library on settlement land, and how that was really the first of its kind for the Yukon government. That took a leap of faith. He also talked about coming together and combining services from the Public Library to the Cultural Centre itself and how the two can cohabitate and accentuate each other's services. It was a win-win situation.

We spoke of the contributions of the City of Whitehorse and the planning and bringing the City of Whitehorse — the duly-elected mayor and council — together. It did take some allocation of properties and realignment of infrastructure, where the facility is built today, as we know it. It really was a partnership in all aspects. To be able to host that meeting in the heart of the Cultural Centre earlier this summer, and to be able to see the leveraging that has resulted of private sector development along the waterfront adjacent to that cultural centre — and all the additional investments made by Yukon government and the Government of Canada and the City of Whitehorse and Kwanlin Dun First Nation — and the list goes on. That speaks to the heart of what we're talking about today. I do think at the end of the day we are on the same page when we talk about relationships and growing those. It is but one example I could go on at great length.

The Tombstone Territorial Park was another agreement that I had the privilege of being able to sign off in collaboration with the chief of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation within the park itself. It speaks to the obligations of the Yukon government and being able to adhere to those obligations — being able to not only sign off the plan, but signing off how we manage that plan and how we manage that particular park for years to come, for generations to come and for the benefit of everyone — visitors and residents alike. It does provide key employment opportunities, it provides opportunities for visitation, for being able to articulate the culture of the Han Nation and many other attributes.

There are so many different examples. When we speak of Tourism and Culture — and I think the member opposite from Mayo-Tatchun spoke to this too — there are many examples of things that are working very well. The joint management agreements for Fort Selkirk, Rampart House, Fortymile — those are all co-owned and co-managed territorial historic sites, as adhered to under the final agreements themselves. The land use plan, the North Yukon plan — again, I was very privileged to accompany the Member for Lake Laberge and our Premier to be able to sign off that plan, alongside with First Nation government, and to be able to celebrate that success and the accompanying habitat protection areas that have come along as part of that provision under that land use plan — that have come as a result.

I don't want to exhaust too much time here, but I do want to spend a few minutes also on Education.

Education is facing rapid change, is what I can say. It has really become a priority area among all respective orders of government and, as a result, has culminated in various strategies, cooperative arrangements and initiatives to be able to reduce that gap that the members opposite have spoken to. Through the final agreements in our governmental accords that we've heard about earlier today, there are a number of ways that we are working — in collaboration and partnership with First Nation governments — to advance the educational outcomes for the benefit of all Yukon students. We spoke earlier of the MOU on education — the partnership between Yukon First Nations, Government of Canada, Government of Yukon and CYFN — again, for the purposes of establishing that partnership in education, which we are committed to — all parties are — and coming up with an action plan. Of course, it's a long-term strategic plan that has a vision that is inclusive of lifelong learning opportunities.

I know that the Member for Riverdale North also spoke to this — and I want to thank him and I want to thank also Chief and Council of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation — for being able to come together on an education agreement. It was really a landmark agreement that was signed off earlier this summer. As a result of that, there is a workplan, there are some timelines, there are some milestones, and we are working on initiatives — everything from camp accreditation, working on an alternative high school with the independent learning centre, working on a cultural education centre, working in collaboration on telling the stories, the residential school curriculum development and collaboration specific to

grade 10 for Robert Service School. These are very unique initiatives that are being worked on, and I want to thank the expertise in our Department of Education as well, in collaboration with all governments.

Likewise, the Premier spoke to the Kluane First Nation intergovernmental accord. There is a Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation intergovernmental accord as well. There's also a working collaboration with Selkirk First Nation on a similar memorandum of understanding and work to come up with an agreement very similar to what was struck with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, which sets the goals and initiatives on the path forward in terms of how can we make education more responsive and engage more students to be able to improve those educational outcomes for lifelong success.

We are working on a number of different fronts through our own rural action plan and the initiatives coming from that — working with our school councils, working government to government with First Nation governments, working through the school growth plans individually, working through our own partnership programs unit that was developed several years ago on specific First Nation programs and projects, and helping to build capacity between the Department of Education and CYFN for the benefit of all First Nation governments and for the benefit of all of Yukon education.

I want to end on a positive note because there have been some very passionate pleas. I appreciate all that has been said by members opposite, but I do want to stress that there is a tremendous amount of work going on right now. There are a tremendous amount of dialogues that I'm not even familiar with, but I do know that they are going on. They are set by policies, they are set by our legal obligations and they are set by specific initiatives — some that may come up and some that have been very long-standing, such as education.

At the end of the day, we as Yukoners all have a vested interest to come together to work for the success of all of our citizens. That's why we are all here today in the Assembly speaking to this very important issue.

I want to thank all members for their contributions here today. I want to thank our employees throughout the Government of Yukon for their expertise and the good work that they are doing on Yukoners' behalf and with each of the individuals within First Nation governments throughout the territory.

I think that we are on the right path. There is always going to be room for improving and more work to be done, but there are improvements being made and there is a lot of success to be able to celebrate across this country.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In speaking to the motion, as amended, when we look at the Yukon Forum we really look at relationships and how important they are on all components and aspects of our lives. They are equally as important in our personal lives as they are in our professional lives, such as in the Yukon Forum or within each of the departments.

As Minister of Justice and Minister of Tourism and Culture, I see positive collaboration from staff and management with First Nations. I also see positive

collaboration by our Premier and by each of the other ministers in this government with respect to those relationships with both the First Nations and with stakeholders in Yukon and, really, around the world.

In speaking about those relationships — and I alluded to this a little earlier — and in speaking about having to correct the record — because when there is information that is provided on the floor of this Legislature that we feel is perhaps incorrect, we do need to stand up and correct the record. I have had to do that on a number of occasions, especially with the interim Liberal leader, the Member for Klondike, with regard to a number of issues.

Parks Canada was one of the issues that we have had to correct the record on. We had to correct the record from the member opposite on our relationship with First Nations and with the people the Premier took on the tourism trade mission when the interim Liberal leader indicated that it was a missed opportunity — I think that was the quote that was provided.

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: The Leader of the Third Party, on a point of order.

Mr. Silver: I'm going to go with Standing Order 19(h).

Speaker: Don't worry about what number of the Standing Order it is. What is it you take offence to, sir?

Mr. Silver: Well, he is charging the member with uttering a falsehood. I would go also with "speaks to matters other than the motion" as well.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: There is no point of order. In fact, the member started by saying that he felt he had to correct the record. This was merely a dispute between members, the record being the facts. As for speaking to matters other than the motion, this motion is fairly broad in scope, but members' comments should reflect the forum, the involvement of First Nations and the timing of such in a broad scope. So there is no point of order.

Minister of Tourism and Culture, please continue.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point that I was trying to make was, in fact, about relationships and this government's track record for building positive relationships with stakeholders throughout the territory and First Nations. Part of those relationships was built on the tourism trade mission to Europe that our Premier led. The interim Liberal leader had indicated in the media that it was a missed opportunity and it was a disappointment. I've gone through the list of names on the floor of the Legislature of the people, such as Air North and the First Nations Tourism Association, that really don't believe that was a missed opportunity, but it does speak to this government's record of creating positive relationships with First Nations.

While I'm talking about those relationships, from a Tourism perspective, about a year ago — I believe it was September 2012 — the interim Liberal leader had indicated

that our government was being too narrow in its marketing focus, saying that the Yukon Party is focused too much on China and not enough on potential markets in the U.S. and Europe. So we market a trip to Europe, including the First Nations and empowering all of the 16 individuals who came with us, and we now see the member opposite saying that it was a missed opportunity.

Earlier, the interim Liberal leader spoke about the Yukon Police Council in his opening statements on the original motion, which carries over in the motion as amended. Again, I stand here having to correct the record for the Member for Klondike. In appointing the council members, we very carefully considered a number of factors and, in particular, the recommendations of both CYFN and nominations forwarded by non-CYFN First Nation members.

The interim Liberal leader mentioned the First Nation representatives on the Police Council. Mr. Speaker, as you know, there are seven members. There are six members on the council, plus the Deputy Minister of Justice would sit as the chair. The First Nation members who I appointed to that council are Doris Mclean, David LeBarge and Lisa Anderson. The non-identified First Nations who are on the council are Patricia Daws, Michael Riseborough and William Klassen.

I have to tell you, I don't think that I could have chosen a better council. We have an extremely hardworking and dedicated group of people who provide input to me, as the Minister of Justice. I know the Member for Klondike is confused on how those appointments are chosen but, again, I just wanted to correct the record because I think that's important information for the listeners to have.

Mr. Speaker, on the Justice front, we've entered into contracts with the Council of Yukon First Nations to provide a reintegration worker to carry out the duties associated with that work. In fact, a reintegration coordinator was hired in late July of 2013. This concept is a pilot project and it will be evaluated after two years to assess its effectiveness. That worker will also identify and make an application for funds available to address barriers to successful reintegration.

As the Premier continues to meet with First Nation leadership — whether it be formally, through the Yukon Forum, or informally, as he has been doing, but with more frequent government-to-government meetings — justice issues do arise from time to time.

As we speak here on the Yukon Forum and the relationships that this government continues to build with First Nations, we need to only look at the establishment of the elders advisory committee through the Department of Justice that was formed in 2007 and is made up of nine elders representing several First Nation communities.

We also look at the establishment of programming at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the importance and the significance of the relationship with Yukon First Nations in establishing programming for the inmates there. There are a number of First Nation program options available at the Correctional Centre, including beading, carving, crafts, drum-making, traditional foods and traditional medicines. Core

programs are evidence-based — that is, they have been fully evaluated and proven to reduce recidivism.

I think it's also important to put my other hat on with Tourism and Culture. Our ministry works in close partnership with First Nations on many, many fronts. Many of those the Premier alluded to in his speech. I'm thinking of some of the sites we jointly manage and the cultural centres that we fund through the department. In fact, Tourism and Culture entered into a 10-year lease in 2012 with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to house the Yukon government's visitor information centre in the Da Ku Cultural Centre in Haines Junction.

The Yukon archaeology program provided staff and technical support to Yukon College heritage and culture field school at Canyon City. The field school is funded through the northern strategies fund, administered by the Yukon government with Yukon First Nations Heritage Group and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation as partners.

The Tourism and Culture arts fund continues to support local individuals and groups. Just this year it awarded \$35,000 to the Adäka Cultural Society for the 2013 Adäka Cultural Festival. That's a relationship that I will stand behind.

We also know that many visitors come to Yukon for the cultural aspect of our territory. They are here for our rich mining history. They are here to experience our First Nations culture. In September, I hosted the Tourism minister's FPT and a few weeks ago I hosted the Justice minister's FPT. For both of those events, we had the Dakhká Khwáan Dancers perform and I can tell you that our guests truly appreciated that talent.

We continue to work with the Yukon First Nations Tourism Association on its efforts and partnership with the Adäka Cultural Festival to restructure that organization in support of the development of both the First Nations culture and the tourism sectors —

Speaker: Order please. The time being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Debate on Motion No. 332, as amended, accordingly adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The following documents were filed December 4, 2013:

33-1-70

Yukon Geographical Place Names Board 2012-2013 Annual Report (Nixon)

33-1-71

Fleet Vehicle Agency 2012-2013 Annual Report (Istchenko)