



Yukon Legislative Assembly

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HANSARD

Thursday, December 4, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable David Laxton

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SPEAKER — Hon. David Laxton, MLA, Porter Creek Centre

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Patti McLeod, MLA, Watson Lake

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME CONSTITUENCY PORTFOLIO

Hon. Darrell Pasloski	Mountainview	Premier Minister responsible for Finance; Executive Council Office
Hon. Elaine Taylor	Whitehorse West	Deputy Premier Minister responsible for Education; Women's Directorate; French Language Services Directorate
Hon. Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Minister responsible for Community Services; Yukon Housing Corporation; Yukon Liquor Corporation; Yukon Lottery Commission Government House Leader
Hon. Doug Graham	Porter Creek North	Minister responsible for Health and Social Services; Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
Hon. Scott Kent	Riverdale North	Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources; Yukon Energy Corporation; Yukon Development Corporation
Hon. Currie Dixon	Copperbelt North	Minister responsible for Economic Development; Environment; Public Service Commission
Hon. Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works
Hon. Mike Nixon	Porter Creek South	Minister responsible for Justice; Tourism and Culture

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Stacey Hassard	Pelly-Nisutlin
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Jan Stick	Official Opposition House Leader Riverdale South
Kevin Barr	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes
Lois Moorcroft	Copperbelt South
Jim Tredger	Mayo-Tatchun
Kate White	Takhini-Kopper King

Liberal Party

Sandy Silver	Leader of the Third Party Klondike
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, December 4, 2014 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: Before we move to the Order Paper, the Chair wishes to inform the House of changes which have been made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 818, notice of which was given yesterday by the Leader of the Third Party, was not placed on today's Order Paper as the action requested in the motion has been taken.

Also, Motion No. 801, standing in the name of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, has been removed from the Order Paper as the action requested in the motion has been taken.

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will now proceed with the Order Paper. Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to December 6, Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

This day is commemorated nationally on the anniversary of the 1989 l'École Polytechnique massacre. On that day, an armed man murdered 14 women and injured 10 others. He did this because they were women. The commemoration date was established by Parliament in 1991. Since that time, Canadians have, and continue to observe a minute of silence on December 6, attend ceremonies or wear a white or purple ribbon as a symbol of their commitment to end violence against women.

December 6 represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect and speak out about violence against women in our society. It is an opportunity to consider the women and girls for whom violence is a daily reality and to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence.

Finally, it is a day on which communities and individuals can consider concrete actions to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

There has been a lot of discussion in recent weeks here in this country about the reasons why gender-based violence remains so prevalent in our society and how this inhibits women from coming forward to report violence when it happens to them. Some of the discussion has blamed these women for not coming forward, even though most would not do so in order to protect themselves from further violence. These women have been called cowards by some who would have you believe that they are responsible for the violence that

is perpetrated against them. This kind of victim blaming helps to perpetrate and also helps to perpetuate dangerous myths about women and absolves those who are truly responsible.

We need a fundamental shift in our society and in our institutions in how we respond to violence. We often ask, "Why didn't she resist?" because we believe she did not. We don't ask her how she responded or resisted; we just presume she did not. Unless we understand how violence is resisted, we truly do not understand the nature of violence.

This is but one of the compelling reasons why the Yukon government, through the work of various departments, is currently examining its approach and the language we use in order to improve our collective response to victims. We recognize that our response matters and we are indeed committed to reviewing and improving our coordinated effort to address and prevent violence in our community.

One in three women in Canada will experience sexual assault at some point over the course of their lives. Sexual assault is also one of the top five most common violent offences committed against women in Canada. Sexualized violence remains one of the most under-reported and non-reported forms of violence committed against women. Some of the reasons for this stem from the lack of a consistent definition of what constitutes sexual violence. The perception that the incident was not serious enough to report and women's fear of being shamed, blamed or not believed.

Rates of violence against aboriginal women and girls are sadly significantly higher.

Each day, the actions we all take and the decisions we make can help to change how we as a society understand and respond to violence. We all share a responsibility to model behaviour for one another and to teach our children to respect women. On December 6 of all days, let us remind ourselves of this very responsibility.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge and extend my personal thanks and that of our governments to those in our community who work with victims of violence each and every day. In particular, I wish to thank the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Les EssentiElles, Kaushee's Place, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, Yukon Status of Women Council, Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, the Dawson City Women's Shelter, White Ribbon Yukon, the Watson Lake Help and Hope shelter, the Women's Directorate, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Social Services and many others for their continued work in our community to raise awareness about violence, through events and public information campaigns during the 12 Days to End Violence Against Women, which will end tomorrow with this year's annual vigil at noon in the Elijah Smith Building foyer.

I encourage all to speak out against violence when we see it happening and to support and to believe women when they come forward to report violence.

Ms. Hanson: I rise on behalf of the Official Opposition to speak in recognition of December 6, the

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada.

This past Tuesday, December 2, I was in Ottawa on Parliament Hill. It was a beautiful, sunny and cold day. As I walked across the vast area in front of Canada's most famous and historic and icon, the House of Commons — our Parliament — I paused at the centennial flame, a flame lit on the eve of Canada's centenary. Most of us refer to it as the eternal flame. My thoughts this Tuesday were on what a difference a few days make in the life of one person — in the life of a nation.

On Tuesday, December 2, 1989, Audrey McLaughlin was elected as the first woman to lead a national federal party in Canada. I can recall watching the leadership convention with my daughters. I will forever link that historic event with the lyrics of Tracy Chapman's song, *Talkin' Bout a Revolution*, because that is what it felt like. What a revolutionary notion — a woman elected to lead a party in Canada from a slate that included six men.

Despite the fact that she was a woman, she was able to rise above to achieve that honour and that responsibility, because she was a woman. Four days later, on December 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered in Montreal because they were women — two events in one week that left a lasting mark on this country, because they were women.

As I walked by that eternal flame, I was reminded of a haunting photograph that I still have of that first woman elected to lead a national party, standing in a circle of women, their faces lit by that eternal flame during a candlelight vigil on a snowy December night, standing in vigil in solemn remembrance of 14 young women whose lives were brutally ended because they were women.

As the days have passed, the pain of December 6 has not dulled, because we know and you know that violence is with us every day. Some acts of violence are direct and brutal: rape, beatings, murder. Others are more subtle: harassment, sexual comments, degrading imagery. The reality is that every day, women and girls are subjected to violence because they are women. Each one of us has memories of loved ones, of friends, who have suffered violence, even death, because they were women.

As a mother, I have had to try to explain to my daughters, when they were six and 10 years of age, why their good friend — my good friend — was murdered, to try to reassure them that, when they grew up, they did not have to fear being killed for helping another woman flee an abusive relationship for being a woman. It is a conversation that no mother wants to have — should have to have — yet, every day, it is a conversation that women are forced to have.

Much has happened over the past 25 years. It takes a long time to change deeply ingrained behaviours and ways of acting. We will continue to see the juxtaposition of hopeful days, like December 2, 1989, and the tragedy that was December 6, 1989.

On December 6 this year, as we gather to reflect, to share the deeply emotional thoughts that this day brings forward, I will challenge myself, as I challenge you, to be guided by

hope, and not fear, and to overcome despair with the optimism that comes with action.

Mr. Silver: I also rise today on behalf of the Liberal caucus to acknowledge and pay tribute to the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Twenty-five years ago this Saturday, on December 6, 1989, a gunman entered a technical university in Montreal and proceeded to target 14 women and injured 10 others, including four men, before turning the gun on himself. He targeted these women because he ultimately believed that he had more right to an education than they did.

We have made much progress but we still have so much more work to do. One only has to look at the list of missing and murdered aboriginal women to know that Canada still has a problem when it comes to violence against women. The Yukon, as well, is disproportionately plagued by violence against women. We do need to put an end to this; we need to turn the tables and lead the nation in respectful treatment of women.

As we reflect on the last 25 years, we must continue to stand up against violence against women. We have spoken a lot, Mr. Speaker, in the last month about violence against women and the issues they still face in our society, and we've worn our white ribbons for the last 12 days, but let's now ensure that we continue the dialogue so the results are that these atrocities that happened at l'École Polytechnique never happen again. Thank you.

In recognition of International Volunteer Day

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I rise today to pay tribute to International Volunteer Day and rise to honour all Yukon volunteers who give their time, effort and expertise to improve and enrich the lives of Yukoners. For nearly 20 years, December 5 has been recognized as International Volunteer Day, and this year we join with people around the world to recognize volunteers for making a difference at the local level. In fact, volunteers make a profound difference in all Yukon communities. Without volunteers, Yukon communities would not be as safe, dynamic and as culturally rich as they are today.

Volunteer work makes a difference in all of our lives, whether people realize it or not. Here in Yukon, we rely on volunteer work in several different areas. Volunteer emergency personnel provide hours on call and training to keep our communities safe. All these volunteers are usually busy with full-time jobs and other commitments. They nonetheless give of their time to deliver vital services to their fellow citizens.

Today, on behalf of the government, I want to extend our sincere gratitude to all of these volunteers. Volunteers keep our communities safe by providing ambulance, fire and search and rescue services across the Yukon. These volunteers contribute to the overall well-being and security of Yukoners. I am proud to say that in Yukon we currently have approximately 155 emergency medical services volunteers, 225 volunteer firefighters and 130 volunteer search and rescue

personnel. These people are trained and at the ready to provide emergency assistance to Yukoners in need.

Firefighters help keep our homes safe and EMS volunteers, along with our paramedics in Yukon EMS, literally save lives, respond to health emergencies and are there when we need them the most. Additionally, volunteers contribute to the health of their communities, including community libraries that are run by volunteer boards, and provide valuable literacy programs and services, including children's story time, that enrich the lives and cultures, bring families together and instill a love of reading and knowledge.

Volunteers contribute considerable time and energy to sport and recreation in the Yukon, from coaching midget hockey to volunteering their time at major events like the Junior Men's World Softball Championships.

Whether volunteers are helping to save lives or homes or creating sport and recreation opportunities, they demonstrate enthusiasm and an admirable willingness to help others. Sport and recreation volunteers contribute to the health and well-being of Yukoners by increasing active living opportunities and also increase sports skills and health and well-being among children and youth.

Through the ElderActive Recreation Association, volunteers help seniors stay active and compete in major events like the Canada 55+ Games. Volunteers support Team Yukon during events at the Arctic Winter Games, Canada Winter Games and Canada Summer Games and the North American Indigenous Games. Without the hard work of these volunteers, Team Yukon would not be as successful as it is today. Volunteers also make it possible for Yukon to host one-of-a-kind events like the Klondike Trail of '98 International Road Relay, the Yukon River Trail Marathon and the Yukon Quest.

Volunteers in rural communities work tirelessly to provide recreation opportunities, which help build and foster positive community relationships.

Again, both personally and on behalf of the government, I want to extend our sincere thanks to all Yukon volunteers who provide all of these many benefits to their fellow Yukoners.

Mr. Barr: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon NDP Official Opposition and on behalf of the Third Party to salute Yukoners who carve time out of their busy lives to give something back to the community from which we all benefit.

I am speaking, of course, about Yukon's thousands of volunteers. Whether tutoring students after school or spending cold nights in the bush to staff a Yukon Quest checkpoint, volunteers are an essential part of the Yukon's community fabric.

Tomorrow, we will pay tribute to volunteers through the celebration of International Volunteer Day. Every December 5, we shine a light on the positive impact of volunteering, promoting social change and enhancing the quality of life for everyone in the community.

Here in the Yukon, organizations like Volunteer Yukon work year-round to encourage volunteerism in the community and to pair Yukoners with non-profits. It is an extremely

valuable resource and one that I hope has a long and successful road ahead of it. Everyone has something special to give as a volunteer. I am proud to count among my friends volunteer ambulance attendants, soup kitchen attendants, and search and rescue team members. The list goes on.

I, as a musician, have been proud to do my part by supporting non-profits and Yukoners holding charity concerts and benefits. I am particularly fond of the time I have contributed to CHON FM's annual Christmas pledge show, which will be coming up very soon, and I look forward to doing many more in the future.

I would like to salute both the Yukon's volunteer corps and the people who support them. Volunteers truly do enhance the quality of life in our communities.

In recognition of 50th anniversary of apprenticeship in Yukon

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I rise this afternoon in recognition of the 50th anniversary of apprenticeship in Yukon. This anniversary is indeed a great time to celebrate our strong partnerships with employers, Yukon College, the Government of Canada, and a number of community organizations that have promoted and continue to promote the trades over the years. Organizations I would be remiss if I didn't include are the Yukon Mine Training Association, Yukon Women in Trades and Technology and Skills Canada Yukon.

These very partnerships help people find their way to successful careers and helps businesses to get the skilled staff they need in order to thrive, which in turn provides services to our communities, which in turn supports a prosperous economy.

Our partnership for the trades is a key ingredient in the recipe that makes Yukon a fantastic place to live, work, play and raise a family. In particular, I would like to recognize the caring partnership between employers and apprentices as part of what makes the Yukon unique. Without the employers, after all, there would be no apprentices.

The trades and apprenticeships have come a long way over the past half-century. Back in 1964, the apprentice training ordinance first recognized and regulated apprenticeships. The first tickets at that time went to Aero-engine mechanics, automotive partsmen, barbers, electricians, graders, heavy-duty equipment operators, hairdressers, millwrights, painters, plumbers and sawyers. In that year, the first graduates at the Whitehorse vocational training school took their newly recognized skills to what was coined as a "red-hot" job market. They found work in mines, housing construction, highways and community services.

For a larger context for trades back in 1964, I just want to share a number of interesting facts for members. Across the Canadian border, down in Michigan, the first Ford Mustang hardtop rolled off the assembly line to be sold right here at Whitehorse Motors. It is now the only-known surviving pilot plant vehicle. Service and repair vehicles from snow machines, quads, family vehicles, transport trucks and heavy equipment continues to be crucial to connecting our territory

and all of our communities with each other and with the rest of Canada.

Also back in 1964, Yukon also saw the beginning of the Whiskey Flats removal and the Canadian Army ended its official presence in the territory. Today, we see construction of homes and commercial buildings, renovations and highway maintenance and construction on those very properties. Where we live, where we work and where we travel, we owe to tradespeople.

Finally, back in 1964, in light of the holiday season, television viewers first met the much-loved Yukon Cornelius, the miner in the premiere of *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Today, Yukon College's Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining and Yukon Research Centre led and continue to lead the north in state-of-the-art mining and cold climate research practices.

Trades training has quickly expanded beyond that of Whitehorse. In fact, after its first year, the Whitehorse vocational training school became the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre. In 1983, that training centre became Yukon College. The college's Ayamdigut Campus moved to its current location up the hill in 1988. Perhaps you will recall the original location of the technical schools and Yukon College just across the river here where the Department of Education is now located.

Today, our committed professional apprenticeship, Student Financial Assistance and Awards, and Labour Market Programs and Services staff at Advanced Education are working hard in that building coordinating programs to support the training and employment of trades right across the territory.

The number of apprentices in Yukon has nearly doubled in the past decade. There are now 48 occupations designated in Yukon under the *Apprentice Training Act* for training and certification and 35 of these trades are eligible for the interprovincial red seal endorsement.

Skills Canada Yukon's expertise in trades shines, not just on the national stage, but also on the world stage. The skills of Yukon youth shine in on the podiums in territorial, national and even WorldSkills competitions. In addition to our young competitors, Yukon is represented on the highly esteemed national technical committee which oversees the competitions, has served among national judges and the national board, and back in 2012 Stephanie Churchill was elected as official WorldSkills delegate for Canada, once again doing Yukon and our country proud with her world-renowned leadership.

Yukon's success in skills competitions reflects a territory-wide community of support for excellence and leadership in the trades and as the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate I would also like to highlight the fantastic work being done by the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology. It's an organization that continues to encourage and support women and girls in pursuing careers in training in the trades with hands-on learning opportunities.

Every year, the Young Women Exploring Trades conference lets dozens of grade 8 girls from around the territory try their hands at different trades projects. In fact, I

had that distinction of being able to take part again in this past week's conference, where we had 90 plus grade 8 students from across the territory take part in a number of various workshops. It is an amazing undertaking and to see a number of, literally, light-bulb moments going off within those girls' spirits are indeed a sight to see — and indeed whets their appetite for what in fact can be achieved when pursuing the trades.

I would also be remiss if didn't mention the Cool Tools program, an after-school trades exploration program for high school girls. YWET also offers workshops for adult women to introduce them to skilled trades in mining.

Yukon's commitment to the trades and trades culture is also promoted in our schools. Secondary school students can even get apprenticeship hours for their after-school jobs as well as earning credits in shop courses. The Department of Education proudly supports our apprentices by paying tuition fees for apprentices who qualify for employment insurance our partnership with the Government of Canada also provides allowances for students, book costs, commuting and travel.

I commend the Yukon College and very much commend all of our partners for their leadership in providing high quality programming for the trades in the Yukon and I certainly look forward to the next 50 years of apprenticeship in our region.

I would also like to point out that my father was a building contractor for some 45 plus years in the building construction in the Town of Watson Lake and my brother has also followed his footsteps as well. It certainly has offered a very good quality of life for our family and that of many, many other families in the territory.

I would like to recognize our partners, some of which have joined us here today in the gallery. In particular, I would like to point out Yukon College's Shelagh Rowles, who is the executive for the Centre for Northern Innovation and Mining. Also, joining Shelagh is Don Gillies, who is the carpentry apprenticeship instructor and also the CNIM building project manager as well. Thank you for your work.

Also in the gallery is Brenda Barnes, the newly hired executive director of the Yukon Women in Trades and Technology. Welcome to Brenda.

Also joining us here from Skills Canada Yukon is the executive director herself, Megan Freese. Vic Enders, also a longtime board member, who also sits on the national technical committee for automotive service, and Matt Johnson, key volunteer, a coach a mentor and also heavy-duty mechanic for Highways and Public Works. Welcome to all of you.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't also reference a number of our Advanced Education staff, including Sheila Tarr, student financial services officer, Eric Huggard, industrial training consultant and Vernon Beebe, industrial training consultant as well.

There are many others to be recognized, but some of these individuals have joined us in the gallery today. Thank you.

Applause

In recognition of Capstone Mining Corporation's Minto mine rescue team

Hon. Mr. Graham: It is with great pleasure today that I rise in recognition of Capstone Mining Corporation and their Minto mine rescue team. Capstone Mining owns and operates the Minto mine, Yukon's largest and longest-operating open-pit copper mine located some 240 kilometres north of Whitehorse. The company takes its business and its mine safety very seriously. Minto's mine rescue team placed first in both the first aid and surface practical bench events at the 57th Annual Northern Mine Rescue Competition, which was held in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories this past June.

The northern mine rescue competition is sponsored by the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and the competition allows mine workers to showcase their skills and their pride in their workplace. The public event demonstrates the extent of knowledge and skill that is required to address incidents at open-pit and underground mines. The public had a chance to see how large mines assess safety risks and respond to mock scenarios in their operations. Over the two-day competition, five teams from four mines competed with two broad categories — surface and underground — and in a variety of skills areas, including firefighting, rope rescue, smoke and surface and underground obstacles. The mock scenarios test the team's preparedness and skill in responding in the event of a large- or small-scale mine accident.

Diavik Diamond Mine took first place in the rope rescue event. Snap Lake Diamond Mine placed first in the underground written test and underground smoke event. Top honours went to Ekati Diamond Mine, which took home both the overall surface and the overall underground trophies.

Yukon government, and I am sure all of us, would like to congratulate Minto Mine, on their first-place event finishes, and to each mine rescue team member for their commitment to honing these very important skills. We recognize their time and commitment to safety readiness at Minto mine and we support your commitment to industry safety. Safety is something that we all value and is an important pillar of a sustainable and viable mining industry.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members of the Legislature to join me in welcoming three visitors from Capstone: Graham Leeson, Martin Haefele and Bonnie Dixon. All are here to join us today.

Applause

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I would like to introduce, sitting in the gallery today, Ramesh Ferris, who is a tireless worker for persons with disabilities and has been a world advocate and spokesperson for the eradication of polio, which include his Cycle to Walk and his experiences of working with world leaders around this globe. I would also like to say I'm proud to be able to call him my friend. I would like to ask all members to join me in welcoming him here today.

Applause

Ms. Hanson: I would like to invite the House to welcome to the gallery Lawrie Crawford, an artist and, among other things, part of the Southern Lakes Artist Collective.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I have for tabling a government press release from myself, on behalf of the Government of Yukon, asking Canada's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to recognize self-governing First Nations as an order of government.

I also have for tabling a letter addressed to the MLA for Klondike from the Yukon Legislative Assembly Conflict of Interest Commissioner, on which I was copied.

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I have a letter addressed to the MLA for Takhini-Kopper King from the Yukon Legislative Assembly Conflict of Interest Commissioner, on which I was copied.

Finally, I have for tabling — I know this document was distributed yesterday, but wasn't actually officially tabled. I'd like to table today *A Northern Vision: Building a Better North*, which is the renewed Northern Vision document between the three territories, which was adopted this fall.

Speaker: Are there any other documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to direct the services to persons with disabilities unit within the Department of Health and Social Services to consider assuming the responsibility of assisting individuals with disabilities in the Yukon with the task of monitoring their legislated human rights.

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

THAT this House urges the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to recognize Yukon First Nations as governments.

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

THAT this House calls on the Yukon government to publicly condemn statements made by Canada's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Bernard Valcourt, that denigrate First

Nation governments and the spirit of the final agreements signed with the Yukon government and the Government of Canada.

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

THAT this House calls on the Yukon government to:

(1) address the safety concerns posed by inadequate airfield infrastructure to transporting critical care patients from Pelly Crossing to Whitehorse; and

(2) immediately take steps to upgrade the Pelly Crossing airfield's runway to accommodate medevac flights.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to implement and approve legislation to fund an independent monitoring mechanism to ensure that persons living with a disability in the Yukon have their rights recognized and respected.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to tell Yukoners what budget document funding for the Mountain View Golf Course buyback was contained in.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to tell Yukoners how many mining claims have been staked in the Peel region since the staking ban was lifted in January 2014.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to provide certainty to the mining industry by requesting the Government of Canada to withdraw Bill S-6.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to stop blaming Yukon First Nations for creating uncertainty surrounding Bill S-6 and mining investment and instead accept responsibility that, as authors of the four contentious amendments, it has only itself to blame.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?
This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Mountain View Golf Course leased land buyback

Ms. Hanson: It is hard to believe this government when its various ministers stand and claim that they didn't know about the \$750,000 backroom deal to bail out the Mountain View Golf Club. The Minister of Education was in Cabinet. Either she wasn't paying attention or she knows what happened and refuses to tell Yukoners. The current Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources received a briefing just a

year ago, the Minister of Community Services received a copy of that briefing, yet they both claim ignorance.

Now we know that that the minister himself was on the board of the golf club when the secretive deal was made, just months before he became Premier. He has been all but caught with his hand in the cookie jar.

Was the Premier aware of this backroom deal and was he party to the request to the then minister in the months before he became Premier?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As we have mentioned a number of times on the floor of this House with respect to this deal, obviously it was made by a previous minister and it appeared at that time to address some of the expressed needs of Yukoners at that time — first, of course, being the need for land. All members in this House can attest to the fact that, during the 2011 election, there was a crisis for lots, particularly within the Whitehorse area.

Acting at that time in 2010, the Yukon government purchased this land back from the Mountain View Golf Course to house important infrastructure to enhance the lot availability at Whistle Bend. Of course, we have also noted that the Mountain View Golf Course appeared to be in some measure of financial difficulty at that time. We have seen in recent media that one of the long-time volunteers and board members at the Mountain View Golf Course certainly said that that funding was needed to ensure the continued viability of that important piece of recreational infrastructure — the Mountain View Golf Course.

Ms. Hanson: You know, other Yukon NGOs have been in difficulty and they didn't get the friendly gestures like this one did. By avoiding the issue, this government is confirming the suspicions of many Yukoners that this Yukon Party government is riddled with cronyism. For two weeks now, Yukoners have been asking for answers about how the Mountain View Golf Course deal happened. Every time more details come out, the government claims that they are learning about it, but what they are learning about is becoming less credible. We have seen the documents, and they have the Premier's fingerprints all over them.

Does the Premier honestly believe that Yukoners trust him and his Cabinet when they pretend they didn't know what happened?

Hon. Mr. Kent: The first thing that I want to address is with respect to how members of this House — and how many of the members of this House arrived here, and that is through being involved in their community. Each and every member that I can point to on this side of the House was probably involved in some sort of a non-profit organization over the years. I myself have done many activities such as going door to door for the Canadian Cancer Society, a volunteer board member and later staff person with the Yukon Hospital Foundation. I was president in the 1990s of two of the local sports organizations here in town. I could go up and down these benches and point to many of the volunteer activities that all members on this side of the House have been involved in. I think it is important that any of those people who are volunteering and active in their community — please continue

to do so and don't be afraid to put your name forward for public office.

When it comes to this deal with the Mountain View Golf Course, of course there was a 30-year lease as entered into in 1997 with a legal option to enter into a second 30-year lease to 2057. I guess by the logic put forward by the NDP, I could ask the Leader of the Official Opposition exactly why that lease was entered into and what the terms of that lease were.

Ms. Hanson: How about looking at the timeline. In 2008, the current Premier ran for the Conservative Party of Canada. By 2010, he was on the golf club's board. At the same time, the Conservative Senator Dan Lang's brother, the minister behind the Mountain View bailout, was in the Yukon Party Cabinet. Two months after the government's deal with the golf club, the former Conservative Party candidate became the Premier and the Leader of the Yukon Party. Talk about a coalition, Mr. Speaker. Instead of coming clean with Yukoners, the Premier is hiding behind his ministers and pretending he had nothing to do with this backroom deal. Yukoners know that this is a prime example of the old boys' club at work. Yukoners know that this is an inside job.

When will the Premier come clean with Yukoners about his role in securing a backroom deal to bailout his golf club?

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Again, rather than listening to the Leader of the NDP, I would encourage Yukoners to read the letters today that the Premier tabled from the conflicts commissioner, in which the Conflict of Interest Commissioner states: "Accordingly, there is no actual or perceived conflict of interest under the act..." "This includes the transaction that occurs in February 2011." I go on to quote from the conflicts commissioner: "My advice to Mr. Pasloski was that any involvement by him in responding to this inquiry" — that being the inquiry that had been received from Mr. Luehmann of Meadow Lakes Golf Course — "might create a perceived conflict of interest in light of his previous involvement as a member of the board of directors of Mountain View Golf Course. Accordingly, I advised Mr. Pasloski that he should not have any such involvement..."

I would encourage Yukoners to read that letter and I again would note that this matter was made by previous ministers when both the current Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I were not members of Cabinet. It is clear from the file that the minister of the day made a decision to help Mountain View Golf Course and the change in practice that is currently in place would see us issuing a press release in this type of situation, but we've assisted many non-governmental organizations, including Friends of Mount Sima, including the Klondike Visitors Association, including groups including the Outreach Van and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon — and we will continue to assist NGOs in doing their good work on behalf of Yukoners.

Question re: YESAA process

Ms. Hanson: The Premier has defended the unilateral changes he proposed to YESAA by saying it's all about consistency. What the Premier is really saying when he says he wants YESAA to be consistent with other jurisdictions is

that he wants YESAA to be consistent with the *Fisheries Act*, which was gutted by the federal Conservatives. He wants it to be consistent with the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, which was gutted by the federal Conservatives and he wants it to be consistent with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, which was gutted by the federal Conservatives. The Premier apparently thinks that toothless environmental legislation will be good for Yukon.

Can the Premier explain why he believes that YESAA should be weakened to mimic environmental legislation and regulations that have been so thoroughly gutted by the federal Conservatives?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: In terms of assessments, the actual assessment process is being enhanced from an environmental perspective because what will occur with the passage of S-6 is assessors will be able to include in their assessment the potential effects of projects in the future that are likely to occur. That is an enhancement to the environmental assessment process that is not there today, and the passage of Bill S-6 will see assessors being able to further enhance their assessments by being able to consider projects likely to happen in the future.

Ms. Hanson: The Premier continues to repeat that industry wants the changes he proposed for YESAA and yet industry has been clear that YESAA is fundamentally good. The Premier's continued misrepresentation of industry's interest in the certainty that comes with social licence does everyone: industry, Yukon First Nation governments —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: The Government House Leader on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The Leader of the NDP just accused the Premier of misrepresentation, and accusing another member of this House of misrepresentation in the past has been considered to be in contravention of Standing Order 19(h), which I believe that her statements were and would encourage you to have her retract and apologize for her statement.

Ms. Stick: I heard the member stating an opinion and not the accusation that we've heard from across the floor.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: It's not for the Speaker to rule on facts. Every member is permitted to present the facts in their own interpretation, but at the same time I would caution all the members to once again be careful of your words that you're using. They can be quite inflammatory. They will come back to you and they lead to discord in this House.

Leader of the Official Opposition, please finish your question.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you. The Premier said he supports these changes because they are good for Yukon. In truth, he has offered a poisoned chalice. The letters from industry stating their concerns about Bill S-6 changes to

YESAA underline the danger of poisoning relationships between the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations. The spinoff of poisoned relationships is the destruction of the social licence necessary to move forward with sustainable resource development.

When will the Premier recognize that his position on YESAA is undermining Yukon's economic future?

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, after the conclusion of the five-year review, Canada moved forward with its action plan to improve the northern regulatory regime. Through that process, they requested, from Yukon First Nations and Yukon government, comments. Yukon First Nations provided comments. Yukon government provided comments. In the end, it was the Government of Canada who had this legislation — who considered the comments and then they tabled the amendments that we have presented before the House of Commons in Bill S-6.

Did we get everything that we asked for and commented for? No, we didn't, but what we did ask for was to ensure that our environmental assessment legislation is consistent with other jurisdictions. That allows us a greater possibility to be able to attract investment to this territory. Attracting dollars to this territory creates jobs for Yukon families and increases the opportunity for further growth and further diversification in our economy. We are focused on Yukon families.

Ms. Hanson: Let's be clear. The Premier's use of the word "consistent" is code for "gutting of environmental legislation".

The resource extraction industry has recognized that the Premier's divisive tactics are having a negative impact on certainty in Yukon. The president of Casino has gone so far to say that the fragility of intergovernmental relations is having a negative impact on the territory's mineral industry. The Premier needs to recognize that his dismissive and confrontational approach to dealing with First Nations will have serious, long-term implications, but it's not too late.

It is time to listen with respect to Yukon First Nation governments. It's time to begin to recognize that reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships. There are no shortcuts. Will the Premier agree to ask the federal government to put these changes on hold so that he can go back to the table and engage with Yukon First Nation governments, Yukon businesses and Yukon citizens?

Speaker: Order please. The member's time has elapsed.

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote from the press release from Yukon government that I have just tabled earlier today. I said that the *Umbrella Final Agreement* is a foundational piece of governance structure of Yukon and clearly provides for the development of First Nation self-government agreements. Since the signing of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, 11 of 14 Yukon First Nations have signed such agreements and are now fully self-governing. Yukon First Nation final agreements make up just-under half of Canada's modern land claim agreements and Yukon First Nations are global leaders in the area of aboriginal self-

government. This is something all Yukoners can be incredibly proud of.

We continue to work across this government in every department with First Nations on a government-to-government basis. I continue to meet with leadership. I did just last week. I continue to talk to all First Nation chiefs on a government-to-government basis — on a person-to-person basis — and that's exactly what we'll continue to do.

Question re: Hydroelectric dam project

Mr. Silver: In the summer of 2013, the Premier announced the government was moving forward on building a new hydroelectric dam. After the Yukon Party government and the former Energy, Mines and Resources minister spent several years trying to sell our hydro system to Alberta, this was a welcome change in direction.

However, from the first announcement, it took the government almost a full year to release a workplan for this project. That workplan, released in May of 2014 said — and I quote: "A next generation hydro project would likely be eight to 10 times the cost of the Mayo B hydro enhancement and transmission project."

Mayo B cost \$120 million. Can the minister confirm the government is looking at spending as much as \$950 million to \$1.2 billion on this new project?

Hon. Mr. Kent: I should take the time to actually thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for actually attending the public workshop that was held — the first of several public workshops. I am not sure if the Member for Klondike was there, but by the sounds of his question, I don't think he was. Had he been there, he would have had the opportunity to hear from the technical consultants that we have working on this project. We have two consultants: one who is engaged in community engagement aspects of the directive and the second — Midgard Consulting — was hired in August of this year to develop a series of technical papers that were identified.

There were well over 200 potential projects that initially showed up on the books as far as possible locations for a next generation hydro project here in the territory. The consultants, through a series of screenings, have taken that number down between 16 and 20. Obviously we have heard that there are some concerns out there within the public and others, and we will take those into account as we move toward the end of next year.

We are doing the planning necessary. This isn't something that the Liberal Leader can assume that we'll be able to do overnight. We wanted to take the time necessary to get this right. It is a very big project and it's something that will leave a lasting legacy for all Yukoners.

Mr. Silver: Of course, being one person in the party I can't be everywhere, but I do appreciate the insult from the member opposite.

The previous Yukon Party Energy, Mines and Resources minister spent thousands of dollars and plenty of time trying to sell our energy future to Alberta. That plan lost a lot of time. The minister's own workplan says that the new dam

could cost as much as \$1.2 billion. That is the entire Government of Yukon budget for a year. Any project of that size certainly involves borrowing money and would impact other capital projects that are on the horizon as well. Yukoners deserve to know what the scale of the proposed dam will be before it gets built.

Simple question: Has the government given any direction to YDC with regard to the limits of the cost of this project, or is it simply just the sky is the limit?

Hon. Mr. Kent: Again, we see the Leader of the Liberal Party criticizing the government on some occasions for not planning, and now we're planning too much for this project.

Mr. Speaker, this is a project that will be the bookend for a clean power initiative and a clean power future for the territory. It is one of many projects that we're looking at when it comes to renewable energy. It is important that we get it right. Unfortunately, the member opposite was doing something else last week when we had this workshop. Perhaps he will be able to attend future ones. I can certainly send him the schedule, so he can schedule it in there — perhaps have some of his staff attend. Again, thanking the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for attending that public event and learning about this project — actually going out there and listening to the consultants for what this project is all about.

When it comes to the costs of this project, we will have a business case by the end of 2015, which will identify the costs and then the member opposite can criticize at that time.

Mr. Silver: The minister can call it criticism if he wants. I'm asking a question and I'm not going to apologize for doing my job.

We know that the previous minister spent years signing contracts to have experts look at the best way to privatize our energy future and that process alone, set us back by several years.

We also know that after 12 years in office, the Yukon Party government is only now starting to address a major expansion in our hydro capacity. We also know that increased power demands will be met for years to come by LNG shipped from B.C. instead of the new hydro capacity because of lack of planning.

Now, better late than ever, this government is talking about new hydro. It is obvious, though, that with less than two years left in the mandate, that's a big decision and it's going to be left for the next election.

In referencing the workplan, it also spoke about possibly connecting a grid to B.C. Is a grid to B.C. being considered as well?

Hon. Mr. Kent: As I and the Member for Mayo-Tatchun know, part of this project includes a transmission viability study. Of course we are looking at connections for the grid. We have to make sure that we insulate the ratepayers from any adverse effects, and connecting the grid is something that we are, of course, looking at.

When it comes to this project, as I and the Member for Mayo-Tatchun know, there will be a business case developed by the end of next year. It will have one to three potential

projects identified that we will be able to move ahead with, and there will be costs associated with that.

I have said a number of times on the floor of this House that this project is of national significance, and we will be looking to our federal partners. Of course, there will be opportunities for First Nations to invest in this as well. It is something that we are incredibly proud of, and I am incredibly proud of the work that the Yukon Development Corporation has undertaken to develop this workplan and leading into the business case that we anticipate getting at the end of 2015.

Question re: Patient discharge planning

Ms. Stick: I have heard from Yukoners who have been medevaced to Whitehorse from the communities, only to be discharged without a plan to get them back home. One patient was discharged with just the clothes on their back, no place to stay and no money to get home. Last week, I asked the Yukon Hospital Corporation about this gap in care. They agreed that discharge planning has to do with the care and the type of care that is required for recovery but were unable to confirm who was responsible for ensuring that Yukon patients get safely back home.

I hope the minister undertook to look into this critical issue of patient transportation back to their communities. Can the minister tell Yukoners how he will resolve the gap in care to ensure that Yukon patients know they will get safely home before they leave the hospital?

Hon. Mr. Graham: I will undertake to provide an answer to the member opposite, but first I would like to take some time to correct the record with respect to a number of inaccurate statements made by the member opposite yesterday during discussion of her Motion No. 808, I believe. One of the things that the member opposite said yesterday is that we have a strategy but we don't have a baseline; we have recommendations but we don't have outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite went on to discuss the fact that she had seen the clinical services report. Now, I am not sure if she just didn't bother reading it, because it is a substantial document. It is 263 pages of report and, in addition to those 263 pages of report, it also included a data compendium and clinical services matrices. Those things provide this government, provide my department, with a baseline of information from which future planning will be done.

That baseline is something that was never done before in the territory. It wasn't done during 12 years of NDP rule, nor was it done in previous Liberal or Yukon Party rule. So it's something that we've done and we're very proud of.

Ms. Stick: I don't know what any of that had to do with the question, and I'm sure Yukoners are more interested in what the question was and what the answer should be.

Effective discharge planning supports continuity of care and has been described as the critical link between treatment received in the hospital by the patient and post-discharge care provided in the community. This link can involve collaboration between hospitals, community-based service, NGOs and caregivers. Research shows that when the link is

broken and discharge planning is not effective, patients are more likely to be readmitted to hospital.

Maybe this minister should be looking at discharge planning instead of trying to come back with insults and comebacks on a totally different one.

Will the minister commit to collaborating with Health and Social Services and the Hospital Corporation to ensure patients receive appropriate discharge?

Speaker: Order please. Minister of Health and Social Services, please.

Hon. Mr. Graham: As I said, I will be only too happy to provide the member opposite with a written response.

I think it's also very important that we correct several misleading, inaccurate statements —

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Order. Member for Mayo-Tatchun, on a point of order.

Mr. Tredger: Guidelines for Oral Question Period, No. 9 of the Specific Rules — a reply to a question should be as brief as possible, relevant to the question asked and should not provoke debate.

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

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I don't even understand how the Member for Mayo-Tatchun thinks that's a point of order. It appears to be —

Speaker: Order.

Government House Leader, thank you for your interjection, but don't do that again.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: It's impossible for the Speaker to know what the member is going to say until it's said, and how they're going to tie it to the question at hand. Really, would you prefer that I now ask the minister to give another 90 seconds on top of what was already given? Or would you like to carry on with your question?

Some Hon. Member: (inaudible)

Speaker: Then there's no point of order at this time. Minister of Health and Social Services, please.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I can partially answer her question immediately. When I look at the Health and Social Services strategic plan for 2014-19 — which the member also indicated she had some understanding of — once again, I'm not quite sure where the member opposite tied in her reading of this report with the statement that the department has not started to set targets, nor has it developed key health indicators.

Had the member actually read the strategic plan, she would find out, at the end of each step — one of which is collaborative care, which she just asked about — at the end of each step, we have “how are we doing?” indicators. Each one of the six strategic steps has health indicators for the Yukon population that will allow us to measure how we're doing in

specific areas. One of those areas happens to be collaboration and patient care.

Ms. Stick: The Yukon clinical services plan suggests that patients with mental illness may experience high rates of re-hospitalization due to early discharge and lack of community supports.

Mr. Speaker, Yukon patients are at higher risk of unplanned hospital re-admissions when there is not good discharge planning. We have seen the positive impact that the First Nation discharge planner and community liaison has had with the Whitehorse General Hospital. This planner helps ensure collaborative care and has improved discharge planning for First Nation patients. It increases their care and diminishes their re-admission to the hospital.

Will the minister consider working with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and hire a discharge planner to implement discharge plans for patients at the —

Speaker: Order please. The member's time has elapsed.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, we're already working in that area. The Hospital Corporation, as they indicated some time ago or when they were here, are working in collaboration with the department on discharge planning. We see that as a very important part of the clinical services plan that the member opposite indicated she had read and even quoted from, and yet, the other areas where she doesn't quote — “Project principles...underpin the complexity of a ten-year clinical services plan...The principles are derived to reflect the strategic direction of the DHSS...” and we go on to mention the principles of transparency, patient-centred, appropriate to population need, cultural sensitivity, affordable now and sustainable in the future — and I realize that's not something that the NDP subscribes to — and they have to be equitable across the geographic distribution of the population.

Mr. Speaker, we're doing that planning. We have begun the process. We're very proud of the consultations that we've carried out with thousands of Yukoners in preparation of the clinical services plan and we will continue to improve the health care system in the Yukon.

Question re: Inmate court appearance

Ms. Moorcroft: Mr. Speaker, on January 22, a prisoner at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre was brought before a Yukon court by video conference — naked, shackled and restrained by three correctional officers.

The judge presiding over the trial allowed the video conference to continue for seven minutes until he ordered the court to cut off the feed. The judge responsible for the trial has since apologized for what happened, saying — and I quote: “I fully appreciate how he views this incident as an affront to his dignity.”

The judge has done the right thing. Will the minister responsible for the Whitehorse Correctional Centre have the integrity to follow Justice Gower's lead and apologize for the degrading and inhumane way the prisoner was brought before the courts?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I'm not going to make any comment on the floor of this Legislature pertaining to a specific case in the courts. We have a really solid team working at the Correctional Centre. From time to time, that team takes direction from the court. In fact, it's the courts that designate Whitehorse Correctional Centre as a place where inmates or persons accused of a crime need to go.

On the floor of this Legislature a number of times, we've talked about just the opposite of what the NDP continue to bring onto this floor. We're talking about victims and support to victims. The Minister of Education, the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, did an excellent job at paying tribute to violence against women today on the floor of this Legislature. We'll continue that good work within the Department of Justice, working with victims of crime, but at the same time we'll continue to support our staff at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre in holding inmates accountable for their actions.

Ms. Moorcroft: The judge made an apology. Can Yukoners not expect the same level of integrity from the Minister of Justice?

We fully recognize that dealing with prisoners with mental health issues can be challenging, but this government has an obligation to accommodate persons with disabilities.

This week, we paid tribute in the House to the UN *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and Disability Awareness Week. It is a human right that people living with disabilities be treated with equity and respect. Part of the Minister of Justice's responsibility is ensuring that all correctional officers have the resources and training to deal with inmates with disabilities. What human rights and disability training is this government providing to corrections staff to help them deal with inmates living with disabilities at Whitehorse Correctional Centre?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I don't need a lecture from the member opposite on disabilities. I have a son with autism and I live with this each and every day.

At the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, our staff goes through a vast array of training prior to them even stepping on the floor in the living units within that Correctional Centre, and when they do step in those living units, they are shadowing staff who are fully trained in working in those living units.

I'm very proud of our dedicated staff at the Correctional Centre and we'll continue to support them in holding offenders accountable. At the same time, I'll continue to work with the Minister of Health and Social Services, the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, on providing services to victims of crime, including the project Lynx, which provides support to children witnesses or victims of crime. That's where this government will put its dollar.

Ms. Moorcroft: Last month during Question Period, the Minister of Justice said that segregation was being used by corrections staff because — and I quote: "...they need to isolate inmates with significant physical or mental health problems that cannot be accommodated in other areas".

The prevalence of mental illness in jails has been of a growing concern over the last 25 years. The evidence is clear that being held in segregation cells only serves to aggravate mental health problems of inmates, thereby increasing risk to everyone involved. Correctional officers have a difficult job indeed, and it is the minister's job to ensure that they have the tools they need to provide appropriate treatment to inmates with mental health problems.

What steps has the minister taken to give corrections officers the tools they need to avoid the use of segregation for inmates with mental health problems?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I don't think the member opposite has listened to a thing that I've said in this Legislative Assembly over the last three years with the exception of one comment, and the comment that she just made now, that the staff at the Correctional Centre have a difficult job, and this government remains committed supporting them with that difficult job and supporting them to hold offenders accountable.

This government will also support the Department of Justice, the Women's Directorate and the Department of Health and Social Services in supporting victims of crime.

The member opposite talks about solitary confinement. I don't know how many times on this floor that I have mentioned and outlined the criteria that individuals need to fit in order to put in separate confinement, and the short time frames that are typical for that confinement.

We will continue to hold offenders accountable, and we will continue to provide excellent services to those victims of crime from the individuals who are perhaps at our Correctional Centre. We will support victims of crime.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Ms. McLeod): Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Motion re appearance of witnesses

Committee of the Whole Motion No. 8

Hon. Mr. Graham: I move:

THAT Mark Pike, chair of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, and Joy Waters, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Workers'

Compensation Health and Safety Board, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014, to discuss matters relating to the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Graham:

THAT Mark Pike, chair of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, and Joy Waters, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2014, to discuss matters relating to the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

Hon. Mr. Graham: I think the motion is fairly self-evident. This is fulfilling a requirement under the act that they appear, and I don't really have anything more to add than that.

Committee of the Whole Motion No. 8 agreed to

Chair: The matter before Committee of the Whole is general debate in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Committee of the Whole will recess for 15 minutes.

Recess

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Bill No. 15: *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is general debate in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*.

Department of Economic Development — *continued*

Hon. Mr. Dixon: I believe this is the third time we've been up in Economic Development, so I'm looking forward to having a little bit of time to explore some of these issues and hopefully, ultimately, clear this department, as the appropriation is relatively small.

I have to confess, I don't recall what the last questions were from last time, so I look forward to hearing questions. I know I fielded questions from both the NDP and the Liberal Party. I can't remember who is up, but I look forward to receiving questions and will do my best to respond, once I hear what they are.

Ms. Hanson: The minister had answered a question that I had asked him with respect to some of the issues around — anyway, he answered it. Previous to that, I had asked him some questions because we were in the ICT area and I had asked him some questions about contracts, the Stantec contract in particular. I just have a few questions that I would like to pose to the minister in the context of work that the department has undertaken in the last few months. They

would be with respect to three or four contracts where I would be interested in hearing from the minister the purpose of these contracts — whether or not the work has been completed and what product has been produced or achieved as a result of the expenditure of the funds that the Department of Economic Development has let out over the course of — for the most part — between April and August of this year.

I am only looking at the ones that are of material value. There are a number of quite small contracts, and when I had asked the question about Stantec, it was because it was around \$43,000, and it also related to the broader picture of how it fit with some of the conversation that we had had about the Dempster Energy group.

I am interested if the minister could identify the purpose of the contract with Creative Class group for \$50,000. The contract description is for 4-T benchmarking and I really have no idea what 4-T benchmarking is. Could the minister say the purpose of this \$50,000 contract that was started on April 9 this year? Has the work been completed and what is the product? How will it be used? If we have a product, we would like to know the utility of those products that the government has paid for.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: My understanding is that contract is with a group called 4-T. I think the member is correct there. It relates to an individual who is fairly well known globally — a gentleman by the name of Richard Florida — who has written a few books about the creative class and whether or not — how cities can attract intelligent, productive people to their municipalities or to their borders. My understanding is that his group was given the contract to do that kind of work with Yukon to look at how Yukon can attract creative, entrepreneurial, innovative people to the territory. This initial work relates to some benchmarking around the various metrics that Yukon can use to undertake that kind of activity.

I believe it is the Creative Class Troup and it's a 4-T benchmarking study that is done by that group.

Ms. Hanson: Two questions. Well, I guess I had asked what product he expects to receive — the government expects to receive — whether that's completed. I guess I would add to this — is that in invitational tender, was it a direct award or was there a public tender for this?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: My understanding is that the end resulting product is a report that the department now has internally. My understanding is that it was determined that this group, the Creative Class Group was the only real group that operates in this specific field and that the prestige and specifications that they have around this particular work is unique enough that it warranted working with them only as the only possible provider of this type of service.

Ms. Hanson: I take it from that that this was an invitational tender. Will the report be made available to the public? Richard Florida's work, as the minister has indicated, has been published extensively and broadly around the world, even though he makes his home in Canada. Will the report be public so that we can see what his ideas are about the Yukon, as he's commented on other places in the world?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: My understanding is that the document wasn't intended to be a public one and was an internal document for the department to use in the development of various strategic planning initiatives, both for the department and the government as a whole.

I don't think we'll release it publicly, but that information and the conclusions therein would inform how we do a number of other planning exercises in the department.

Ms. Hanson: I have a question then about the contract of \$50,000. The description is creation of a residency attraction website. Could the minister explain the purpose of this contract? Is the work completed? What is the product? Presumably, if this is a residency attraction website, there will be a public part of that and if he could elaborate, that would be great.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Over the course of the last few years, I know we have discussed numerous times the activities that the department is undertaking with regard to residency attraction. Most of this is focused on addressing the economic loss associated with fly-in/fly-out commuter projects like mines that employ people from outside the territory who come here for work. Some of our efforts, alongside the mining industry, are to encourage some of those folks to consider moving to the Yukon and making the Yukon their home. Obviously, there's a benefit to the industry in that they may be able to reduce their travel times and travel costs.

There is also the benefit to the Yukon, by way of those folks contributing to our society as active members of the community, whether it be through buying their groceries here in town or participating on local sports teams or even paying their taxes here.

With regard to this specific contract, my understanding is that the department is working with Aasman Brand Communications to develop a residency attraction website and promotional campaign to promote Yukon as an ideal location to open a business, live and invest. Residency attraction can also help address labour shortages in Whitehorse and the communities. My understanding is the launch of the website and the accompanying promotional campaign will cost the \$50,000 that was referenced by the member. My understanding is the project is tentatively called "Live Yukon". That's what's involved with that contracting work.

Ms. Hanson: I would agree with the minister that this was a subject of extensive conversation during a session that was held by members of all — both investors and mining companies — in, I think, November of 2013, which my colleague, the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, and I attended the entire day. There was certainly a lot of conversation about the difficulties of companies — not limited to the fly-in/fly-out, but the importance of being able to provide information, because there was no coordinated way — and there didn't seem to be any willingness to do that, in cooperation with mining companies.

I'm happy to hear this is happening. Could the minister tell us when this will be rolled out?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: We anticipate this will be rolled out soon, perhaps in this fiscal year.

Ms. Hanson: So the contract was let in August of this year, so one would assume it shouldn't be rocket science to get this up and running within months, as opposed to another year, since it has been a year-plus since the workshop that mining companies called and focused on this in an extensive manner during the course of that Saturday discussion.

My next question has to do with the contract with respect to telecom advisory services — James H Pratt Consulting — another \$50,000-contract that had a start date of April 1 of this year. Can the minister please explain, again, the purpose of this contract? Has the work been completed? What is the product?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: With regard to the first comment the member made about the product with regard to the residency attraction activity, I would note that, as far as I'm concerned, from my technical understanding of launching a website is tantamount to rocket science, so I really don't know what goes into that and how long it takes. My understanding is that these folks — Aasman Brand Communications — have a significant degree of expertise in this matter and I have faith in them to fulfill the requirements of their contract.

With regard to Mr. Pratt, James H Pratt Consulting has been the Yukon government's advisor with regard to technical matters related to the regulatory regime, particularly the CRTC, over the past decade.

For the past 10 years, James H Pratt Consulting has had the contract to provide that high level of specificity with regard to advice on regulatory matters related to the CRTC. The work done by Pratt Consulting informs Yukon government's submissions and opinions that we make known to the CRTC through their various activities. That company — Pratt Consulting — is one with a high degree of specific knowledge of the telecommunications regulatory regime in Canada and can provide Yukon government with the necessary advice to make decisions about how we engage with the CRTC and, ultimately, what positions we take with regard to their undertaking.

Ms. Hanson: If this is an ongoing relationship with this consulting firm, is this a standing offer that is held with this consulting firm and does the \$50,000 represent the total amount that is spent on this firm each year or is there a series of contracts? Is it a standing offer? Is there more than one contract, or does this contract of \$50,000 represent the total of what is spent with this particular company?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: My understanding is that after an RFP process, Pratt Consulting was awarded a three-year contract at \$50,000 a year. Because Pratt Consulting has been the consultant for just about 10 years, it would suggest to me that that company has won the RFP every time it has gone out over the past 10 years. The current contract is for three years at \$50,000 a year, for a total of \$150,000.

Ms. Hanson: The next larger one is the consulting services contract with Jean Pierre Flament. It is \$50,000 awarded on April 1 — the purpose of the contract, the nature of the work completed, what product and direct award, invitational or public tender.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: That contract is for advice regarding the *Agreement on Internal Trade* and other trade matters. A certain level of technical expertise is needed that isn't available in-house in our department. We contract out for advice on detailed matters of international trade or in the case of the AIT, domestic trade. That was an RFP that was issued and won by the contractor mentioned by the member opposite. Looking back, I should note that the residency attraction contract was also done through RFP as well.

Ms. Hanson: I am pleased to hear that there actually is some expertise being focused on trade agreements. I will look forward to hearing from the minister opposite the next time I ask him with respect to the as yet to be finalized CETA and its implications for local procurement. Now that I know he does have that expertise, I'll expect him to answer the question this time.

I am interested in the contract of \$64,835 issued on the 8th of August — cultural industries labour force study and economic impact — and the purpose of the contract. Has the work been completed? What product is anticipated? Is this a study or a survey? Are we looking at it from the point of view of an economic analysis that will be shared across government? I'm presuming that, if we're talking about cultural industries here and labour force as well as the economic impact, we're looking at things that would affect Advanced Education as well as Tourism and Culture. The last part of that of course is: Was it a direct award invitational tender or a public tender?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: The intent of this project is to measure the size of Yukon's cultural labour force to assess the impact of that labour force on the economy and to identify challenges facing cultural industries in the future within the framework of a comparative update to the 2004 study of the same name.

In the 10 years since the original report was published, Yukon has experienced considerable economic growth and is currently in the midst of a period of growth resulting in increased demands for a variety of occupations across a variety of sectors. Given Yukon's growth and considering that a measurable amount of time has passed since the report was published, the Yukon government, working in conjunction with the Yukon Arts Centre Corporation has identified the need for an updated report on the state of the cultural industries' labour force in Yukon. The updated report will broadly measure the impact of Yukon's cultural industries on the economy and the state of the labour force associated with each industry. The report is not limited to the structure, methodology or conclusions of the 2004 study, but must include a comparison of the industry then and now, as well as an update on the state of the 2004 study's recommendations. In other words, the focus on the study is not simply to capture a snapshot of the industry today, but to analyze how the industry has changed over the last 10 years. Ultimately, the product that will result from that contract is a report. At this point, I'm not sure if an RFP was issued or not, but I'll have to get back on that issue.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you to the minister for that. That is a very encouraging step to be taking to do a 10-years-on assessment of where we're at in the cultural industries in terms of the labour force implications. My question earlier — the other part of the question — had been the intention of the minister with respect to how the product, this report, given the fact of the collaborative nature and who it sounds like is involved here, how will that be worked through the government so that it doesn't sit on the Minister of Economic Development's shelf? What are his intentions with respect to the engagement of Advanced Education and the Minister responsible for tourism and cultural development?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: My understanding is that once the report is issued the Yukon Arts Centre will of course use it for their activities. We're engaged with the various departments in the Yukon government, including Tourism and Culture and Advanced Education, and we'll determine what the next steps are once we receive that report. Obviously it will include recommendations, so with regards to what I will do with it, obviously I'll have to read it first and determine the best course of action based on what the recommendations and conclusions are of the report.

Ms. Hanson: There'll be two and then I'll be finished, because I'm intrigued by this one just because of the title of it. It says that the vendor name is the Centre for Spatial, which I think is kind of interesting — whatever that is — so I'll look forward to hearing that.

It's a contract for \$23,000 to provide model services to Yukon Economic Development — presuming that's economic modelling — but I would like to know what the centre for spatial is, what the purpose of the contract is, and if the work has been completed. This was let in May. Is there a product?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: That was a bit of an abbreviated title. Actually, the name of the group that was awarded the contract is the Centre for Spatial Economics — so it's not just "spatial" or "the centre for the spatial". It's the Centre for Spatial Economics, which is abbreviated to C4SE. It's a group that focuses on spatial economics, obviously, and helps with the development of economic modelling in the territory, including some of the frameworks for our economic outlooks.

Ms. Hanson: The last part of the question was: There will there be a product, and we will see that reflected where?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: My understanding is that this group provides this service to a number of different provinces and territories in Canada. It is somewhat of a leader in the field, but they developed the model or framework for our economic outlooks, so the public or the members across the floor would see their work when they look at the economic outlooks — not necessarily the content of those outlooks, but the structure and model that they employ.

Ms. Hanson: In the interest of time and ensuring that the Third Party gets a chance here, I just have a question with respect to the contract for \$24,680 that was let on August 4 for Alcan Air. It was the Yukon mineral investment property tours — tours for whom? How many tours? Was that a direct award invitational tender or public tender?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: This contract is one that links to the work that we do with the Yukon Mining Alliance wherein the YMA hosts inward investment tours of investors from outside the territory coming to the territory to view sites. They would fly to Whitehorse and then, from Whitehorse, be flown via — apparently Alcan Air in this case — to various mines or mining projects or advanced exploration projects throughout the territory. In this case, they visited, I believe, all of the members of the Yukon Mining Alliance's sites, as well as some additional ones, including ATAC's Rakla properties and a few others that I can't recall at the top of my head. The intent of this is to bring investors from outside the territory to the territory to see not only our infrastructure and our territory itself, but the mining projects themselves, to get an on-the-ground understanding of the geology, the state of infrastructure, the status of the project and to hear directly from staff in those companies about their projects and how they view them. Ultimately, the result of this would be that, hopefully, these visits would compel people to consider investing in these projects, and thus injecting money into Yukon's resource industry.

I don't know how the contract was issued. I have to get back to the member on that one, but I would expect it was probably an RFP, but I can't confirm that at this time. I do know that I met with this group after they engaged in the tour, and they thought it was phenomenal. They were lucky enough to have really good weather and to get out to all of the sites they wanted to. They were very impressed with the sites that they visited and with the incredible relationship that the mining companies have with each other here, wherein they are able to come together and bring each other's investors to each other's sites, and do so collaboratively.

I understand that it was a great success. The industry enjoyed it, the investors enjoyed it, the Yukon Mining Alliance did a fabulous job organizing it, and the Yukon government was proud to support it through the Department of Economic Development.

Mr. Silver: Thanks to members from the department for their time today. I just have a couple of questions here. Forgive me if this question was already asked but, as the minister stated, we have been back and forth on this department a couple of different days here.

The Yukon Business Service Centre — a tender was put out for the Yukon Business Service Centre earlier in the year, and I believe that now this money has been reallocated to the Yukon Chamber of Commerce in the 2014-15 budget. The question would be: Is there any update on the status of the Yukon Business Service Centre — where will it be going, who will be running it? As opposed to getting up and asking a separate question, can the minister confirm to us when the next economic forecast is scheduled to be released?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: With regard to the Canada-Yukon Business Service Centre, this was a contract that had previously been with one of the chambers of commerce. This time when we put it out, we only received one bid and it was deemed insufficient, so we have worked with CanNor and with both the Yukon and Whitehorse chambers of commerce

to bring this internally to bid the Business and Industry Development branch of Economic Development for this year to try to run it as such. That is the conclusion we came to with the Yukon and Whitehorse chambers.

I don't anticipate that this will be a permanent solution. This is just what we had decided to do for this year — to pull that into Economic Development and host those support services out of the BID branch. What we do with that, ultimately, will be determined through consultation with the chambers as well as CanNor to determine how best to provide these services and how best to ensure that Yukon businesses are able to access them.

I missed this, but I guess the second question was: When is the next economic outlook coming? My understanding is that it should be in January 2015.

Chair: Does any other member wish to speak in general debate?

We will proceed with line-by-line debate.

Department of Economic Development

On Operation and Maintenance

On Business and Industry Development

Business and Industry Development expenditure in the amount of \$256,000 agreed to

On Regional Economic Development

Ms. Hanson: The question I have on regional economic development is a question that I have raised in briefings over the last couple of years and it has to do with the structural approach within Economic Development to economic development in the regions of the territory. I will ask the minister again: What moves has he made, as minister, to ensure that there is a regional economic development presence in each of the regions of the territory? As we all know, the dynamics of knowing what is happening in the communities — what is going on there really has an impact in terms of strategies. Has the department actually got Regional Economic Development staff located in the regions of the territory?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Regional Economic Development staff — advisors and others — are in the various Yukon communities as often as possible. They are at least in each of their respective communities monthly — in some cases, weekly — and liaise with First Nation development corporations as well as the municipalities. There isn't one officer or staff per community. They are grouped into regional hubs and the various regions of the territory are serviced by a Regional Economic Development officer who spends their time travelling from community to community on the general timeline I mentioned earlier.

Ms. Hanson: I do understand that. My question is: Has the minister done any work to analyze the implications of actually having Regional Economic Development officers located in those regional hubs, as opposed to the hub being Whitehorse and it's all Whitehorse-centric and with spokes going out to those communities. If you look at the region and those regional hubs, in terms of getting a real picture of what the economic drivers or economic opportunities are, when you live in a community and you live in the region, you have a

much better sense of what's going on there and what the connectors are.

Has the department, under this minister's direction, done any analysis about potential that could be associated with the regional placement of economic development officers in regional hubs?

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Yes, we have done work in that respect — doing various analyses of what the best possible model is. We haven't made any changes as of yet, but we are always open to changing the model we have.

Of course, we're interested in ensuring that we get value for the dollar invested and that any changes would be positively received so, to answer the member's question, yes, we have looked at those various aspects, but haven't made any changes as of yet.

Regional Economic Development in the amount of \$1,178,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Operation and Maintenance

Total of Other Operation and Maintenance in the amount of nil cleared

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,434,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Corporate Services

On Office Furniture and Equipment

Office Furniture and Equipment underexpenditure in the amount of \$75,000 cleared

On Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space

Building Maintenance, Renovations and Space underexpenditure in the amount of \$100,000 cleared

On Business and Industry Development

On Dana Naye Ventures Business Development Program

Dana Naye Ventures Business Development Program in the amount of \$7,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Capital

Total of Other Capital in the amount of nil cleared

Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$168,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,266,000 agreed to

Department of Economic Development agreed to

Chair: We are done with Vote 7.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Madam Chair, seeing the time and in light of the fact the WCB witnesses are coming, and we're almost at the time of the normal recess, I move that you report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Cathers that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

Chair: Pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 8, adopted earlier today, Committee of the Whole will receive witnesses from the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. In order to allow the witnesses to take their places in the Chamber, the Committee will now recess and reconvene at 3:30 p.m.

Recess

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Appearance of Witnesses

Chair: Pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 8 adopted earlier today, Committee of the Whole will now receive witnesses from the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

I would ask all members to remember to refer their remarks through the Chair when addressing the witnesses. I would also ask the witnesses to refer their answers through the Chair when they're responding to Committee members.

Mr. Graham, I believe you will introduce the witnesses.

Witnesses introduced

Hon. Mr. Graham: The witnesses appearing before Committee of the Whole today are Mark Pike, chair of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board and Joy Waters, president and chief executive officer of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

Chair: Would the witnesses like to make opening remarks please?

Mr. Pike: Thank you, Madam Chair. Obviously from the introduction, I am Mark Pike and I'm the chair of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. I have with me our president and CEO, Joy Waters. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be here today and discuss our 2013 annual report and the work of the board.

I won't be long, but I would like to touch on a few highlights of that report and our operations. As required by the act, we remain fully funded and in a strong financial position. That will allow us to be there for injured workers when they need us. I believe you all have a copy. The last page of our annual report has a concise summary of some statistics that are interesting to look at and save time from looking through the entire report. It's an interesting page.

2013 marked the 100th anniversary of the report by Sir William Meredith, which established the Canadian modern workers' compensation system. Today's workplace is vastly different from the one that people worked in then or even as recently as the 1980s. Attitudes toward drinking, smoking, advances in science and medicine, communication and security have all changed our approach to workers' compensation, and our board, the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, is adapting to these changes in the modern society.

We have embraced early and safe return to work as a way to prevent disability and to restore injured workers to their health and their lives. The cooperation between employees, employers and the board has allowed us to reduce assessment rates several years in a row and our lost-time claims continue to fall.

However, all is not rosy if you look at our report. There were three deaths in 2013. I believe there have been five to

date in 2014. It reminds us that we cannot grow complacent and we must continue to work on improving workplace safety. As a board, together we're striving to get to zero injuries, zero disabilities, zero workplace deaths and, for us, no other goal is acceptable.

With that I will turn it over to Joy if she has anything she'd like to add. Having said that, I'm done, Madam Chair.

Chair: When the Committee members are questioning, if you would just indicate to me who would be responding, then I can make sure that the proper name is in the Hansard.

Ms. Hanson: My thanks to the witnesses from the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board for their presence here today.

Now we have echoes with our sound system.

Madam Chair, I have a series of questions that I would like to raise with the representatives of — I'm just going to use the colloquialism of WCB, just because it is easier to get out of the mouth than the whole phrase that is legally correct.

We have raised issues, because they have been raised with us over the past while, with respect to the fact that most provinces — including Yukon Territory, Ontario and Alberta, for example — have presumptive legislation for firefighters, as an example, that cover certain types of cancer and cardiac events. We're aware that in Alberta in 2012, there were amendments to the Alberta *Workers' Compensation Act* that made it easier for emergency service workers — firefighters, emergency medical technicians, peace officers and police officers — to establish post-traumatic stress disorder claims. Those amendments, which came into effect in December 2012, created a rebuttable presumption that the PTSD claims of emergency service workers arise out of, and occur, during the course of their employment.

My question for the representatives of the WCB is: What work has the WCB done regarding first responders' issues? Are they aware of the call for similar legislative requirements in the Yukon to address the issues of first responders suffering from PTSD? Do they think that there is a need for presumptive legislation of this nature in the Yukon, or do they believe that the current legislation provides sufficient tools for the WCB to address this?

Has the WCB looked at other jurisdictions? I am aware that a couple of other jurisdictions — Manitoba and Ontario — are currently looking at developing presumptive legislation for workers' compensation claims for PTSD. I would be interested in comments from the witnesses on that.

Ms. Waters: WCB has a very good and effective means for handling work-related PTSD injuries through our policy. It is policy EN-09, adjudicating psychological disorders. That policy recognizes that PTSD can arise from a single, unexpected traumatic event on the job or a series of events that have a cumulative effect. No doubt this is an area that is growing in terms of our caseloads as it is across Canada.

Having said that, we are aware that some of the larger jurisdictions — Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba — have brought in or are thinking about bringing in presumptive legislation for PTSD. We are in the process of exploring with

them their rationale for doing this. It is fair to say that WCB-related legislation across the country is different and, because of that, there may be a valid reason why they felt the need to bring in this legislation. In Yukon, we believe that our current WCB legislation and, more importantly, our policy on the adjudication of psychological disorders give us the ability to respond effectively and expediently to the diagnosis of work-related PTSD.

From that perspective, you asked if we feel we have sufficient tools, and I would say that, yes, we do believe that we have sufficient tools to respond effectively and quickly. The question I would ask, in considering the need for legislation, is whether there are examples of our policy not effectively meeting the needs of workers suffering from workplace PTSD.

There's actually going to be a national meeting in the spring with other workers' compensation associations. One of the things we'll be talking about with those jurisdictions that have brought in the legislation is what their reasoning was for it and how it's impacting the adjudication process.

Having said that, the decision ultimately is a decision for the Yukon government to make in regard to presumptive legislation.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the witness for that response. I hear what the witness is saying with respect to the existing policies. I guess it's difficult to know what examples — we hear anecdotally, but as long as the situation is similar to what it was before the presumptive legislation with respect to assuming that a firefighter who develops cancer — that it's presumed that it's attributable to their work. The current situation is that the onus is on somebody suffering from PTSD to prove, through the adjudicative process, that they link their PTSD to their work.

Ms. Waters: I am not sure what the question is.

Ms. Hanson: The question is: Is that correct? The onus is on the worker to prove that the PTSD that they are experiencing under the current process — that they are required to prove that. It is not presumed that there is a link.

Ms. Waters: From my knowledge, it is a bit different from firefighters. As I understand it, with firefighters, the adjudication process was taking longer and, certainly, having presumption helps to expedite it.

With PTSD, the diagnosis comes from a professional, and the professional is going to know what the cause is of that PTSD in order for that diagnosis to be made. If it is work-related, our policy recognizes it and accepts it as a work-related injury.

Ms. Hanson: I think this is an area that will and does deserve further exploration, and we will be following this one carefully and will look forward to both what the outcomes of the discussions at the upcoming national meeting that the president referenced. We also hope that the WCB will be looking to the Province of Alberta, which, by the time of the spring meeting, will have had two-and-a-half years of experience of this legislation being in place

My only comment would be that the difficulty with all presumptive legislation — we know that people died waiting

to get a diagnosis for firefighters and that was one of the reasons why there was pressure, you know, when somebody had cancer, to not to have to wait until it was too late. PTSD manifests in different ways. We've seen that in many, many contexts recently.

I would like to move on to the issue of air quality in the workplace. In the first instance, I have just a general couple of questions with respect to air quality in the workplace and the first is: How is air quality monitored in the workplace and what policies does the WCB have in place to ensure compliance with air quality standards?

Ms. Waters: It's the job of every employer to ensure the safety of their workplaces. Different workplaces have different ways of monitoring air quality. For example, if the Yukon government has a concern about air quality, they have someone in the corporate health and safety branch who can come and administer testing in the area. Some private sector employers, by the nature of their business, have sophisticated equipment constantly monitoring the air quality and alarms will ring if the air quality exceeds the safety limit.

Most Occupational Health and Safety testing of air quality is done on a reactive basis. Occupational Health and Safety officers will conduct air monitoring tests if they receive a complaint from a worker or a member of the public about a work site.

They will also perform tests if, during a routine inspection, they see evidence of a problem or know hazardous substances are being used on-site. If an employer or worker is concerned about their air quality and don't have the means to assess the air quality themselves, they can ask OH&S to conduct the testing for them. We have a qualified industrial hygienist on staff.

In terms of the policies, there are no specific policies regarding air quality standards. The occupational health and safety regulations outline exposure limits for hazardous materials and so that would basically be the guiding policy per se around that.

Ms. Hanson: The president will be aware that I did write to the WCB in April, I think, specifically relating to two workplaces — the Film and Sound Commission and the Yukon Commissioner's Office in Closeleigh Manor. I had indicated at the time that, because of my work as the MLA for Whitehorse Centre, I had been aware for some time of some serious and ongoing air quality issues at Closeleigh Manor. I did write in April inquiring about air quality issues at Closeleigh Manor and the effect it could have on the workplace.

Just to be clear, Madam Chair, there are two issues here. Closeleigh Manor is a residential establishment under the Yukon Housing Corporation that houses mostly seniors and then there are two office spaces. As I mentioned, they are the Film and Sound Commission and the Commissioner's Office. As a result of the air quality issues and at least one or two meetings with the residents in the building, I had raised the question: What about the workplaces there? As a result of the inquiry I made, I was told that the WCB had conducted an inspection of Closeleigh Manor, but had not done their own

air quality checks, and instead relied on the test that Yukon Housing had done previously.

My question — knowing that I have just heard that WCB has on staff a qualified industrial hygienist, why would WCB not do its own independent assessment of the air quality in the workplaces at Closeleigh Manor? Is it common practice to use assessments of other entities — or organizations in this case — presumably assessments made by somebody at Yukon Housing Corporation? Was there a site inspection at the Closeleigh Manor offices? This is relevant because air quality has been an ongoing issue in this building for a number of years, so I am asking the WCB in the context of the workplace and the workplace safety issues here.

Ms. Waters: In regard to the Closeleigh Manor, the report that was reviewed was done by a professional and our hygienist looked at the report and, based on professional standards, said that it was basically accurate.

Based on that report that Yukon Housing had arranged for, they undertook to do some improvements to their HVAC system and the ventilation where the problem was. That happened during the summer. It's related to the heating system, so in order to retest, we've had to wait until the heating system was turned back on this fall. I checked with our hygienist and he was scheduled to actually conduct the follow-up testing this week, actually, but was told that there's going to be a third-party professional hired to do it.

So again, we will be monitoring that.

Ms. Hanson: The third party professional who will be hired to do the assessment — will they be looking at doing a P-Trak particulate — tracking of the amount of particulates in the air?

Ms. Waters: It's being conducted by Yukon Housing Corporation, so that would be a question you would need to refer to them.

Ms. Hanson: That goes back to my previous question about WCB doing inspections of workplaces and relying upon third parties to do the inspections. Is it normal practice for WCB to do that for workplaces? For example, if the Government of Yukon is leasing space in my building that I own, would you rely upon me to tell you that it's safe, or would you rely upon your independent assessors to tell you that it's safe?

Ms. Waters: If there continues to be a problem, we will certainly conduct our own testing of it but, in the meantime, there is going to be a professional third party doing the testing.

Ms. Hanson: I guess it really begs the question about: How do you know if the problem is continuing if you haven't yourselves done that assessment?

Ms. Waters: I would have to actually — we can get back with what we'll be doing as a follow-up to this.

Ms. Hanson: I would like to move to an area of industrial safety then. Recently, there were serious concerns expressed about the number of workers who were poisoned — lead poisoning — at the Sa Dena Hes mine site. Can WCB provide a background on what caused the accident from the WCB's perspective? Were there breakdowns in monitoring or

enforcement that led to this not being caught until the workers were diagnosed with lead poisoning?

Ms. Waters: This is certainly the largest workplace occupational exposure investigation in recent memory. We know 184 workers were on-site and we've asked for blood tests from all of them. So far, we've received tests back from 82 people, and we've received 154 employer reports of injury.

Where workers have been exposed to lead, the company is required to continuously monitor their employees' health. The process of identifying this problem, investigating and enforcing the regulations works well. When claims staff received a doctor's report of injury, they informed Occupational Health and Safety, which immediately recognized the potential industrial hygiene issue.

Safety officers were immediately sent to the mine site. A stop-work order was issued and the investigation began to determine if the exposure identified by claims staff was related to this work on the Sa Dena Hes site. Once employers put adequate measures in to protect their workers, the stop-work order was removed. Our investigation into the circumstances surrounding this exposure continues and because the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident is ongoing, I am not in a position to basically respond to the further questions that Ms. Hanson has.

Ms. Hanson: The situation then arose because it's after the fact once the information has been received. I guess in a more general context, what is WCB doing with respect to inspecting remote sites? How often does WCB travel to remote sites to do on-site inspections that might, in some ways — in some circumstances, perhaps — be considered to be preventive in terms of ensuring workplace safety so that these kinds of incidents don't occur? Part of that might be addressed by — if the representatives could provide a breakdown of the numbers of remote site inspections that were conducted in the previous year. What is the process of doing inspections at remote sites without getting into — I'm not looking for the specific details of who did what or when at Sa Dena Hes. Clearly there is a lot to be dealt with in there as it is an ongoing situation, but I am interested and I think we have an interest in having an understanding how WCB operates with respect to the activities that occur at remote sites throughout this territory.

Ms. Waters: We visit remote sites often. It's an integral part of our efforts to work with employers in their reduction of workplace injuries.

In 2013, we visited 87 remote locations throughout Yukon and in 2014, we visited 113 sites. I will need to get back to you in terms of the specific process that's involved when they inspect the site.

Ms. Hanson: I just want to go back. On the Sa Dena Hes site, 184 workers were on-site and 150-some were tested in terms of having health issues there. It strikes me as somewhat ironic that this company was given an exemplary award at the recent Chamber of Mines awards ceremony, presented by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Perhaps there should be some coordination between Workers' Compensation and EMR when these awards are presented.

The issue of what triggered the increase — so from 87 to 113 ongoing site inspections — is the increase triggered by the perception that there is a need for more follow-up on certain sites or is it triggered by just the volume of sites that are out there?

Ms. Waters: It would be a matter of both. It would be a matter of new sites and new activities happening. It can be everything from inspecting a mine site to where some filming is being done. If there are concerns, the inspectors will be going out for follow-up. It is a whole variety of things.

Ms. Hanson: I had a question with respect to — WCB announced in the past year the expansion plans and the associated capital expenditures relating to what, I believe, was an 11,000-square foot expansion of the WCB headquarters. Could the representatives outline for the members of this Assembly the rationale for the expansion, the current status of this project and when the WCB anticipates this expansion being completed and how much it is going to ultimately cost?

Mr. Pike: From the board's point of view, this was a business case decision. Our current premises are overcrowded. One of the board's mandates is to plan not only for the current operations, but for the future operations of the board.

The board of directors looked at every option we could think of — I won't list them all — and at the end of the day we chose the addition that is currently in progress on our site as making the most business sense for us, not only today but for the future. I could list all the options we looked at. We spent a couple of years looking at all kinds of possibilities.

Ms. Hanson: The latter part of the question was the status of the project — when it is expected to be completed and how much is it going to cost?

Mr. Pike: I will just deal with one issue first and Ms. Waters has a couple of comments. The board approved a maximum of \$5.5 million for the project and our role is to provide the funding for that. We have not approved anything more than that; that is the budget for this project.

Ms. Waters: In terms of the status, the project was awarded to Ketz Construction in June. Construction is underway with the groundwork completed and the steel is currently being assembled. It is expected to be clad to weather by early 2015. In terms of completion, the current projection for completion is July 31, 2015.

Ms. Hanson: I would like to move on to the WCB role vis-à-vis management of liquefied natural gas-related sectors. With the increased shipment of LNG to communities like Inuvik, what role does the WCB in Yukon play in ensuring the safety of private sector workers involved in the shipment and handling, as well as the safety of public sector staff who may be responding to accidents or spills relating to the transport of LNG?

Ms. Waters: The responsibility for ensuring the safety of Yukon workers rests with employers and workers. Occupational Health and Safety expects that every responsible person on-site are properly trained and equipped to handle any emergency that might arise. We follow up to make sure the appropriate safe work programs are in place and that workers are properly trained and equipped. Our priority is to determine

if the employers and workers are fulfilling their duties and responsibilities under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

In terms of transportation, that actually is a federal responsibility — transportation is a federal Occupational Health and Safety responsibility.

Ms. Hanson: I guess I was looking at it in terms of a commodity — for want of another phase — that is relatively new in terms of its use. We now have it as being used as a backup for the power generator that is currently under construction, so it's more looking at it — when we have a change in technology, what role WCB plays in terms of workers' safety at new plants. Is there a different focus? Will there be or is there an increased focus on safety in this sector; a sector that has not heretofore been present in the Yukon? There are different standards, I would assume, in terms of safety for LNG than perhaps people who were working at the power plant with respect to diesel. I'm just wondering if there are additional roles or responsibilities that WCB has when a new fuel type is being used — new to us, not new to other parts of the country.

Ms. Waters: Occupational Health and Safety treats all workplaces the same. The rules are consistent across all workplaces. Occupational Health and Safety is the agency responsible for regulating workplace safety during construction of the plant. Once the plant is built, responsibility for health and safety monitoring actually moves to Energy, Mines and Resources, which has responsibility for such matters under sections 12 and 13 of the gas processing plant regulation. I believe this regulation has the same requirements as the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* for safe work practices, including the existence of a health and safety plan, which would include ensuring the workers have the training they need to do their job. If it's a specialized job, it would require that specialized training.

Ms. Hanson: In the interest of keep moving forward, I'm interested in knowing as whether or not the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has had any complaints regarding increased workplace injuries or increased staff burnout at the Whitehorse General Hospital. What is the WCB's role in ensuring that there is — so basically, have they had any increased workplace injuries and increased staff burnout at the WGH?

Ms. Waters: The Occupational Health and Safety officer who works with the Whitehorse General Hospital has indicated that she has not received any complaints in regard to increased workplace injuries or increased staff burnout at Whitehorse General Hospital due to a lack of beds.

What I can tell you is the claims cost for the personal care health care facilities, primarily made up of the hospitals, has significantly declined over the past number of years to the extent that we moved them from services high to services medium this year, significantly reducing their assessment rate for next year. This is a reflection of our funding policy and rate-setting process that is based on a concept where industries that perform well over a sustained period see their rates decrease.

Certainly, from what we're seeing and what the claims costs are showing — if anything, they are doing very well.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you to the witness for that.

In March 2014, under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, the residential youth treatment services were ordered to create a health and safety program. Can the witnesses tell us the status of this program?

Ms. Waters: Residential youth treatment services did submit a health and safety program to us as required by our order. We are currently reviewing the plan provided by the department to determine if it is an acceptable health and safety program and we are expecting that review to be completed before the end of the year.

Ms. Hanson: Can the witnesses then outline what happens when that review is completed? Who is responsible for doing what in terms of implementation?

Ms. Waters: Once the review is complete, we would be sitting down with the residential youth treatment services, providing our feedback. It is an ongoing process to ensure that they have a good health and safety program.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you to the witness for that.

Madam Chair, after budget debate, with respect to Advanced Education, it was suggested to the members on this side of the House that it would be better for us to ask questions with respect to the Yukon nominee program — to direct those questions to the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, so we are going to do that.

We have been told that there have been 77 successful applications for 2014 and that there were 130 for 2013-14, so a total of about 207. Understanding that nominees work for a two-year time period before being able to apply — it is an ongoing — it moves forward like that, so it's 207 — but what we are looking for is the cumulative total of how many nominees are currently working in the territory.

My question is: How many businesses are registered with WCB that have nominee employees? How many Yukon nominee employees does that represent?

Ms. Waters: I will have to get back to you with the information, the reason being that we have and continue to have an MOU in place with Advanced Education with respect to the Yukon temporary foreign worker program.

We do not have such an agreement with respect to the nominee program. In fact, we basically just respond on an as-request basis to follow up if there's a concern with foreign workers in a nominee program. That is, quite frankly, an area that we have to follow up with Advanced Education and look at how we can basically have in place the same kind of program that we had with the Yukon temporary foreign worker program. That did not encompass the nominee program.

Ms. Hanson: It sounds to me like there really is a need to have the conversation because, in conversations in this Assembly, the Minister of Education said, when we were talking about — so finding out and doing site visits, because we thought Advanced Education did that. She said, in reference to site visits, to find out how things are going with nominees and getting a sense of how many there are: "I

believe...” she said, “...that they...” — the WCB — “...have more boots on the ground and that is why partnership with them is so critical in administering this program and ensuring the health and safety of the workplace.”

So my question would be: What oversight, or site visits, does the WCB conduct to ensure that nominee employees don't face unfair or unsafe working conditions? I guess related to that would be: What role does the WCB play if a nominee files a complaint against their employer?

Ms. Waters: I can tell you that, with respect to the Yukon temporary foreign worker program, there still are workers here under that program and, in the last 18 months, we've inspected 19 such workplaces throughout the Yukon, and we continue to keep monitoring those. But, as I say, basically if there was a complaint, we would respond to it the same way we would respond to any worker who has a complaint in a Yukon workplace.

Ms. Hanson: Just to confirm, Madam Chair, there is currently a process in place for temporary foreign workers, but the nominee program — if I heard correctly — and I would ask the witnesses to confirm or to provide the correct interpretation — although there's an MOU with respect to temporary foreign workers, there really is more of a fuzzy area with respect to the nominee program, and that this is an area that the WCB and Advanced Education need to do additional work on together.

Ms. Waters: Yes. We'll follow up with Advanced Education and look at — try to replicate what we have been doing for the temporary foreign worker program in regard to the nominee program.

Ms. Hanson: The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board announced plans for targeted inspections in mechanical shops and garages from October 20 to December 15. To quote from the WCB website: “Targeted inspections will be used when we see troubling trends in a specific industry.”

What troubling trends were being observed by WCB in mechanical shops and garages? Have these inspections been occurring? What is the scope and scale of these inspections? I would presume that the inspections officers would be looking at whether these facilities are meeting physical safety standards.

I want to know whether the inspection officers are also ensuring that safety training and/or proper safety protocols are in place. Lastly, are government facilities being inspected by WCB as part of these targeted inspections of mechanical shops and garages?

Ms. Waters: Yes, our campaign, which is actually ongoing, was targeting a specific industry group — the industry group that had a 7.9-percent increase for next year for their assessment rates, which is a reflection of the claims costs. We have conducted, I believe, 27 so far, primarily in Whitehorse. There has been one outside of Whitehorse and we'll be going to the industries or the employers outside of Whitehorse who are within that industry category.

Yes, we have encountered a number of orders. Some shops have been really good and some have — we've written

orders in terms of a variety of things. Yes, our safety officers are spending — the first week we did it, they were spending a full day at different work sites, basically going through everything with them. It has been a very productive and effective process.

Ms. Hanson: Will this exercise that's targeting inspections in mechanical shops and garages result in a report that will form part of the next annual report of the WCB? I just want to remind the witness that I did ask whether or not government facilities are also being inspected by WCB as part of these targeted inspections?

Ms. Waters: In regard to this particular targeted inspection, government facilities aren't in that category. It's strictly the employers who are within that industry category. Just because we're doing a targeted inspection on this industry group doesn't mean we don't do inspections of other places. As part of our business, we do inspections, both because there have been complaints and because it's just a matter of doing the random review of business — so that continues.

Ms. Hanson: I just want to make sure I didn't miss something. The witness said that this was a targeted area because there had been a 7.9-percent increase in their assessment rates, which was reflective of issues in terms of incidents. I guess what I'm looking for is: Will the program of doing these targeted inspections result in findings, observations and, presumably, suggestions about remediation changes in workplace operations that will be reflected in — the only public document that I would be aware of coming from WCB is their annual report.

Ms. Waters: I would think because of this particular initiative, it will be shown — we will speak to it in next year's 2014 annual report to talk about the initiative.

It is a fairly new initiative for us in the sense that what we are trying to do is work with employers so that when we are starting to get those warning signs, like increased claims costs, we are trying to work with them to basically correct what the problems are, help them appreciate that prevention is the best approach and to work with them on how that can be undertaken — and certainly to prevent disability and keep workers safe.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you for that response. We have a lot of seasonal workers in the Yukon and many rely on employment insurance at some point during the year. I understand that most other jurisdictions consider employment insurance as earnings. However, it is my understanding that WCB Yukon does not, and that this can have a negative impact on seasonal workers when calculating their wage-loss rate.

Can the witnesses comment on that and provide a rationale for why the Yukon WCB differs from other jurisdictions?

Ms. Waters: I will have to get back to you with a response to that question.

Ms. Hanson: It is my understanding that there are no legislated timeframes within which the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board in the Yukon is required to respond to workers' requests, and that has to do

with requests to reopen or reactivate claims that may have been closed, and that this can sometimes drag on for a significant period of time. We have heard from workers that that can cause problems for people. What I am interested in knowing — I mean I have certainly heard a lot from the government about the importance of legislated timelines in other areas.

Is there a reason why there are no legislated timeframes from within which the WCB must respond to requests to reactivate or reopen a claim?

Ms. Waters: I will have to get back to you with that information.

Ms. Hanson: One of the things that I have had people come to me in my office with respect to WCB — and because I am not an expert — has to do with medical issues. There is a perception within some parts of the community, to put it as bluntly as people will say it to me, that WCB has their medical consultant and that WCB singularly refers or relies upon that medical consultant, which is often at variance with the opinions of other doctors and specialists who may be treating a worker who has a claim before the WCB. I would be interested in the witnesses' observations with respect to the perception that, if it came to, on balance, weighing the medical opinion of specialists and doctors who are not the WCB medical consultant, is it the perception out there from workers that the WCB will favour their medical consultant's opinion over that of other specialists? Is that fair to say?

Ms. Waters: Basically, any files I have taken a look at — if anything, it is the medical consultant who is identifying and flagging when items should go to a specialist. Certainly, we will ask for a third party independent medical examination and our consultant is very helpful in identifying for the case managers when issues do need to be referred to a specialist.

Again, I can only go anecdotally from what I have seen, but there is a tendency to refer to a specialist if the health issue requires that kind of professional expertise.

Ms. Hanson: I just want to go back to the opening comments and the stats that the chair put forward — sad stats with respect to 2012, one, and 2013, three, and to date, five deaths — worker fatalities — in the Yukon, which is a concern to all of us, but it must be a real concern to the WCB.

Can the witnesses give us a sense of their perception of what sectors those deaths have occurred in? Well, they know that, but can they tell us? This trend could be troubling if this was to continue. What do they see would be the kinds of initiatives necessary to reverse this back toward getting to the goal of zero deaths? I mean, we have heard the WCB talk over the years about this — that is your mandate. Your mantra is zero deaths — no death is acceptable.

If they could identify the sectors and what they believe is underlying this increase?

Mr. Pike: As the chair, I can't tell you the sectors they are in. That is an area that I am not really to be in, and Ms. Waters may refer to that in a minute.

As you mentioned, it is as troubling for us as it is for you. I would be remiss to say it's more troubling for us than it

should be for every other person who lives here, because we all have spouses, children and friends. No one organization cares more than the other. It is one of those dichotomies. If you look at our other stats, all our other types of injuries are decreasing, but the deaths are traumatic and they are unacceptable. I don't have an answer. If I had an answer, I would tell you what it is.

Ms. Waters: I would just add that the question posed has also been a question posed by our stakeholders when we've met and talked about this. They've asked a similar question. Is there something common to them?

The thing is, they're all different and they're all different industry groups too. There's transportation, there's occupational health, there's retail — so they are different. I will also say that, in most cases, the investigations are still ongoing, so certainly what will come out of the investigation are those kinds of recommendations. We will be looking at what kinds of learnings can we have from this but, you know, it really just goes back to some of the basics. It's really important to take the time to think about safety and do things correctly, and I think each case will show what could have helped to prevent it, because I would also say that they could have all been prevented — but it's all different.

Mr. Silver: I thank the witnesses for appearing here today.

Over the last six years, most industry sectors have seen, as we're discussing, a decrease in their assessment rates. Has WCB had to reduce their staffing and/or overhead because of this and, if not, how has WCB made up for the decreased revenue?

Mr. Pike: The board has been steadfast in that we provide the financial resources that our administrative staff need to accomplish our mandate. That's unequivocal to us. The reduction of assessment rates is a direct result of the decrease in claims costs. In other words, fewer people are getting hurt and they're off work for less time, and that's a real compliment to employees and employers. That's the driver of the fact that we've been able to reduce our assessment rates.

Mr. Silver: On building renovations — I'm going to be jumping all over here as I have a few questions that were already asked by the Leader of the Official Opposition. I apologize as I jump around here.

A concern that I have heard from a number of employees is: Now that the WCB building has the larger addition in the back of the building, will this actually affect assessment rates? I'm sure it won't, but this was a question that I was given from some constituents. Will any additional be hired with the larger space, and will this also impact the rates?

Mr. Pike: As I mentioned, the major factor in our rates is the cost of claims. The board has not approved any additional funding for staff positions, although I always have to make it clear that we do not make direct staffing decisions. Those are in the purview of our president/CEO. However, we have not approved any additional funding for additional staff positions. What the future holds — your or my crystal ball is equally valid.

Mr. Silver: I'm going to turn to the Dawson wastewater treatment facility. Last summer, it was reported that WCB was investigating unsafe work conditions at the wastewater treatment facility up in Dawson. There have been reports of mould in the past, and I was wondering if I can get an update on the working conditions of the site. Does mould continue to be an issue?

Ms. Waters: Through our initial investigation, we learned that the treatment facility's ventilation system was not built to standard. Since last summer, mould continues to be an issue at the site, but ongoing monitoring has resulted in prompt and appropriate cleanup of subsequent outbreaks. We continue to monitor the situation and frequently inspect the site. We were there two weeks ago and our investigation into the ventilation and mould issue is ongoing.

Mr. Silver: It is interesting that mould is continuing to be an issue. Is there at least some kind of preliminary investigation as to what is causing this mould? I mean, this shouldn't be happening in a brand new facility. Have there been at least some factors eliminated? Are they narrowing down what the actual root causes of this type of mould are?

Ms. Waters: Basically, what we are finding is that the ventilation system is too inefficient to take out the moisture. That is the key to the problem, so we are working with the parties involved to look at long-term resolution, but in the meantime, we are intervening in the short term — or they are, actually. We are ensuring that they do what they are supposed to do.

Mr. Silver: The last question on that is: Is it limited to one specific part? It is quite a complicated building with lots of moving parts, obviously. Is consideration all out, through the whole building, office space included, or is it limited to one specific area in the treatment facility?

Ms. Waters: I will have to get back to you with that information.

Mr. Silver: I will move to presumptive legislation for firefighters. The WCB act — and again, I am using WCB instead of the longer name — was changed in 2011 to include presumptive legislation for firefighters here in the Yukon. Has that provision ever been used since the changes were made?

Ms. Waters: Yes, we have had two cases since 2011 that have been accepted through the presumptive legislation.

Mr. Silver: Just to pick up from what my colleague was talking about — presumptive legislation and post-traumatic stress disorder — we did have this conversation with the Minister of Health and Social Services. I asked him the question at the time — and I just wanted a comment from the WCB. If you are working as an initial responder, with the current system that we have set up for dealing with and helping to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, is there an obligation for the worker to prove that this was work-related in our current legislation?

Ms. Waters: Basically, we would take the recommendation of the medical professional, because in reaching a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, they would be looking at what is causing that. If it is workplace-related, then it is accepted.

Mr. Silver: Therefore, there is a burden of proof, I guess, for the worker to go in and get some kind of diagnosis from the doctor, and then at that time the doctor will say whether or not it is work-related and therefore move forward.

Ms. Waters: Yes. We would basically have to accept the medical professional's perspective on what is causing the PTSD. We are not in a position to diagnose. That is up to a medical professional.

Mr. Silver: Back to the construction of the new WCB building — we talked already about who the primary contractor was. I was wondering: Do you break down the percentage of workforce to being local, compared to away, and do you have those numbers as far as what percentage of the workforce are Yukoners?

Ms. Waters: Yes, a very high percentage of the project's workers are Yukoners. Our contractor estimates the figure is about 85 percent. The main contractor is local — Ketz Construction. The bridging consultant is local, and the vast majority of the subcontractors are well-established Yukon companies.

Mr. Silver: Therefore, would you also have that same type of data for other projects — like, for example, the F.H. Collins school project? Would you be able to tell us what percentage of the total workforce was local at the school?

Ms. Waters: This is information we do not collect. The reason we have the information related to the construction that's happening at our building is we're basically managing that project. In terms of other projects that are happening in Yukon, if the employer is working in the territory for longer than 10 days, they must register with us as a Yukon company, but we don't then get further into the details.

Mr. Silver: The remainder of my questions are based upon WCB's annual report. On page 64 — there's an issue here of consultants versus regular employees, and it breaks down salaries — \$8.271 million for consultants, and contractors — sorry, salaries are \$8.271 million and then \$1.063 million for regular employees after that. So approximately 15 percent of the work being done is by contractors. I guess the question is: What's the nature of the work by these contractors? Then if the witnesses can reflect on how you rely on contractors compared to employees for the work.

Ms. Waters: The contract work includes our medical consultants, lawyers and IT personnel working on specific projects. For the expertise — in terms of the IT projects, we need expertise, and it's the nature of the projects that makes it more economical to use contractors, rather than making them permanent staff. We also have permanent IT staff, but these are for very specific projects.

Our medical consultants generally have their own practices and do a variety of work, not just for us, which is again why we would contract with their business. In the case of our lawyers, employees of WCB are basically Yukon government employees, and it's important for these legal positions to be arm's length from any specific employer to address any perception of conflict.

Mr. Silver: Also on page 64, there's a special line — Staffing and recruitment — \$182,000. What position is this to actually require a separate line compared to what we already talked about? Why is this not just part of the salaries and benefits? I guess, basically: Why is this a separate line item?

Ms. Waters: These are staffing costs unrelated to salary and benefits. The figure includes training and recruitment costs to hire and cover costs related to new hires. That's why it's distinguished separately.

Mr. Silver: Page 64 as well — three items: system development analysis, consultation or consulting fees and computer systems. What is being undertaken for this funding?

Ms. Waters: The system development costs are related to projects that are not capital. In 2013, this included the costs of developing a privacy and security policy and directives, as well as training the entire organization.

Our computer systems cost about \$284,000. That covered software support for all our business applications, annual licensing to various software vendors, licensing and support for core systems, such as Microsoft and VMware; and service agreements with the Yukon government for Internet, e-mail, database support, licences and access to e-mail via cellphones and mobile devices.

The other major cost was also a security initiative that allowed WCB to meet compliance requirements that allows employers to pay assessments using credit cards.

Mr. Silver: Page 18, Appeals at the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal — I'm wondering if this number — over half of the appeals were reversed. Is this a high number? I know it's hard to comment with all of these together as one particular group, obviously, but maybe comment on the level of appeals being reversed.

Ms. Waters: The workers' compensation system is designed to give our clients the opportunity to appeal decisions. It's an essential part of our system of checks and balances to ensure that injured workers get the compensation they are entitled to. When a worker receives a decision, they have two years to file for an internal review. If the worker is not satisfied with that decision, they can appeal to the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal. The reasons decisions are reversed on appeal are many and varied. These are usually complex files with very difficult situations with decisions that were open to interpretation. Our system is set up to make sure as many sets of eyes as possible have a chance to review this information and come up with a just and equitable settlement for the injured workers.

Mr. Silver: Just a couple more questions. Also on page 18, Reviews by Hearing Officer, this seems like a high number — 33 out of 53 were reversed or varied. I guess the question there is: Does this mean that additional benefits have to be paid out as a result of these reversals or variances?

Ms. Waters: In 2012 and 2013, our hearing officers were receiving administrative justice training, so a backlog developed, which accounts for the higher-than-average number of appeals recorded in 2013.

As I stated earlier, the reasons decisions are varied or reversed on appeal are many. The system is built to make sure

there are checks and balances and that every piece of evidence is heard and weighed. The goal is to make sure the injured workers and employers have confidence in the system, delivering the proper medical care and financial compensation they are entitled to. Some additional benefits are paid out. Sometimes there are less tangible issues at stake. It really depends on the individual case.

It is true, however, that injury costs do make up the largest share of the cost of running the system. One of the things that was happening back then — and we have actually changed it so we are hoping that there will be fewer internal reviews. Back then, if new evidence came forward, it would still proceed as an internal review, which then gets documented here. Now what we are doing is, if new evidence comes in, the case is referred back to the original adjudicator for the decision. This is something that is happening in other jurisdictions as well. We are finding that it is actually a better way, and it certainly has a more positive effect in terms of the worker's experience with workers' compensation.

Mr. Silver: Thank you for that explanation. The last question is on investigators — on page 14 of the annual report. How many investigators are in the unit? What is the budget? Was this unit not originally set up to ensure employer compliance? From this report, it looks like there are only 12 workers' files. There is a statement here and I would like to get an explanation as to what it means: "Investigators provided security services to the corporation..." Can the witnesses explain that statement?

That will be the last of my questions, and thank you very much to the witnesses today.

Ms. Waters: We have one investigator in the unit. The investigator's actual expenditures in 2013 were \$158,559. This unit was established to make sure the system is working fairly for all. Through its important work, the unit ensures the ethical and honest use of compensation funds. It probes the causes of workplace accidents and it holds Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board members, staff, employers, workers, health care and service providers accountable for their actions. It also helps ensure claimants get the benefits they are entitled to. For example, the case that is identified in our 2013 report is the work that the investigator did confirming a claimant's employment at the Clinton Creek mine, which ensured that his surviving family received the benefits they were entitled to get.

This year, we have kept our investigator very busy in being involved with the investigations related to the workplace fatalities.

You asked about the fact that, in the annual report, it talks about investigators providing security services to the corporation. What this means is, he provides physical security in the building, when needed, and oversees our video cameras and recording equipment. The investigator also assesses threats to the organization and its employees.

Ms. Hanson: I just want to go back on a couple of workplace safety issues. Again, a couple of these are issues that emanate from questions we've asked in the Legislature

and it has been suggested that it would be more appropriate to deal with the WCB.

In this case, it's an area that my colleague from Mayo-Tatchun had raised with respect to the tech wing at the F.H. Collins high school. The witnesses will be aware that a little over two years ago, in January 2012, the Department of Education received a report from the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to improve safety of both students and staff who utilized the tech wing. Although we all know that F.H. Collins is going to be replaced, the tech wing is going to remain. There were quite a few recommendations — there were 24 of them. Six of them talked about the woodworking shop, eight of them dealt with issues around the automotive shop, and 10 were on the machine shop.

WCB at the time — Occupational Health and Safety — made the comment that, although the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and regulations do not specifically apply to students, a teacher is considered to be a worker and is bound by the act and regulations. There were further comments about the duty of care that a teacher owes to the students.

My question, Madam Chair, is with respect to these issues that covered everything from safe disposal of hazardous materials to air quality and all of that. What follow-up was done, and is the WCB now satisfied that the tech wing at F.H. Collins is in compliance, or has addressed and rectified all of the concerns that were raised in that report?

Ms. Waters: Yes, all Yukon high school workshops have been inspected by Occupational Health and Safety officers. The identified concerns have been addressed.

Ms. Hanson: That is good to hear. Thank you to the witness for that.

One of the areas that we hear often in this Legislative Assembly and we talk about it is the difficult workplace — it is a demanding workplace — that is the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. We have heard, through people who talk to us, about injuries on the job. Clearly there are challenges dealing with people who, for whatever reason, are in conflict with the law and are incarcerated as a result.

The question I have — I have two aspects of this, or three probably. Does the WCB conduct workplace site inspections at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre? Has the WCB evaluated the new facility for injury prevention and does WCB review work safe protocols and safety training at the WCC?

Ms. Waters: I'll have to get back to you on that information.

Ms. Hanson: I would look forward to getting that, because I think this is a really important area. We know it's a challenging career and a work site, so any information that we can have so that we can ensure that, from a worker's point of view, this is also a safe place and that the mechanisms and protocols that are in place to address safety would be appreciated.

I would like to go back to the annual report and the stats, just in terms of — I raised a question with respect to trends and then I just stopped and I should have gone on, because I had made a note to myself that — curiosity — and I wanted to

get a sense from the WCB witnesses that we see a real sort of consistency with respect to the number of claims — a slight decrease over the year 2012 to 2013. So that sort of seems to stay on level, but it's a significant decrease in the number of claims that are accepted. I'm wondering: Is that because there's a more rigorous assessment of claims or what does the WCB attribute that lower number of accepted claims to?

Ms. Waters: I will have to get back to you with that information.

Ms. Hanson: Because I don't have the whole of the text of the report with me, which I normally would bring into this sitting, but I forgot to bring it with me so I'm just relying up on the raw stats here. When I look at the reviews by a hearing officer, it's more than doubled and so my question to the — well, it's basically double — witnesses from the WCB is: Why would there be a review by the hearing officer and why has that never doubled in a year? So it's gone from 27 to 53, that's the number that I'm referring to.

Ms. Waters: Yes, and that gets back to the information I provided earlier, which is that in 2013, we had a turnover of staff of our internal hearing officers so there was a backlog that occurred between 2012 and 2013. Our hearing officers — they require administrative justice training and so that sort of big change is a reflection of that; likewise, subsequently we're starting to do our internal reviews in a different way so it will be interesting to see the difference this year as well.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the witnesses for their patience on that, because when she just provided that clarification, the links are there.

I wanted to go back — my colleague from Klondike had raised an aspect of the issue with respect to workers who are not resident here, in terms of he was asking if the WCB kept stats on workplace sites and who flies in and who flies out. When the WCB has been present here in prior conversations, the previous CEO of the WCB had indicated that one of the challenges that the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board had faced in the past and faced — so this is going back a couple of years — was follow-up for workers who are injured when they are from another jurisdiction.

I would be interested if the witnesses could indicate whether or not, first, the incidence of injured workers from outside of Yukon has increased or decreased and, second, if they found ways to work with other jurisdictions in terms of the follow-up, because it's difficult to — well, you can explain it again, but what we heard from the previous CEO was that there were certain difficulties that presented themselves when a worker who lives in Alberta, for example, is relying upon the WCB in the Yukon. Is there any jurisdictional exchange or whatever?

Ms. Waters: Yes and, in fact, I actually have the privilege of sitting on the AWCBC, which is the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada, and I sit as the executive sponsor on the claims and benefits committee. It's made up of people, basically, who are working in the area of claims.

This issue of having employees in our jurisdictions from outside other parts of Canada is something that a number of us face. I can let you know that, as of yesterday, we had 176 claimants living outside the Yukon and, of those, 31 involved lost-time claims. So certainly in the last couple of years, this is something we have been working collaboratively on to ensure that we don't lose people and that we can get referrals to where services can be provided.

If, for example, somebody who was working here is from New Brunswick, the claims case managers can contact their colleagues in New Brunswick, and there's sort of a quid pro quo arrangement, where they will give advice on where services can be found, and likewise if that were the case with someone living here, we would provide help.

Ms. Hanson: It sounds like a practical arrangement that's being identified here. Is this achieved through service protocols? Are there any costs associated with the sort of more cooperative or collaborative work between jurisdictions?

Ms. Waters: In terms of our collaboration and our work arrangement through other workers' compensation boards, that would sort of be a service-in-kind, but certainly if health care professionals are providing the service, we would receive the billing on that and that would be part of their claim's cost.

Ms. Hanson: Earlier we talked about the issues of people who are on the nominee program and temporary foreign worker program and, just as she is raising the issues associated with having 176 claimants outside of Yukon and 31 of those having lost-time claims, are there any claimants who are actually outside of the country? I am thinking whether or not may have occurred, or occurs as a result of somebody who is injured here, but they haven't got any roots or family here, and they are forced to go back to their home country.

Ms. Waters: As far as I am aware, the majority of our outside Yukon claimants are actually within Canada. We have very few — not that we don't have foreign workers coming to us and having services from us but, in terms of them returning to their country — I know that at the height of the temporary foreign worker program, we were quite concerned about that. But it hasn't become an issue yet. I mean, that is not to say it couldn't happen.

One of the changes that has happened among the foreign worker programs is that, a few years ago, one of the concerns was that employers would send their injured worker back to their home community before sometimes we even know, but that is not the case. The changes allow them to stay here — and again, I am learning this more through other jurisdictions, because we haven't ourselves had this experience.

The injured foreign worker can stay in the jurisdiction long enough to be seen and get the medical attention they need and get it set up, but again, that is based on information from other jurisdictions, because our experience with that kind of a case — we have not had.

Ms. Hanson: I appreciate the comments that we are aware and, as she says, the situations where — in Alberta, for example — where workers have died on the job and then the challenges to their families and others, because the employer

was from another country. We do have situations where the employer is not even a Canadian company, but a company from another nation, and that can cause serious issues.

The question I would have is that, it is one thing for us to say that workers can stay here and have their injuries treated here and the compensation be provided, but what assurance does the WCB have — and what systems are put in place — to ensure that workers whose first language is not English are aware of their rights?

We started off the conversation this afternoon on some of the questions that we had raised with the Minister of Education and the need for cooperation with Advanced Education on the nominee and temporary foreign worker program, and heard that, on one, there is quite a bit and, on the other one, there is not yet.

So I'm just wondering what systems are in place — or should be in place, I guess, if this work hasn't been undertaken yet — to ensure that somebody who is basically in a pretty precarious position, by the fact that they're here under some sponsored relationship and don't have English as their first language, how would they know that they have a right? How do we as a society have assurances that they're not going to be more vulnerable when they're injured?

Ms. Waters: Certainly our safety officers — when they go into work sites where there are workers who have another language — part of what they're looking at is the fact of whether the workers do have the information they need, so they will look at ways of getting that information. One of the things we have access to is a language line, which provides a service of interpretation. Likewise, we have access to interpreters here in the Yukon, so that is something that safety officers are mindful of — ensuring that workers do understand both their rights, in terms of the workers' compensation system and in terms of being entitled to a safe workplace. They will look at ways of getting that.

Ms. Hanson: Just to confirm then — that works quite well, or could work quite well, because the WCB does have in place — as I understand it, I just want to make sure — an MOU that deals with the issues with respect to temporary foreign workers, but because there isn't currently that information with respect to nominees and the issues with respect to what oversight or visits — because none of that would be in place if we haven't got — as I understand what we said, this is an area that still remains to be worked on between WCB and Advanced Education — the whole issue of nominees — so that those people don't necessarily have the kind of interaction that was just described.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I just want to interject, because it's unfortunate — I know I can't speak to absences of certain members on certain days, but we were in quite a lengthy debate in the Department of Education on this very issue and if, in fact, the member opposite would go back, there are provisions. In fact, we do administer the Yukon nominee program. It is true that we don't have a specific agreement with the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, as we did with the Yukon temporary foreign worker program. Of course that agreement, or that program, came to an end as of

the end of July. Certainly we do work with Workers' Compensation, though, when there are nominees who are accepted, to ensure that the workplace — that there is health and safety scope provision within that agreement.

With respect to the agreement that we had — as we did with the Yukon temporary foreign worker program — we do not have that agreement. We haven't had that agreement since the very beginning of that nominee program in 2007; neither does any other jurisdiction in the country, for that matter.

I would also like to point out that, had the member opposite reviewed Hansard, there is a tripartite agreement, which is unlike any other jurisdiction in the country. In fact, where there is a nominee and when it is accepted, there is an opportunity to meet in person with members of the Department of Education Advanced Education, as well as the employer and the employee, in which we go through roles and responsibilities and provide that clarity and have that exchange of information with respect to that particular agreement.

I don't have the benefit of having my officials here. Of course, that's why we're in debate on the Department of Education, but I certainly look forward to having that added debate and having the Leader of the NDP speaking to these issues and certainly having that clarity.

With respect to language requirements, I don't have that specific information at my fingertips, but there are language requirements also, I understand. I would have to follow up with my officials, as I mentioned. I don't have that ability to do that because we're not in Department of Education debate here, but I will certainly endeavour — as I understand it, those language requirements have been heightened in terms of the temporary foreign worker program on the federal side. Of course, we don't have anything to do with that program from Yukon's point of view, but I believe that, even with the business nominee program and the Yukon nominee program, language requirements have also been heightened as well through Immigration Canada. Again we administer that program through an annex agreement. We have had that agreement in place since 2009 or 2007, I seem to recall. But again, I would be happy to follow up with the member opposite on these other related questions.

Ms. White: I thank the Minister of Education for that clarification. I had lots of questions about the nominee program, and I'm going to bring the ones I did not get forward to the witnesses right now.

When I asked about oversight for the nominee program, part of my concern was that we have people coming over — and making sure that they're protected and taken care of. I asked what kind of oversight the Department of Education does in keeping track of relationships and what's going on between employers and employees. This is directly quoting the minister on December 2: "There are a number of initiatives underway, some of which I have tried to speak to during Question Period, as good as that gets." So this is the part where it involves Workers' Compensation. "The Department of Education works in partnership with Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to ensure

that employers applying for foreign workers demonstrate established health and safety programs in all of their workplaces."

So my question for the witnesses is: Does WCB know of all the workplaces within the territory that have — we've mentioned temporary foreign workers, but also nominees, as they are foreign workers?

Ms. Waters: As I said earlier, we are aware of employees who have come through the Yukon temporary foreign worker program, based on our agreement with Advanced Education and the MOU. We don't have the same arrangement in regard to the nominee program.

Certainly with the changes that have now occurred with the temporary foreign worker program, we will probably be following up with Advanced Education. Basically, we respond to any issue and so that issue could be referred to us through whatever — Advanced Education hears about their nominees — but just as any worker in Yukon is entitled to contact our organization if they have a concern.

Ms. White: Just for clarification — because during the debate of Advanced Education, I was told that the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board ensures that employers applying to have foreign workers demonstrate established health and safety programs. Just for clarification and to have it verbally on the record — that only applies to the temporary foreign worker program that's done by the federal government as opposed to the nominee program that's done by the Yukon government?

Ms. Waters: The MOU was in respect to the Yukon temporary foreign worker program, which, I understand, no longer exists.

Ms. White: Just to be perfectly clear — the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board does not have a list of businesses and employers in the territory that employ foreign workers?

Ms. Waters: Only those foreign workers who have come through the Yukon temporary foreign worker program.

Ms. White: Just to make sure it is perfectly out there — so the nominees are not covered in the same way and the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board does not know in what businesses they work in the territory?

Ms. Waters: No, we are not aware of the nominees who are in the Yukon through that program.

Ms. White: Can the witnesses please tell me how many temporary foreign workers are currently still in the territory and at how many different businesses or workplaces or jobsites are they working?

Ms. Waters: I believe I had indicated that there are 19 worksites that we are currently monitoring. The total number of foreign workers associated with those — I don't have that number.

Ms. White: Can the board endeavour to get us that number please?

Ms. Waters: Yes, we will follow up with that information.

Ms. White: When we were talking about the air quality within the Closeleigh Manor offices, you mentioned the

industrial hygienist that you have on staff. Can you please describe for me what their skill set is and what they do for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board?

Ms. Waters: I will have to follow up with you on that information.

Ms. White: Just to put that on that same bank of information, I am looking specifically — if you go on-line and you look at industrial hygiene or what an industrial hygienist does, it often talks about that they can be indoor air quality specialists. It is just to find out what kind of specific skills the person within your department has. That would be great to know.

I was going to ask — probably for my last thing. The workers' Day of Mourning is a big day for me sadly, as it's a big day for five more families and friends this year. The memorial fountain — so we broke ground and that was a really exciting day and it's next to the river, which I'm really excited about. Can I get more of a timeline as to when we can expect our first ceremony down there?

Ms. Waters: We certainly were working hard to have it all erected by the end of the summer at least. As you can appreciate, it was a very wet summer. We are relying on volunteer employers and workers to basically create this wonderful place and we just ran out of time, so we are hoping that in the spring the remaining work can be done. We do have the statue in Whitehorse. It's waiting to be erected and the Federation of Labour is basically — we're working with them to sort of determine when we'll have the unveiling so I'm sort of — I can't promise you a date yet. Sorry.

Ms. Hanson: If I may, I would like to go back to an area that we have touched upon in the past. I would like to get from the witnesses an update with respect to WCB's work surrounding young workers safety and get a sense. There have been a number of — WCB, over the course of the last number of years, has focused attention on the importance of initiatives that focus on the safety of young workers.

I would be interested if the witnesses could identify what the trends are and what the statistics are showing us with respect to young worker safety and reported incidents and however the stats work with respect to claims that affect workers who would be classified as young.

When you are answering that, if you could just identify what your definition of young worker is, that would be helpful, so we have a parameter within which we are operating. Oftentimes we have a lot of workplaces and work sites that are remote, particularly when we have lots of young folks who are doing work in camps and other areas. We have seen in the past, unfortunately, some young workers who have been killed on the job.

I am interested in the definition of young worker and what you are seeing in terms of trends in terms of young worker safety on the job in the Yukon and what proactive initiatives WCB has sponsored or undertaken to address young worker safety.

Ms. Waters: If you refer — and I realize you don't have the annual report in front of you, but on page 12 and 13 of the annual report, we do speak to our young and new

worker initiatives. There are quite a few of them and I will also say that in terms of what we are seeing in the trends, the good news is that in 2013 we had less injuries among that age group — I'm talking about 30 and younger.

For example, in the age group of 20 to 24, in 2012 there were 142 accepted claims in that age group, and in 2013 there were 116, so it's moving in the right direction. Likewise in the age group of 25 to 29 — in 2012 there were 148, and in 2013 there were 120.

We're pretty proud of our programs aimed at young people. We're working with the schools. We actually have a second young worker person with us — I think for about a two-year period — and we're going not only to the high schools, but now into the colleges. We're really trying to work hard at getting that message of prevention out.

Ms. Hanson: That is indeed good news that we see a decreasing trend in terms of incidence of accidents or workplace injury for younger workers. Can the witnesses indicate the sectors where there is the preponderance of incidents with respect to workplace safety issues as they affect younger workers?

Ms. Waters: I will have to get back to you on that. We do have it broken down in terms of what work area is by occupation, but I don't have in front of me that sort of cross-section of information — young workers and what areas — so I will have to get back to you with that.

Ms. Hanson: With that, Madam Chair, I would like to thank the witnesses for their forbearance and their undertaking to follow up on a number of areas that we have raised today. It's always very helpful to get the perspective of the witnesses from the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

The conversation that we have each year generates more questions, and that's a good thing because it means that we are beginning to get a sense of the challenges that WCB faces and what the workers and employers as well face. I appreciate your presence here this afternoon. With that, Madam Chair, I say thank you.

Hon. Mr. Graham: Madam Chair, on behalf of Committee of the Whole, I would like to thank Mark Pike, chair of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, and Joy Waters, president and CEO of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, for appearing here today. I appreciate your coming.

Witnesses excused

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Madam Chair, I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Cathers that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

May the House have a report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole?

Chair's report

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole adopted Committee of the Whole Motion No. 8 regarding the appearance of witnesses before Committee of the Whole from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. today to discuss matters related to the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

Committee of the Whole also considered Bill No. 15, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2014-15*, and directed me to report progress.

Speaker: You have heard the report of the Chair of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Monday.

The House adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

The following documents were filed on December 4, 2014:

33-1-100

Advice to Premier Pasloski re Mountain View Golf Course, letter re (dated December 4, 2014) from David Phillip Jones, Q.C., Yukon's Conflict of Interest Commissioner, to Sandy Silver, MLA for Klondike (Pasloski)

33-1-101

Advice to Premier Pasloski re Mountain View Golf Course, letter re (dated December 4, 2014) from David Phillip Jones, Q.C., Yukon's Conflict of Interest Commissioner, to Kate White, MLA for Takhini-Kopper King (Pasloski)