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HANSARD

Thursday, April 4, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2019 Spring Sitting

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DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Don Hutton, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, April 4, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Ms. Frost: I ask those in attendance today to please help me in welcoming the nurses who are here today to celebrate the Yukon Registered Nurses Association's anniversary. We have Christina Sim, who is the current president of the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, Dwayne MacDonald and Hanna Szefer. We also have Francis van Kessel and Myra Iles — a former president — and her partner Joe Iles, Sean Secord, and of course we have Emerald Gillespie. Welcome and thank you so much for your service.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Could we please welcome the chair of the Yukon Lottery Commission, Mr. Frank Curlew, and also the vice-chair of the Yukon Lottery Commission, Ms. Bunne Palamar.

Applause

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I would like to ask my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to help me in welcoming Valerie Royle, Jonathan Parker, Corrie Gallienne, Alicia Debreceni, Ewa Dembek, Keshah Austin, Cameron Webber, Linnea Blum, Rick Lemaire and Sophie Tremblay. Thank you very much for coming today, and welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of 25th anniversary of Yukon Registered Nurses Association

Hon. Ms. Frost: It is an honour today to rise on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to the Yukon Registered Nurses Association. This year represents a milestone for the organization as it celebrates 25 years of representing the nursing profession here in the territory.

The Yukon Registered Nurses Association is one of seven nursing jurisdictions with a dual mandate. It is both a professionally led regulatory body and a member association. As a regulator, it ensures that nurses are providing ethical, safe and competent care. As an association, it supports the

pursuits of excellence in nursing practice by ensuring that its members are well-trained and competent in providing nursing services to Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, the work of the YRNA is critical, and its visions are directly related to my mandate as the Minister of Health and Social Services. The vision of the Yukon Registered Nurses Association is to promote wellness and foster a safe and healthy Yukon. My priority is to enhance long-term well-being and quality of life for all our citizens.

It is no surprise that the Department of Health and Social Services and the YRNA are working together. Our ultimate goal is the same — and that is to provide the best possible health care and prevention services to Yukoners.

Today, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all nurses in the territory. These tireless professionals are the cornerstone of our health care system. They provide front-line care to Yukoners in our hospitals and our community health centres and our long-term care facilities. They even work directly with Yukoners in homes, providing people with the care they need to age well in their own homes with dignity and respect. For that, we're all grateful because we have all been impacted in some way by nurses being present for very personal reasons in our communities, as we have aging parents and an aging population.

Our nurses don't just provide people with physical care — they help people emotionally and socially — especially in our communities where they are the primary providers for our health and social services. In the time I have spent talking to and working with nurses, it is clear to see that their work is not just a profession — it's a vocation — and one that takes incredible strength, dedication and selflessness.

To all the nurses in Yukon, I would like to say mahsi' cho. Your work is indeed valued. You are crucial to the health and well-being of Yukoners. You are in a position of trust and responsibility, and I know that nurses are proud of the work they do every day — rightfully so — and so are we.

The Yukon Registered Nurses Association is an important stakeholder in our health care system, providing important guidance to the Government of Yukon as we work to improve the ways in which we deliver programs and services.

As a member of the midwifery community and committee, the Yukon Registered Nurses Association has provided valuable input that will help us shape midwifery in the Yukon. Its input will help us to ensure that our proposed approach to regulate midwifery will meet the needs of Yukoners.

The organization also provided valuable input toward the legalization of cannabis as well as our opioid action plan.

This weekend, the Yukon Registered Nurses Association will be celebrating its 25th anniversary at its annual general meeting. On behalf of all Yukoners, I would like to say thank you to the Yukon Registered Nurses Association and all its members for their hard work, professionalism and integrity. Mahsi'.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, or YRNA.

The YRNA started from humble beginnings as the Yukon Nurses Society in the 1980s. At that time, registered nurses were licensed by other Canadian jurisdictions until 1994 when the *Registered Nurses Profession Act* came into effect. Many RNs have worked tirelessly in a volunteer capacity while still providing Yukoners with essential services.

Their vision includes advocating for their profession, community and patients, all through fundraising efforts. Their work led the Yukon to be a self-regulating nursing jurisdiction and for the establishment of the YRNA. As a dual-mandated organization and one of the younger nursing regulatory and association bodies in Canada, the YRNA is small but mighty, having to perform functions to the same level as larger jurisdictions with a fraction of the resources.

Being a self-regulated profession is a privilege. It means that the professional members set their own parameters around licensure, complaints and discipline — in compliance with relevant legislation, of course. The YRNA holds a high standard of accountability both to its members and to the public. It's a reminder that public trust holds important social meaning. The YRNA is the only self-regulating profession in the Yukon and is governed by a board of directors that is composed of YRNA members and public representatives through its self-established bylaws and policies.

As the YRNA enters its 25th year, it is also a celebration of nursing leadership. The YRNA has celebrated many firsts. The first RN in the territory to hold a bachelor's degree in nursing is Maureen Turner. The first RN to hold a master's degree in nursing is Patricia McClelland. Both are long-time Yukoners. The YRNA was one of the last jurisdictions to regulate nurse practitioners in 2012, but it also holds some of the more modern legislation for nurse practitioners in Canada.

While the YRNA celebrates its 25th, let us also celebrate nursing in the Yukon and consider the future of nursing, where workplace concerns are fully addressed respectfully, appropriate patient-to-staff ratios are realized and collaborative care is an interdisciplinary priority.

Yukoners deserve a high quality standard of care, and nursing is in a prime position to address some of the inefficiencies within our current health care system.

Thank you to past and current board members for your dedication to the nursing community and to all Yukoners.

Applause

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Yukon Registered Nurses Association.

Through their long and colourful history, the YRNA mandate of public protection and the promotion of the nursing profession continues to remain at the forefront of their work. They support Yukon registered nurses, nurse practitioners, allied professions and all Yukoners who access health care.

Nursing has a proud history of service. It's the reason that we have all come to trust registered nurses to provide the very

best in expert professional nursing care. Nurses are the embodiment of dedication, competence and compassion. Very few of us need to be reminded about the individual support that we enjoy from our nurses. The interests of the patient are always of first concern for anyone in the nursing field, and at one time or another, each of us has been a patient and enjoyed their care. Registered nurses, nurse practitioners, certified nursing aides and licensed practical nurses work in our hospitals, our continuing care facilities, our communities and our homes. They champion the cause of public health and are essential in the concept of collaborative care.

These men and women face long hours and are closely involved in all aspects of primary health care and health education in every aspect of our lives. We thank all in the nursing field for their continued devotion to their calling. Without them, life as we know it would be much more difficult.

Thank you for your continued work and your dedication. We look forward to another 25 years.

Applause

In recognition of Green Shirt Day

Mr. Adel: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to Green Shirt Day.

Mr. Speaker, Green Shirt Day — which is coming up on Sunday, April 7, 2019 — is a day when we encourage all Canadians to register to become organ donors.

The day came about after the Humboldt Broncos bus crash which occurred last April 6. Sixteen lives were lost in the crash, Mr. Speaker, but one young man who lost his life as a result of the crash was Logan Boulet. While Logan died as a result of his injuries, his parents offered to donate his organs so that six other individuals could live on.

Green Shirt Day is to remember and acknowledge the lives lost as a result of the bus crash, but it also encourages Canadians to talk to their loved ones about organ donation and, ultimately, to register as organ donors.

Research shows that 90 percent of Canadians support organ and tissue donation; however, only 20 percent of Canadians have actually registered to be a donor. In the Yukon, as of March 29 of this year, there were 4,375 registered donors. That's less than 10 percent of our population and much lower than the national average of those registered to be organ donors.

According to Health Canada, 4,500 people are waiting for organ or tissue transplants. On average, 250 Canadians die every year waiting for a transplant.

I encourage all Yukoners to fill out an organ donor registration form and give others the chance of life. The registration form can be found at any physician's office and on the Health and Social Services website. Your name will be placed on the Yukon organ donor registry. It will come up as a little heart on your new driver's licence or it will be on your health care card up on the top right-hand corner, where it will say "yes" to organ donation.

Most importantly, talk to your family about your wishes. They need to know how you feel, because doctors will support

wishes of the family at the time of death. One donor can save up to eight lives when a loved one passes away. It's an extremely emotional time for all families. Knowing that the death of a loved one can save or enhance the health of another can provide some comfort to families.

It's a great legacy to leave, so when we wear green today, keep that in mind. Talk to your families and see what you can do to help others.

Applause

Mr. Istchenko: Today I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize the first annual Green Shirt Day, launched this year in honour of Logan Boulet and organ donation awareness. Logan Boulet signed up to be an organ donor in honour of his late mentor and fitness trainer, who had himself been one. He signed up on his 21st birthday, unaware that his decision would change the lives of a number of people in just five weeks.

Logan was one of the 16 killed in the tragic Humboldt Broncos bus crash in Saskatchewan. April 7 marked the day that Logan Boulet donated six organs. In response to the news of Logan's donation, Canadians stepped forward in droves, increasing organ donation registration by nearly 100,000 — now referred to as the Logan Boulet effect.

The Humboldt disaster changed the lives of individuals and families involved, and it affected Canadians in so many ways. During the Sunday night concert in Calgary right after the crash, Rod Stewart paused to pay tribute to the families. He said, "... I'm in Canada and they're your kids. My son plays hockey, and he plays in this area. He has done all those journeys. It just brought it all home to..." all and to him "... how quickly life can end."

Tributes to the victims and their families poured in from Canadians and others around the world. One particular tribute swept across the nation, starting with the single tweet that read, "Leaving it out on the porch tonight. The boys might need it... wherever they are." Canadians left their hockey sticks out in a nation-wide gesture, often accompanied on social media by the hashtag #PutYourStickOut.

Mr. Speaker, we put our stick out last year for Humboldt, and it's out again. To Humboldt — we're thinking of you all and keep your stick on the ice. To all Canadians who haven't done so, consider signing up to be an organ donor. Logan did it and helped save multiple lives.

Applause

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to acknowledge the importance of organ donation in what I hope will become a national rallying cry of Green Shirt Day. Over 1,600 Canadians get added to the organ transplant list every year, and some of these are Yukoners. The Canadian Transplant Society reminds us of the sad reality that people who still have so much to give their communities, their families and the world around them die as they wait for organ donation.

While 90 percent of Canadians are in support of organ and tissue donation, only 20 percent have made plans to

donate. For those waiting for a life-giving chance, this is a real problem. The issue of organ donation has started to be addressed in a big way after Logan Boulet's parents honoured his 21st birthday wish and donated his heart, liver, lungs, kidneys and corneas — a gift that saved and improved the lives of six individuals across Canada.

Bernadine and Toby Boulet wanted to honour their son and find a way to create something positive out of the tragedy that ended the lives of 16 people in the Humboldt Broncos bus crash. They have taken their message of organ donation on the road in a cross-country bid to raise awareness. It's not only about the importance of signing up to be an organ donor, but it's about sharing your wishes with your family so they can honour your decision when the time comes.

Mr. Speaker, I know folks who have both donated and received life-saving transplants. It doesn't take long for a person to fill out a form, but it's truly a remarkable gift that any person can make.

Applause

In recognition of the Vancouver Yukoners' Association

Ms. Van Bibber: I rise today on behalf of all members of the Legislative Assembly to pay tribute to the Vancouver Yukoners' Association. In 1928, 91 years ago, the first gathering of ex-Yukoners and northerners began in Vancouver, British Columbia. In 1928, there was not the instant communication that we know today. Telegraphs and snail mail were the norm. News was sporadic, and quite possibly, the main facts changed a bit upon arrival.

This year at the River Rock Casino Resort on April 6 to 7, there will be about 290 guests having a glass or three, reminiscing and enjoying each other's company. The theme this year is "White Pass & Yukon Route". Just to connect seems essential to the well-being of Yukoners who have left the Yukon and need to know what is happening in their real home.

We all look forward to seeing who shows up and which families come, and to share in the successes and stories of similar folk. Throughout the 91 years, much has transpired — too much to list and mention — but we all have a small part to play in the history of Yukon.

Besides the annual reunion weekend, five luncheons are hosted throughout the year. The association sponsors an annual scholarship in trades through the Yukon Foundation. For the past eight years, money has been raised by silent auction, and the board decides on a project back home to develop. What a range of projects — Yukon River side benches for Dawson City and Whitehorse, wheelchairs for the Whitehorse General Hospital, medical equipment for the Dawson City cottage hospital, a new fridge for the Vancouver cancer respite home where many patients are Yukoners, the Yukoners cancer care fund, and a historic clock at the Mayo museum. In 2018, \$3,618.90 was donated to the Marsh Lake Community Society for a brush attachment to their snow-clearing tractor — how Yukon is that?

My best friend and mentor, Helen Munro Fitch, said — and I quote: “It was the association’s intention to raise profile at home so people would understand that we are spiritually part of the history and landscape, even though we don’t live in the Yukon anymore.”

So a very special thanks to the board and members of the Vancouver Yukoners’ Association for remembering home and contributing so much to Yukon. The amazing Hank Karr and the Canucks have played for the past few years, and once again this weekend, they will be providing the music — so delightful.

So spread the word, and if you have not attended yet, make it a note on your to-do list. Approximately 100 Yukoners are flying out today and tomorrow for this very special annual gathering, including the Commissioner of Yukon.

I say that you know you are a Yukoner when you leave Yukon and you fly outside on Yukon’s airline, Air North, to attend Yukoners’, to visit current Yukoners and ex-Yukoners.

Applause

Speaker: Introduction of visitors outside of the time provided for introductions.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I just wanted to make sure that we have the Assembly welcome Mr. Kevin Hannam, who is here today. He works with our Economic Development team, but has done absolutely phenomenal work — both on policy in some of our trade files and also with the media. There is nothing like being in the public and hearing — time after time — people come up to you to talk about how client-centric he is and how much they appreciate his respect in dealing with Yukoners.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I have for tabling today the Yukon Lottery Commission’s annual report for 2017-18.

I also have the *Rapport sur les services en français — 2017-2018*.

I have three legislative returns for questions from the members opposite.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I have a legislative return related to questions during debate on Bill No. 208 from March 14.

Ms. Van Bibber: I have for tabling a letter dated April 1 to Premier Silver regarding government’s failure to properly consult about Mandanna Lake regulation changes.

Speaker: Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Mr. Adel: I rise to give notice of the following motion:
 THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to implement the independent power production policy.

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

THAT this House supports construction of a new school in Whistle Bend, including design and construction of a stand-alone daycare on the school campus, and urges the government to consult with First Nation governments, the City of Whitehorse and community stakeholders on these matters prior to commencing construction.

Mr. Cathers: I rise to give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House issue an order for a copy of the Department of Environment’s presentation about the winter tick problem shared at the Biodiversity Forum in early March and any reports upon which that presentation is based.

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motions?
 Is there a statement by a minister?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Yukon’s creative and cultural industries strategy

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I rise today to speak about an initiative that I’m very passionate about — a strategy to grow and develop Yukon’s creative and cultural industries.

The creative and cultural industries are a diverse collection of industries brought together in a single dynamic sector that generates cultural, artistic and heritage products and content for consumers and marketplaces. This includes writing and publishing, sound recording, visual and applied arts, film and interactive media, live performance, heritage and libraries — to name a few.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2016, culture contributed \$56.1 million to Yukon’s GDP, which amounts to 2.1 percent of the territory’s total economy and 857 jobs. In addition to the monetary contribution to our economy, the creative and cultural industries showcase and promote Yukon’s rich heritage, culture and artistic practice, contribute to the social and economic well-being of our residents, and provide a spark for business innovation.

Increased support to grow and develop the creative and cultural industries has consistently been identified as a need and an opportunity over the past two decades. It is a mandate item of this government to support growth in the cultural industries sector. Today, I am proud to announce that we will launch the first phase of a strategy process with the creative and cultural industries sector at a public engagement session on May 3. This will begin the development of a multi-year strategy that aims to guide government programs and supports

to advance, strengthen and sustain Yukon's creative and cultural industry economy.

While the sector already provides a significant contribution to our economy, there is incredible potential and opportunity, and there is much room to grow. According to the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, the arts, entertainment and recreation industries, combined with information and cultural industries, contributed more to Yukon's economy in 2017 than agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing. It was also more than accommodation and food services and even more than finance and insurance industries.

This new strategy will establish a solid foundation from which creative and cultural activities in the territory can find new pathways to flourish. A unified, government-wide approach for the creative and cultural industries will provide an opportunity to make measurable and tangible strides in both economic and social development. The Department of Tourism and Culture will work in partnership with the departments of Education and Economic Development and with the Women's Directorate on a one-government approach to this strategy.

On May 3, individuals and organizations from across the Yukon that work in the creative and cultural industries will gather for a one-day session to share input and insight on the needs of the sector, the process for continued engagement and potential areas that a strategy could support. Additional engagement sessions will be taking place in early summer 2019 in Whitehorse and other Yukon communities.

I look forward to working with the sector over the coming months to develop the creative and cultural industries strategy. We look forward to sharing the draft strategy this fall and implementing the resulting action plans as soon as possible.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you to the minister for updating us on this initiative.

On May 1, 2017, the Minister of Tourism and Culture was asked about the impacts of the carbon tax on the tourism sector. In response, she told this Legislative Assembly that any extra costs the tourism operators get as a result of the carbon tax will be offset by, in her words — and I quote: "... a corresponding rebate." That makes it pretty clear that the Minister of Tourism and Culture has committed that each individual tourism operator will get all the extra money that they pay. However, that does not appear to be the case. The rebate scheme is not designed that way. It is based on calculating your assets — meaning that if you lease your equipment and your property, you would not be eligible. The GST will also be charged on top of the carbon tax, and Yukoners will not be getting any of that extra GST revenue rebated. So it is clear that this is just a tax grab.

Can the minister confirm if every single individual tourism operator will get every single cent they pay back as a result of carbon tax? Is this guaranteed? If not, why was that commitment made in this House?

The Premier has said that the carbon tax will be collected from tourists and visitors and that they will not be eligible for rebates. This means that the carbon tax will also make our

tourism product more expensive. Can the minister tell us if she has done an economic analysis on this system which amounts to a tourism tax?

Ms. Hanson: We would like to thank the minister for this announcement today regarding the development of a new Yukon creative and cultural strategy. We acknowledge the tireless efforts of so many people across the spectrum that makes up Yukon's vibrant cultural and creative industries. Many of these people have worked and volunteered for years, powered by their commitment to the importance of this broad sector to the overall health and vitality of Yukon — not solely in economic terms, but also in the less tangible but equally important aspects of appreciation of beauty, art, music, film, heritage and innovations in technology.

Yukon's cultural and creative sectors contribute to a deepening respect and knowledge of our cultural diversity. There are so many dimensions to be explored as this important strategy is being developed. The Yukon New Democratic Party has long championed the need for such a strategy and, from it, the putting into place of clear goals and expectations across the sector, along with clear and reasonable terms for government to invest in, partner with and grow this sector of Yukon's economy which, with the right tools and support, is poised for phenomenal growth.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you to the members opposite for the comments. I am going to stick to what we are announcing today which is the new creative and cultural industries strategy, and I will save my responses for another time regarding carbon tax and GST in relation to the tourism industry.

Thank you to the Leader of the Third Party for her insights. These are things we believe as well.

It is such a great time to launch a new strategy such as this. Yesterday, the Minister of Economic Development talked about the Canadian Federation of Independent Business's release of their annual report — so proud that Whitehorse was ranked first out of the 125 cities covered in this study as a great place to start businesses and for entrepreneurship. This strategy can absolutely play into that.

I'm looking forward to listening to the sector and to working with the community on developing this strategy, which has the potential to make such significant impacts in our territory.

The strategy is also a step toward contributing to economic reconciliation with Yukon First Nations. With Yukon First Nation cultural practices being reclaimed and celebrated, focusing on our efforts on the development of a creative and cultural industries strategy provides opportunities for a solid economic foundation from which First Nation cultural activities in the territory can absolutely flourish.

Creative and cultural industries are a pathway for women and their self-determination — especially indigenous women. I had the great pleasure of attending the bead, hide and fur symposium over the weekend which was hosted by the Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association, and I sat in

that room with those women — all women — as they created. It was an experience like no other. I think that's really at the heart of this strategy — that's what we're striving for — for our communities to be well and to celebrate our culture in Yukon.

Engagement sessions throughout Whitehorse and the communities over the following months will gather the input of this sector and ensure that this strategy meets current needs and provides appropriate actions, creating sustainable development for years to come. A strategy directing support for the creative and cultural industries aims to make measurable and tangible strides in both economic and social development, fulfilling our promise to build healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities. I am pleased that we are taking this first step to fulfill our commitment for a creative and cultural industries strategy, and I am really looking forward to working with all of my colleagues in a one-government approach and reaching out to — as far as we can — our communities and to our creative and cultural community as we go forward.

Speaker: This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Resource Gateway project

Mr. Kent: On November 13, 2018, the Official Opposition asked the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources why his government had missed the construction deadline for the Resource Gateway project.

On November 15, the *Yukon News* asked the department some straightforward questions about the government's commitment to this project. One of those questions was: Will the project be completed in 2024 — the date the Liberals had committed to?

By November 19, the department had a very clear answer — which was no. But the *Yukon News* didn't get a response until December 3. The problem was that the Legislature was still sitting and the minister didn't want to face further questions about this issue.

On November 21 — the second-last day of the Sitting — the Cabinet office intervened and emailed the department this exact quote: "... please hold the response on this media request."

Can the minister tell us if he made the decision to prevent the release of this information?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Interesting. I was just preparing to see if there were some questions on the Resource Gateway today.

First and foremost, I think it's important, when you're in this role — when you're going to walk out and make a statement, that you understand the content of what you're going to say and that you know the facts to be true. Certainly back in the fall of last year, that was something that I was preparing to do — to make sure that I had an understanding of the scope of the project.

I think that part of the confusion we have seen here — this goes back to June of last year when the member opposite, who is asking the question — a former minister — talked

about the Resource Gateway and how we were — I think it was — I could be off by a bit — 155 days behind schedule. I went back to the project plan that was actually his project plan, and I went through it. What's interesting is that there were almost 20 things that were all supposed to be done by the fall of 2016. I think about three of them were completed.

What's really interesting, to start this conversation — it's interesting when the people across the way are asking if I put the doors and roof on the house when they hadn't even had an opportunity to get the basement done while they were in. I look forward to questions two and three as well.

Mr. Kent: As I mentioned in my initial question, four days after the initial *Yukon News* inquiry about whether the project would be completed by 2024, the department had a very clear answer, and that was no. What we have here is a very clear timeline showing that the Liberal Cabinet intervened in a response to reporters. The department had clear answers to the questions asked within days. Unfortunately, the minister and political staff intervened to tell officials not to release those answers.

As reported by the *Yukon News*, the facts were twisted and massaged by the Liberal Cabinet office over the course of two weeks. The original answer to the question of whether the project would be completed by 2024 — which, as I mentioned, was recommended by the department — was no. After two weeks of the Liberal spin cycle, the answer was that the present plan was to complete all of the components of the project in 2024.

But the question remains: If answers were ready for the media by November 19, why did the Liberals prevent the release of this information for two more weeks?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: First and foremost — and as I shared with the media — I was not against looking for flexibility within the project scope or timeline. Within that, it could even mean allocating portions of that project to other areas where there were priorities. Since then, there have been other projects — since the original work was done — even from the amendment that was signed in June 2016, which put some other restrictions on it. It was signed by the member opposite.

When you talk spin cycle and when you talk about the political spin cycle — do you know what's really interesting? We just put a press release out today, and it's a press release announcing that we have agreement with Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, that we are going through the environmental process and that we have actually gone through the appropriate steps that you have to do in Cabinet to have a strong process of integrity and accountability.

My question to the member opposite is: Why, three years ago, did you put a press release out — almost to the day — announcing that you had a project underway when nothing was done? That's a political spin cycle.

Mr. Kent: For those wondering what happened in all of this, here are the facts: A reporter asked the government if they would meet their deadline for construction of an infrastructure project. Within days, an answer indicating that they wouldn't was ready to be sent back to the reporter. Then, as a *Yukon News* editorial said — and I quote: "Liberal

cabinet officials got involved and the truth got lost in the mud.”

This isn't the only file we've seen this on. We have seen the Liberals manipulate the facts on group homes, on exploration numbers, on carbon taxes — and the list goes on and on. But let me ask the minister this very simple question: Since, in this case, the reporter was asking if the government would have the Resource Gateway project completed by 2024 — as they had committed — and the minister knew the answer to that question was no, but instead of simply saying no, he gave a spin — then why did he choose to not be up front and just answer that question directly?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: First and foremost, if we look at a scope change on the Resource Gateway project where we look at reallocating portions of it to other areas of priority, then we would be able to potentially have this project finished within the timeline that was originally laid out — even though the first two years of the project timeline were lost under my friend across the way.

When we talk about political spin — Mr. Speaker, is it political spin when you put out a press release three years ago for work that has just been accomplished today and you had no work done? Did they even tell the mayor in Carmacks when they asked for a quote — Mr. Bodie, a great mayor in Carmacks — that none of the work was done when they wanted to put his words in their press release? That seems like political spin. Walking in and meeting with the entire mining sector and all the First Nations on May 2014 and saying that, in one year's time, you guarantee that you will have class 1 in across the Yukon and you don't do it — is that political spin? I think so. That is the contrast between their government and our government.

Question re: Energy supply and demand

Mr. Hassard: What a difference a year can make. Last year, the minister surprised many Yukoners by announcing that he was pursuing a \$1.7-billion infrastructure project to connect Yukon's grid to BC. At the time, we pointed out that the feasibility on this had already been done and that the economics were not there and that there was no interest from BC. But the minister was eager to talk big and look like he was taking action. So last November 19, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was still boasting of this plan to connect the Yukon grid to BC. During debate in the House he said — and I quote: "... we have put together a proposal that we would submit to the federal government to a specific fund. We are just sort of working on dotting our i's and crossing our t's on that." Then yesterday in Question Period, the minister announced that he has abandoned this project.

What happened between November 19 and now that made the minister finally realize that this project was not feasible?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: First and foremost, I think that our colleagues and our team here — whether it is energy or the economy — a modern Yukon, of course, is always going to balance economic diversification and environmental

stewardship, and that is why looking at electrification is really important to us.

Before the member opposite asks the questions, he should probably know the facts. The work that was done under that government was about building a transmission line and selling energy out, not bringing energy in. We spent over \$100,000 to look at that project. I think they spent about \$4 million on their work on the project. First of all, totally different projects — not about selling energy from next generation hydro. It was about looking at a deficit, taking into consideration the concerns we have — like what is happening with the snowpack. The numbers have just come out — when the Yukon Energy Corporation and Yukon Development Corporation came in here — these are factual things.

I think that Yukoners want us to look at all particular options. I don't think that people in Watson Lake think it is a waste of time and energy to look at what it would look like to do a transmission line to Watson Lake. I think that is good work that we have undertaken.

I don't have insight into the financial books of BC Hydro. Since then, we have heard that BC Hydro has different priorities — they are in a pretty tough situation. I think that our work is something that can be built on later, but we will continue to work at domestic options, and I look forward to question two.

Mr. Hassard: So I guess we can add the transmission line to the minister's pile of "all talk, no action" issues.

Despite the fact that an earlier feasibility study said that a connection to the BC grid would cost \$1.7 billion, the minister stubbornly dug in and said that he would get this done. At the Opportunities North Conference here in Whitehorse last October, the minister got up and bragged about how he was pushing this project forward, but it looks like it was the latest shiny object that caught the minister's attention for a bit, and then when he got bored, he dropped it.

On November 19 of last year, the minister told the Legislature that the Liberals had spent \$150,000 on this project. Can he tell us what that money was spent on?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, our due diligence was that we had undertaken with Midgard, who looked at high-level engineering work — a feasibility study that took into consideration what the rough estimates were of doing grid connection work and power line upgrades throughout the Yukon — all great work, especially if we look at other potential hydro projects in southern Yukon and if we look at options with Atlin. These are all things that are good work that we can continue to use.

Mr. Speaker, what we are talking about is this constant theme about making statements and not getting it done. I think I just touched on this — walking into a room and telling the complete mining sector and all First Nations that you're going to have something done in a year, and you never get it done. You walk into the Yukon Convention Centre and you make sure that you say that you are going to do a great connection, but no work is done and you don't get it done. You talk about IPP, and then you just don't deliver on it. We really know, at the end of the day, who is getting stuff done and who didn't

get stuff done. I will let Yukoners be the judge of that, but I think that is why we are seeing economic growth while we balance the economy.

Mr. Hassard: Well, I think it's quite obvious what Yukoners are seeing here today — it is that the minister is all talk and no action when it comes to addressing industry's concerns around timelines and reassessments that he promised — can't get 'er done, Mr. Speaker. Getting Ottawa to overturn their small business tax hike like he promised — can't get 'er done. Getting a First Nation procurement policy at the same time as the general policy like he promised — can't get 'er done. Now he has spent the last year boasting that he was going to get a \$1.7-billion electrical infrastructure project done. Well, let's just say that no one is surprised that this is just another one falling into the "can't get 'er done" pile.

Can the minister tell us if the \$150,000 that he spent so far is the total amount spent on this project to date?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Most of what the Leader of the Official Opposition just said is not factual, to start this off — to lead into this. Did I say that we were going to do some work on the grid connection? Absolutely. We have done some work. We think that it's good work. We can use a lot of that data as we move forward on other projects.

Once again, I am happy that I get to work with my colleague on fibre. As we speak with our colleagues from the Northwest Territories, we are happy that this work is going forward. I'm excited to work with a number of groups on independent power production — not just putting \$1 million in the budget and telling the people in Kluane that they have a project, but actually having the mechanics in place so you can see a turbine get built. Flying to Old Crow with my colleague and making sure that solar is in place. We are looking at NorthLight, having a 20,000-square-foot hub supported for entrepreneurship and then being noted across the country as a centre for entrepreneurship and, all at the same time, watching the biggest gold mine in Yukon history get built.

I think — welcome, interesting — take a little credit for that one too, I guess. We will give you credit for that one too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker; we know what the facts are.

Question re: Electoral reform

Ms. Hanson: In the 2016 election, the Yukon Liberal platform stated quite clearly that if they formed government, the Liberals would — I quote: "... strike a non-partisan Commission on Electoral Reform to consult Yukoners on possible options for territorial electoral reform."

Yukoners should be going to the polls in 18 months, but they have yet to hear from this government on any movement toward fulfilling their Liberal campaign commitment for a commission to address electoral reform. Can the Premier update this House on what steps he has taken to meet this Liberal platform promise?

Hon. Mr. Silver: I can start by saying that I have invited both of the leaders of the two opposition parties to meet directly after Question Period to discuss exactly this.

Ms. Hanson: We will look forward to that. It is nice to get invitations when there is not subject matter. I am going to

continue to ask the Premier to outline this for this House — not for a private meeting.

The electoral reform is important to a great many Yukoners. Every party included it in its platform in this last election. In the fall of 2018, the government went out with another engageyukon.ca questionnaire on proving democracy in Yukon. The survey spoke of civic education, voter information, how to register, when and where you vote, et cetera. There were questions asking Yukoners what a commission should do to ensure that there are meaningful conversations about our current electoral system and what changes a commission should consider. This engagement closed over three months ago. To date, there is no "what we heard" document and no report back to the public or this House.

What were the results of the engageyukon.ca exercise that asked Yukoners about democratic participation and about the work of a non-partisan commission? When will Yukoners see, at minimum, a "what we heard" document reflecting their views?

Hon. Mr. Silver: Electoral reform is extremely important to our government, and we want to strengthen the fairness, the integrity and the accessibility of our democracy. That is why we did go out and ask Yukoners. We asked them about what areas of our electoral system are most important to them when it comes to reform.

We heard that the system that we are using to turn our votes into seats in the Legislative Assembly is a priority for many Yukoners but that the rules for the political parties and elected officials and the way that Yukoners' voices are being heard are important as well. These priorities will guide the work of an independent commission on electoral reform that will be appointed very soon.

Like I said in my first answer, I have already reached out to the House Leaders to inform both opposition parties today that we were going to meet and have a discussion right after Question Period. We will do that. We will talk to them — like we committed to in a motion — about what they want to see in an electoral reform committee, and then we will get that work moving as soon as possible. But I need to speak to the leaders of the opposition parties before that good work begins.

Ms. Hanson: It is nice of the Premier to inform us today, at this moment, what he was asking us to meet about. We politely agreed to meet with the Premier because we do agree to meet with the Premier when he requests. We weren't told what he was wishing to meet with us about.

You know, Mr. Speaker, if a commission is announced today — if it visits communities, if it hears from Yukoners and if it produced a report with recommendations — we are looking at about a year's worth of work. If, unlike their response to the Yukon Electoral District Boundaries Commission, this government accepted the recommendations that will require legislative changes, it appears that this government's inaction leads many to conclude that this electoral reform really never was a priority for this Liberal government.

Can the Premier explain why he hasn't acted until now in this Chamber to say he's going to fulfill this and why he has not done anything to date to fulfill this commitment? Or is he going to confirm what Yukoners are beginning to believe — that this is a repeat of his federal Liberal counterpart's rejection of electoral reform?

Hon. Mr. Silver: I have reached out to the members opposite in the past about this very topic, and we are going to talk about exactly that today. There has been work done — absolutely — on this. We are encouraging Yukoners who are interested in helping strengthen our democracy to apply to be members of this commission — but again, we want to speak with the leaders of the opposition first.

More information about that commission will happen as soon as possible — pretty much as soon as I can meet with the members opposite. We remain committed to an open and non-partisan process and to looking forward to hearing final recommendations from that commission. We will talk with the leaders of the two opposition parties.

By the Leader of the Third Party's tone, you would think we were doing nothing on this, when I'm telling you right now that there has been work done already. We had an engageyukon.ca survey out; we have been working on that. Now I'm reaching out to the members opposite. Imagine, if we weren't moving forward about this, what we would be hearing in the Legislative Assembly today.

Question re: Carbon tax

Ms. White: The Yukon government's new carbon price has provisions that exempt placer and quartz mines because they're emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries. Just like placer and quartz mines, Raven Recycling is an emissions-intensive trade-exposed industry. Unlike those other operations, Raven Recycling is not exempt from the territory's fuel tax. Raven Recycling employs 25 people, is one of the Yukon's biggest exporters and facilitates a huge portion of the Yukon's waste-diversion efforts. Raven has requested an exemption to the carbon price on the same principle that saw both placer and quartz mines exempted.

Mr. Speaker, will this government apply the same standard to Raven Recycling as they have to placer miners and exempt them from the carbon price?

Hon. Mr. Silver: I will let the Minister of Community Services add to this as well, because he did meet with Raven today. Yukon has over 800 NGOs — non-governmental organizations — that vary in terms of their size and their purpose, and the Yukon government is happy to provide \$40 million annually in funding to these areas.

We have spoken today about the Herculean effort it would be to include in the rebate system all the NGOs in all of their different forms. That being said, we have increased the allocation from the recycling fund diversion credits from \$650,000 to \$850,000 to ensure that non-refundable recycling continues.

Raven Recycling receives funds through that transfer payment agreement of the Yukon government. This is in addition to the money they receive from the City of

Whitehorse. Part of this fund is a waste diversion credit provided on a per tonne basis and is over a half-million dollars per year. That's the good news, as it means that more waste is being diverted from the landfills.

We really appreciate the work that Raven Recycling does. We are meeting with them now to talk about the indirect costs, and we will continue to work with them and continue to provide funding for their programs. As I said, actually, in 2018, Raven Recycling received from us over \$2.6 million. As I said yesterday, we will continue to work with this organization to ensure that it has the necessary funds it needs.

Ms. White: The Premier has been heard saying that they may help out Raven Recycling after they review their funding, but you can forgive Raven for being skeptical about those commitments, considering it is coming from a government that has frozen NGO funding territory-wide.

During his speech on the new carbon price, the Minister of Community Services rationalized not giving Raven Recycling an exemption by saying — and I quote: "... that if they were to get an exemption... they will stay dependent on fossil fuels."

A fair argument, Mr. Speaker — and we believe in those principles too. However, when you consider that this government has exempted both quartz and placer miners from the carbon price, you understand that this statement really is a hollow talking point.

Mr. Speaker, we either exempt all emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries, or we exempt none of them. Does this government not recognize the parallels between placer miners and quartz miners, who have been exempted from carbon price, and Raven Recycling, which will be forced to bear the full brunt of it?

Hon. Mr. Silver: I take exception to the preamble from the member opposite. Suffice to say, though — keeping with the topic — we gave Raven Recycling in total over \$2.6 million in 2018. As I said yesterday, we will continue to work with this organization to ensure that it has the necessary supports to continue providing valuable services to Yukoners. We said that we would meet with them. Just today, the Minister of Community Services did meet with Raven Recycling, and he can speak in the next answer to this question.

Raven Recycling does hire a shipping company to send recycling Outside for processing. If located in Yukon, this company will receive carbon rebates. If they are using a shipping company out of British Columbia or Alberta, then that company is already subject to carbon pricing in those jurisdictions.

Ms. White: We wonder on this side how much has been given to both the quartz and placer mining industries in fuel tax exemptions.

The Premier said that they are relying on federal definitions, but this is his legislation, and it is his job to make sure that it works for Yukon. When the Premier introduced the carbon-pricing legislation, he said — and I quote: "This legislation recognizes the price of pollution and helps move us

to a cleaner economy with good jobs for Yukoners and a sustainable future.”

Nice words — but what this legislation really does is hurt an organization whose founding principles are based on environmental stewardship because, to quote the Premier: “... it would be a huge task for us to figure out.” Those are inspiring words, Mr. Speaker.

Raven Recycling has stated that this carbon price may lead to downsizing of their operations and to layoffs. How can this government claim that their carbon-price legislation has anything to do with environmental sustainability when mining companies get a free pass, but no relief is given to Raven Recycling, an organization that has fought for sustainability and environmental stewardship in the Yukon for decades, because it is just too much work?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, I did meet with Raven Recycling today. I sat down and spoke with them. In fact, I want to start off by saying that the member opposite talked about a freeze. We just increased how much we are giving to the recyclers in the territory by over \$200,000 in the last six months. That is not a freeze; that is an increase. That is much more than what Raven Recycling is concerned about.

By the way, there were some misunderstandings. They thought that the carbon price is for the whole of the transportation network. It is not; it is just for the Yukon. That’s the new part. So we are working through those numbers with them.

By the way, they are not energy-intensive because they hire a shipping company to do this. It is the shipping company that is energy-intensive — which, by the way, gets a rebate if it is a Yukon company. I encourage Raven Recycling to please hire Yukon companies.

What I want to say is that Raven Recycling does an amazing job. All of our recyclers — P&M Recycling, Raven Recycling — do an amazing job. They provide an essential service for us. We are going to continue to support them.

I want to say that when I asked Raven Recycling about the principle of a price on carbon, they too support it because it is a user-pay, polluter-pay system, which is exactly what they believe in.

Question re: Private sector employment

Mr. Cathers: On March 12, the government released its monthly employment report which confirmed what many Yukoners already knew: Private sector growth under the Liberals not only stalled, it’s shrinking. But the public sector is growing.

Government’s own stats contradict the picture the Premier is trying to paint. According to the government’s own stats, private sector employment is down 7.4 percent from December 2016, while public sector employment increased by 16.25 percent.

There has been a 50-percent increase in the number of people who are unemployed compared to a year ago, and this is in the face of the Liberals massive government hiring spree.

Why is our private sector shrinking?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I will take an opportunity over the weekend to review the statistics from 2016 to 2017. I think what we’re really seeing — whether it is the projects in Mayo or the other robust growth when it comes to construction — at this particular time is really phenomenal numbers when it comes to unemployment and also when it comes to injection of the private sector.

Some of the things that we’re doing are ensuring that our Community Services department, working with Energy, Mines and Resources and others, are once and for all looking at really taking an approach to ensuring that land development is done not just by the Yukon government, but also making sure that there are real opportunities for the private sector.

You have heard it over and over again from a number of ministers everywhere that we see that here are opportunities to not just use chapter 22, but to see where the private sector can come in. We are going to continue to do that. Those are things that will ensure that we continue to grow our private sector. Of course, with some big employers coming online, we’re also looking to see those numbers increase like we haven’t seen over the last number of years.

Mr. Cathers: It seems to me that the government is not paying attention to important indicators or they are conveniently ignoring them because they don’t fit with their talking points.

In this year’s budget, the Premier bragged about employment being high but forgot to mention job growth under his government is in the public sector. His speech said, “We are looking forward to our economy remaining strong over the coming years as the territory’s existing industries expand and we intensify efforts to diversify the economy.”

He forgot to mention that the private sector has shrunk under his government. According to government stats, private sector employment was down by 7.4 percent compared to December 2016, which is a loss of 900 jobs.

One reason for the drop in the private sector job numbers is that Yukon’s share of national exploration investment is expected to drop to its lowest levels in five years.

Why is mineral exploration dropping here in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I think one thing that’s important — I don’t want Yukoners to be misled, so I will clarify what we’re talking about here. When I start to look at our exploration numbers under my friends from across the way — 2014 facts here: 2014 exploration plus appraisal expenditures were \$107 million. Then in 2015, they were \$92.2 million. Then in 2016, they were \$90.4 million. Then in 2017, we saw the increase to \$168.7 million and 2018, exploration plus appraisal at \$186.1 million. Then, even in a constricted economy, looking at, I think, somewhere at approximately — and I will say “approximately” because I know this will come back for discussion — I think approximately \$130 million.

So even with a constricted economy when it comes to the sector across Canada — I urge anybody to go on the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada site to see some of the quotes that are being said. Even under that pressure, we are still seeing — I think it is almost \$22 million

more being projected to be spent than the best year of the last three that happened. Once again, let's contrast. Are we in a better situation now by not being in multiple Supreme Court cases and not fighting with everybody? I would think that Yukoners would say yes, we are.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, that is a lovely talking point, but it doesn't line up with the facts. In the last 24 months, private sector employment in the Yukon is dropping. Mineral exploration is down. Companies are raising concerns with permitting that are falling on deaf ears in the government. The carbon tax is causing NGOs to say they will have to lay people off. There is a shortage of housing, and houses that are on the market are expensive.

Meanwhile, the Liberal government continues on its hiring spree. According to the Bureau of Statistics, the private sector has lost 900 jobs since the Liberals took office. The Liberals like to take credit when things are going well, but duck and play the blame game when things are going badly. The other day we even heard the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources blame West Africa for declining exploration numbers in the territory — which is a new one, Mr. Speaker.

Despite the Premier's claim and the minister's excuses, new jobs in the Yukon are in the public sector, not in the private sector.

What is the Liberal government going to do to reverse this picture?

Hon. Mr. Silver: We will commit to not going back to the old ways of the Yukon Party. That is what we will do.

When we had the Yukon Party in, there was a recession. We have a great economic update here — an economic forecast. The labour market continues to perform well. There is a positive economic climate resulting in increased incomes. The average income earning is fourth in Canada — a new record high there. There are record highs all around. Disposable income grew 5.8 percent in 2018 — the strongest growth in a long, long time. Growing income and a growing population — our population is growing as well — forecast to be 44,000 by 2023. Population and employment gains are also permanent drivers.

Yes, if the member opposite wants to pinpoint small, short-term trends — we could look at the long-term trend, and long-term trends are determined based upon a philosophy here, and that philosophy is that we need to work with First Nation governments when it comes to mining issues. When it comes to carbon pricing, the members opposite — the Yukon Party voted down — voted down in second reading — giving money back to placer miners, giving money back to the mining industry, giving money back to the business community and giving money back to Yukoners.

Again, they signed on to the Vancouver Declaration committing Yukon to a carbon price, and now they are voting against giving that money. What would they have done?

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Ms. McPhee: 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.

Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Deputy Chair (Mr. Adel): Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Motion re appearance of witnesses

Committee of the Whole Motion No. 9

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I move:

THAT from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2019, Chris Milner, chair of the Board of Governors of Yukon College, and Karen Barnes, president and vice-chancellor of Yukon College, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole to discuss matters relating to Yukon College.

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by Ms. McPhee:

THAT from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2019, Chris Milner, chair of the Board of Governors of Yukon College, and Karen Barnes, president and vice-chancellor of Yukon College, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole to discuss matters relating to Yukon College.

Committee of the Whole Motion No. 9 agreed to

Deputy Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 11, Women's Directorate, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair: I now call Committee of the Whole to order.

Bill No. 210: *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — continued

Deputy Chair: The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 11, Women's Directorate, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Women's Directorate

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Good afternoon, everyone. I would like to welcome my official Valerie Royle to the Legislature today. She will be assisting me as we work through and present the budget for the Women's Directorate for 2019-20.

The Women's Directorate works to advance women's economic, legal and social equality. We promote gender-equitable outcomes in government policy-making, legislation and program development to support critical action on addressing gender-based violence in our communities and to support our organizations in their essential equality work and programming for Yukoners.

We also work to support many of this government's goals and performance measures, particularly those around more inclusive and equal communities. We fund equality-seeking organizations that work tirelessly to build healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities and we work with other governments on important shared initiatives, like the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This furthers our shared goals while also improving government-to-government relationships with First Nations to help foster reconciliation.

One of the key ways this government works to grow safety, equality and inclusion is through our efforts to reduce all forms of violence against women. This year, the Women's Directorate has taken important steps in addressing many of the mandate items. The Women's Directorate is leading the coordination and response to the commission for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls on behalf of the Government of Yukon. The Women's Directorate has the full support of all government departments and is working closely with Yukon indigenous women's organizations, family members and Yukon First Nations in this work.

The Government of Yukon remains committed to supporting the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and we continue to work with our local partners on supporting the inquiry. Our government provided final submissions to the commission orally at the end of November 2018 in Calgary and in written format in December 2018.

While the task of undertaking his inquiry was monumental, and the work of gathering stories and evidence could easily continue, we are looking forward to the commission's final report which is due at the end of April 2019 and — more importantly — to take action to address the root causes of this crisis.

Since the commission began its work here in Yukon, I have invited the commissioners back to close the circle in a ceremony following the release of the final report in April. I am so pleased that the Women's Directorate is able to provide support for this event by way of funding and logistics support from the directorate's senior advisor for the national inquiry. The senior advisor works alongside indigenous women's organizations, First Nation governments and all Yukon government departments to ensure that the important mandate of the inquiry is addressed in Yukon. I would like to say thank you to Chantal Genier who is that person and who is a Yukon First Nation woman from the Ta'an First Nation. We will continue to fund the position of Senior Advisor for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls until the end of December 2019. This is one

FTE at \$97,000 within the Women's Directorate. This extension will enable us to continue to advance collaboration with family members, our indigenous women organizations and self-governing First Nations, among others, to determine how we move forward together.

I would now like to address the directorate's work in improving services for victims of violence and sexual assault in Yukon, an initiative we led for government alongside with our colleagues in the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services. We remain committed to the development of a sexualized assault response team, or SART, to support improved access and care for victims of sexualized violence. Key components of the SART implementation are well underway or completed, including training for physicians and nurse practitioners in sexual assault examinations. We have identified a host for the crisis line and are in final discussions with a local organization that has skilled sensitivity and experience in this field. Our partners in the Department of Justice have made good progress, recently hiring the victim support coordinator who will in turn hire the on-call victim support workers who will attend to victims in need after-hours. Our goal is to create a gold standard of holistic care, and we do not want to compromise client and team health and safety for faster implementation. Therefore, we are taking the time needed to get this high-priority initiative right.

As a result of our government's SART initiative, victims of sexualized violence in Whitehorse and in rural communities now have priority access to mental wellness care through our mental wellness and substance use hubs. During the implementation phase, we continue to offer core support for victims through victim services, project links, hospitals, health centres, mental wellness and substance use services, the RCMP, Crown witness coordinators and other services and supports within the territory.

To reiterate, victims still have access to services that will assist them, whether they present in a time of crisis or with an historic trauma. An important goal of the SART is to improve the coordination so that victims receive the services they need when they need them and on their own terms. Victims will have access to comprehensive care and support as they navigate social, medical and legal systems. This includes emotional support, health care and evidence collection, as well as assistance with reporting assaults to the RCMP, if desired.

I am really proud of this shared initiative. We will include victim support coordination, navigation and training in victim care, after-hours assistance and support and health system improvements, including updated policies and procedures, to ensure victims receive a high standard of care.

The budget for SART is being drawn from a number of departments. The Women's Directorate is pleased to support the SART crisis line with a budget allocation of \$60,000. I expect the ministers responsible for those departments involved will speak to their own contributions.

The Government of Yukon provides funding to many of the incredible grassroots organizations that have a profound impact at the community level. The result is positive relationships, increased dialogue and collaboration with non-

governmental partners, all of which are important to supporting community health and well-being. That is why we continue to support many community-driven initiatives in this budget, such as \$95,000 for A Safe Place at the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre. A Safe Place offers low-barrier after-hours and weekend services to marginalized women and their children experiencing housing and food insecurity, or mental health issues, in Whitehorse.

There is \$93,000 for women's legal advocacy services, working out of the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre. This program develops and delivers support services to women involved in the legal and justice system, including criminal justice, victim support, child protection, landlord and tenancy issues, Wellness Court and family legal matters. There is \$42,000 for the Whitehorse affordable housing complex housing program, managed by the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, which provides programming and services for tenants of the 32-unit complex in Riverdale. The programming helps families maintain a successful tenancy, fosters independent living and provides a safe and healthy environment.

There is \$100,000 for the women's advocate program, housed at the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre. \$70,000 of this is for the women's advocate position, while the remaining \$30,000 goes toward public education. The women's advocate helps women to access basic services and information, assists them when dealing with government agencies, liaises between women, government agencies and other community organizations, and advocates on behalf of women to agencies, organizations or individuals.

As Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, I take my responsibility to build safer communities and increase our government's efforts to reduce violence against indigenous women and girls very seriously. The indigenous women's equality fund, or IWEF, was created in 2018-19. The funding provides a total of \$253,000 per year in operational support to the three indigenous women's organizations in Yukon. In 2018-19, our government partnered with the Government of Canada to provide additional funding of \$173,500 in the 2018-19 budget and \$347,000 per year for each of 2019-20 and 2020-21, to be shared equally among the three indigenous women's organizations.

This increased funding recognizes the challenges that indigenous women's organizations have faced in accessing funding and capacity development. We will continue to work collaboratively with our community partners to address concerns raised by the indigenous women's organizations, increase accessibility to violence-prevention funding, support the missing and murdered indigenous women and girls inquiry and work together on implementing the recommendations arising out of the interim and final reports of the national inquiry.

Our government wants to further enable the critical work that indigenous women's organizations have been doing for many decades in this territory. To support local organizations that we partner with on these initiatives, we are revamping current funding programs to make funding more readily

accessible to communities outside of Whitehorse as well as supporting continued efforts to meet the needs of community partners.

By providing this operational funding, we are helping to ease capacity issues with staffing and reporting within Yukon indigenous women's groups and meeting a consistent demand for stable support for the long-standing work of these three indigenous women's organizations.

Our four non-indigenous women's organizations remain under the women's equality fund, with a total of \$197,000 in ongoing operational funding: Les EssentiElles, Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, Yukon Status of Women Council and Yukon Women in Trades and Technology.

As well as the resources that I have mentioned, we continue to provide \$200,000 per year for the prevention of violence against aboriginal women's fund to support such initiatives as land-based workshops on the traditional territories of our partner First Nation governments and the Yukon-wide speaker series that profiles indigenous women who are working toward reconciliation.

This government is committed to reducing the rate of violence against indigenous women. We are putting funds where they make the biggest difference — into the hands of grassroots indigenous women's groups. The Women's Directorate will continue to empower equality-seeking organizations and support their important work at the grassroots level through transfer payments and program funding of close to \$1 million. We hope that all of these efforts contribute to reconciliation between Yukon's indigenous and non-indigenous people in our territory. At the same time, we are striving to ensure that these reconciliation efforts reach the most marginalized among us — women, youth and the LGBTQ2S+ members of our community. Reconciliation must make things better for all of us, and the Women's Directorate is committed to ensuring that no one gets left behind.

As this House knows, the Women's Directorate, with our colleagues in the Department of Justice, has conducted a review of legislation, policies and practices to ensure the Yukon government meets the rules and social standards for LGBTQ2S+ non-discrimination. Over the past winter, many LGBTQ2S+ individuals and allies participated in community dialogues and focus groups throughout Yukon, led by the non-profit organization Qmunity. We heard priorities, concerns and suggestions on how to improve Yukon government programs and services to ensure non-discrimination and improve inclusivity. The engagement was designed to be as safe and as inclusive as possible. To that end, there were multiple ways to participate throughout the process with varying levels of confidentiality.

We have just received the final report from Qmunity. While we haven't had an opportunity to review it thoroughly, it provides recommendations on how to improve services and programs based on what we have heard through the engagement process. The report will help us develop a survey so that the needs of the community can be prioritized. This will help determine legislative priorities for future legislative

Sittings. Legislation is just one piece of the larger puzzle of LGBTQ2S+ non-discrimination.

Some have argued that legislation is not the priority and that government policies and practices have a more direct impact on this community. Therefore, the Government of Yukon will develop an action plan to ensure programs and services are LGBTQ2S+-inclusive and responsive. We look forward to starting this work later this year.

Our government is committed to inclusiveness, equality and respect for the diversity of all Yukoners. As Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, I will continue to support the directorate and highlight the important work they do in strengthening the directorate's role within Government of Yukon and supporting increased training and policy advice internally to help ensure that gender and diversity issues are considered throughout our government's work.

In many parts of the world, this is called gender mainstreaming. In Canada, this is referred to as gender-based analysis plus. Certainly there is momentum to formally integrate gender-based analysis plus throughout government decision-making, beginning with the federal government as well as Alberta, Quebec and, more recently, British Columbia. It is one of the most important levers that governments have.

The Women's Directorate cannot be the only department in Government of Yukon undertaking gender and diversity analysis. Leaving it to a few policy analysts means that we have inconsistent application throughout government. To address these concerns, in January 2017, the Women's Directorate prepared a three-year gender-inclusive diversity action plan, also known as GIDA, to help government employees consider the needs and experiences of diverse Yukoners in their daily work. This action plan offers a framework for a coordinated government-wide approach to inclusion, cultural relevance and diversity.

One of the key strategies identified was to work to build capacity in each government department. Last fall, the Women's Directorate and the Department of Tourism and Culture initiated a project to apply GIDA to departmental policies, programs and services. The objective is to sustainably integrate gender inclusivity and diversity analysis into programs and policy development, evaluation and the work of Tourism and Culture department-wide.

Potential impacts may include the promotion of gender equality within Yukon cultural industries, new ways of collecting and displaying information at archives or additional support for women-owned businesses in the tourism industry.

At the corporate level, the Women's Directorate continues to offer training on GIDA, with the next one being offered in May 2019. In partnership with the Public Service Commission, we will also be piloting new unconscious bias training throughout the summer.

Perhaps I will just wrap up and start taking some questions, as my time is running short. I look forward to continuing to work in 2019-20 by leveraging every penny that we have of our \$2.1358 million in our O&M budget. I will conclude my remarks at this point, Mr. Deputy Chair, and take questions.

Ms. McLeod: I want to welcome the deputy minister to the Chamber today to help us out with our questions to the minister.

Today, I have some questions about the budget primarily, but I have a few other policy issues as well, I suppose.

Last October, the minister was part of a joint announcement of funding for women's groups, and \$1.6 million was announced for the three aboriginal women's groups. I am sure that of course that money was welcome news. I have a question about how that money is going to be rolled out and whether or not it will be a direct transaction between Canada and those groups.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Yes, we were very proud to be part of that announcement. Part of the arrangement that we made with Canada is to flow the funding through our Women's Directorate, which is why we did the supplementary budget, and that was the increase to our supplementary budget. We will be flowing that money directly to the indigenous women's organizations through the Women's Directorate. Again, it was to decrease the levels of reporting and to decrease the barriers for the indigenous women's groups.

Ms. McLeod: So does the \$347,000 that is identified in this budget as being transferred from Canada represent part of the increase that is listed in the budget for the indigenous women's equality fund? The \$347,000 is what I am asking about.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Yes, that is correct. The \$347,000 is Canada's portion.

Ms. McLeod: I ask this because the minister just referenced Canada's portion, and I noticed that, in addition to the \$347,000, there is a \$25,000 increase to the line item Indigenous Women's Equality Fund. Does the Yukon have a portion that they have committed to alongside this \$1.6 million, or is this \$25,000 for some other purpose?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Canada's portion is \$347,000, and Yukon's is \$253,000 per year. That makes up the \$600,000.

Ms. McLeod: Yukon's portion obviously is something that we were contributing before this agreement on the \$1.6 million, so I gather that there is an increase to Yukon's portion this year of \$25,000.

In addition to the \$1.6 million that was announced, the federal minister also announced funding in the amount of \$100 million over five years to all women's groups — I presume all over Canada.

Can the minister tell us how much of the money is coming to Yukon and how it is going to roll out? What will it mean to all women's groups in the Yukon?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I spoke about this in our last budget debate on the supplementary budget — that there are three other women's organizations in the Yukon that have been successful in their applications to this fund. The \$100 million that the federal minister announced is for all of Canada, and we were the first recipients to access that fund and we were the first announcement with the indigenous women's groups.

Our other equality-seeking women's groups have applied. We are pleased they have been successful in obtaining

funding. They are using our women's equality fund to leverage those funds from the federal government.

Ms. McLeod: I'm going a little bit off my memory here, but as I recall, LAWS was the recipient of some \$800,000 through — I just would like the minister to confirm that it was from this \$100-million fund. Could she confirm that it's application-driven? Are there restrictions on how often women's groups can apply? We'll start with that.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I may have missed the first part of that. Is the member asking about the LAWS portion of this? I have also heard the question about how often they can apply, and I'll address that, but I just want the member to clarify the question in reference to the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society.

Ms. McLeod: I seem to recall that there was a funding announcement of some \$860,000 that was approved for the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society. I'm wondering if that was out of this \$100-million funding arrangement. That's the one I remember; I don't know if there were other organizations that had also applied and were successful.

I just want to make sure we're all talking about the same fund of money.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thanks for the clarification. Yes, that is the same. The announcement that was made in October included the Liard Aboriginal Women's Society. They were one of three recipients. Again, this is multi-year funding; it will go for three years. That includes 2018-19 — this fiscal year we're in now and the next.

There is also an indication of a possible two-year extension to those funding arrangements.

Ms. McLeod: I'm looking at the funding for the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre for the women's advocate and A Safe Place. Is there an increase built in somewhere? It doesn't say it in the budget; I understand that — but it didn't say that in the Health and Social Services budget either. I'm wondering if there is an increase that's built into this budget to provide them with a two-percent increase, or is their funding frozen at last year's level?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: The Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre right now — as I have outlined in my opening comments — receives \$100,000 per year for the women's advocate program — \$70,000 toward wages and \$30,000 toward the public campaign and information. They also receive \$65,000 for A Safe Place. Again, the official announcement hasn't been made around the amounts that the three women's organizations in Yukon will be receiving — but again, it will be leveraged off of our funding that we — I am saying that the amounts — the other non-indigenous organizations that applied to this fund have not been fully announced yet. That is Canada's funding. At this point, our funding remains at the same level, and we just signed new contribution agreements. The monies flow to our equality-seeking partner groups.

Ms. McLeod: The funding for Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre has been frozen, I guess, for the last three years. It continues to be, although the minister seems to indicate that there is a federal announcement coming that

would provide additional monies for them — I presume to increase the wages that have apparently not increased in three years.

The minister just said there is \$65,000 for A Safe Place. Previously, she said \$95,000 — which is also what the budget says: \$65,000. So I am going to assume the \$95,000 — she just misspoke.

If we look at the women's equality fund, which houses four different groups — I understand one has dropped off of there, but the funding has decreased by some \$23,000 this year. I wonder if the minister can explain that, please.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I just want to clarify on the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre A Safe Place program: the Women's Directorate provides \$65,000 toward that program and Health and Social Services provides \$30,000, so it is \$95,000 a year that is provided.

In terms of the women's equality fund — it is right now at \$197,000 per year; \$23,000 went over to the IWEF program, and we made that change last year to keep the amounts equal.

Ms. McLeod: I did not understand what the acronym was for, so I don't know what the minister said.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I apologize for using the acronyms. The women's equality fund, which we refer to as WEF, is at \$197,000. When we made the change and established the indigenous women's equality fund, which is the IWEF program — that is when the change was made.

Ms. McLeod: In the interest of time, I have a number of questions regarding SART, but I may have to come back to that one.

The minister indicated that she was revamping funding available for communities to make it more accessible. I wonder if the minister can provide a little more detail on that.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Right now, we have two other funding programs that have access to communities. Right now, we are working on changing the forms and simplifying reporting. Our staff will be going out to the communities to assist groups to be able to access these funds and to get some more feedback from them as well, but we have done some preliminary work in terms of revamping and making it easier and more accessible for communities. That is the work that we are doing. This will apply to the prevention of violence against aboriginal women and community projects.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the Member for Watson Lake for ceding the floor.

I would like to ask a couple of questions. I was pleased to hear of the initiative around the sexualized violence response team and I just have a particular question with respect to that — I have two, actually. Can the minister update this House — because she mentioned the importance of the work that is being done in terms of training nurses and others — what rape kits are being used at the point of contact for a victim? I raise this question, Mr. Chair, because, as the minister will be aware, there were some real concerns about the validity of kits that were being used in the public health system in Yukon, leaving women and their support — including nurses and

others — effectively under the bus when it came to the legal system.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you for the question. There has been a considerable amount of work done on the sexualized assault response team, and the work will be ongoing. Right now, we are using “kits on ice”, and we have done extensive training with doctors and nurse practitioners on the use of these kits. The sexual assault examination training, or the SAE, was done in January 2019. We recently signed an MOU with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and the Department of Health and Social Services. That was done in November 2018 — detailed service mapping linking all critical systems was done in November of 2018.

The SART cart has now been received. That is a specialized cart that will be used in the emergency room and in the Whitehorse General Hospital. Our plan is to get that out also to other hospitals in Yukon. It will be tested here in Whitehorse first. Our Deputy Minister Oversight Committee includes the RCMP, Yukon Hospital Corporation and Yukon government officials. This was established in July 2018, so it is a very high-level committee that has been established around this project. It has been given very high priority. It is very complex, and we have had to really work hard to navigate through our system and all the systems throughout Whitehorse and Yukon to be able to really provide the types of supports that are needed for victims of this type of violence. A project manager for victim services support has been hired in the Department of Justice in June 2018.

Again, as I mentioned, we have provided priority access for victims of sexualized assault to the mental wellness and substance use hubs in Whitehorse and in the communities.

A medical expert has been hired to engage with key partners on all aspects of the affected medical system and to inform policy, protocol and training. Draft policies and protocols have been developed as of March of 2018. We have an implementation committee in place.

There is a lot more work that I can talk about as we go through this on other questions about SART, but we are well aware of the kits and the issues that the member opposite has raised. We are addressing them through this project.

Ms. Hanson: I am encouraged, as the point of my question was to confirm that the kits that are being used are accepted in Canadian law — that they will be accepted, used and recognized in Canadian courts. So the second question that arises from this is — I understand the need to develop protocols, but what happens with the girl in Mayo who is raped today? Who sees her? What kind of response is there? What will that nurse at the community hospital or nursing station — there used to be a hospital in Mayo — be using? If we are working on a protocol that will be rolled out through Whitehorse General Hospital and then eventually to other Yukon hospitals, what is on the ground today?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Mr. Deputy Chair, I take the question very seriously. We do have to work hard to get the same services that we have in Whitehorse out to the communities. As I mentioned earlier, it is so very complex to build a system approach to address the very specific issues

that victims of sexual violence have. At this point in the communities, if a person, as the member opposite has identified, is sexually assaulted in a rural community, they will be seen by the medical staff at those hospitals and/or nursing stations. As they are now, those services are provided to any victim of sexual assault.

As we move through this initiative and build this new system, phase 2 will be bringing it out to our rural communities — particularly starting where we have hospitals and then moving them out into the nursing stations and having this specialized training — and again, as I talked about earlier, having a specialized sexual assault cart available, which will help with more efficiencies and sensitivities around this type of examination for a victim of sexual assault.

Ms. Hanson: There is a whole range of issues around this that I could come back to.

I just want to, given the time — the minister made a comment that the Women’s Directorate would be continuing to fund the senior advisor position until December 2019.

I have the organizational chart which shows a senior advisor on aboriginal women’s issues. Is the position ceasing to have funding in the third quarter because of lack of federal funding? What’s the rationale for having funding for that position cease in December?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: This position will go forward for the entire fiscal year. We anticipate receiving the report from the national inquiry commission at the end of this month — the end of April. From that point, we will develop a new action plan. We will be working with all our partners through our indigenous women’s groups, our First Nation governments and other partners. A lot of that work has started in anticipation of the final report. Again, we have followed it very closely throughout the entire inquiry. We do have the interim report, and we do have a Yukon advisory committee that is working closely on this. The senior advisor works very closely with that committee. I am one of the three co-chairs, along with Yukon First Nation leadership and the Yukon aboriginal women’s organizations.

We anticipate a more fulsome action plan as we receive that final report from the commission.

Ms. Hanson: Perhaps at some point the minister can clarify what was meant by “continuing to fund the position until December 19” — because it was specified.

I would like to ask the minister — with respect to policy and program development — the general high-level language is to promote gender-equitable outcomes, and then there are three bullets on page 18-6 of the budget.

I want to come back before we move off of the aboriginal women’s directorate — what work is the Women’s Directorate doing with respect to liaison and identification of issues for racial minorities in this territory? There’s a distinct and clear understanding of the issues evolving, for sure, with respect to aboriginal women and the focus that has been on a number of those initiatives, largely led by aboriginal women for the last 40 or so years. If we look at the evolution of the Women’s Directorate — and it was almost 30 years ago that it was established — our territory is very different and the

makeup of this territory is very different. If we look at 11 to 12 percent being of Filipino extraction — we have racial minorities from all over the world, coming with diverse cultures and backgrounds, which can also create challenges for them in the community.

What work is the Women's Directorate doing with the non-aboriginal racial minorities in this territory?

Mr. Kent: Seeing the time and the fact that we have witnesses coming in at 3:30 p.m. today, I move that you report progress.

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

Motion agreed to

Deputy Chair: Pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 9 adopted earlier today, Committee of the Whole will receive witnesses from Yukon College. In order to allow the witnesses to take their place in the Chamber, the Committee will now recess and reconvene at 3:30 p.m.

Recess

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

Appearance of witnesses

Deputy Chair: Pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 9 adopted on this day, Committee of the Whole will now receive witnesses from Yukon College.

I would ask all members to remember to refer their remarks through the Chair when addressing the witnesses, and I would ask the witnesses to refer their answers through the Chair when they are responding to the members of the Committee.

Witnesses introduced

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Deputy Chair, it is my pleasure today to introduce to the Legislative Assembly the witnesses who will be appearing before Committee of the Whole. Today they are Chris Milner, who is the chair of the Yukon College Board of Governors, and Dr. Karen Barnes, the president and vice-chancellor of Yukon College. I will also take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery of our Legislative Assembly Jacqueline Bedard, Lacia Kinnear and Dr. Bronwyn Hancock from Yukon College, who are visiting us this afternoon as well. Welcome.

Applause

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

Mr. Milner: I would like to thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair, the Hon. Ms. McPhee, members of the Legislative Assembly and all Yukoners for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of Yukon College.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council for the use of their traditional lands.

During my short time as chair of the Yukon College Board of Governors, I have come to appreciate what a unique and valuable asset that the college is to Yukon and its people. What is also apparent is that we are about to move onto the national and international stage. That is how I would like to begin today, by telling you that story.

With me today is Karen Barnes, the president and vice-chancellor of Yukon College. Together, we are representing the college which was established by an act of this Legislature in 1988. We are independent of government and overseen by a 12-member board. The board is comprised of three members representing community campuses, three members representing Yukon First Nations, three members of the public at large, the president, an elected student and an elected staff member.

In addition, we seek guidance through a number of governing councils and community campus committees as well as the President's Advisory Committee on First Nations Initiatives. Yukon College's 13 campuses are staffed by approximately 300 term and permanent staff with an average age of 43 — all dedicated employees with a strong commitment to providing excellent services and quality programming for students.

I have been told that this is the first time Yukon College has been asked to appear as a witness in the Legislature. Thank you for the invitation. Fill up your water and get comfortable because there is a lot of ground to cover. We are going to take you on a little bit of a historical journey here. Thank you for the opportunity to put this on the record.

We are going to start in the 1960s. Since 1963, and this institution's inception, we have come a long way. Every step of the journey has been focused on achieving the dreams of the generation — the territory, the prospective students, their families, governments — including First Nations — business and industry.

In the 1960s, it was important to provide vocational training. We offered some trades and career skills programs such as office administration, building trades, automotive mechanics, heavy equipment operation, drafting, food services and practical nursing. It was an exciting time for the Yukon to be able to provide post-secondary education and training that was relevant at the time for the first time here in the Yukon.

In 1964, the Whitehorse vocational training school graduated its first students into a red-hot job market. Students quickly found employment in new mines, housing construction, highways or community services — all rapidly expanding industries of the time. Private sector employees and government agencies clamoured for these northern grads as well. They knew the north, they understood Yukon issues, and they had current employment skills.

Many of the important First Nation leaders who have shaped the Yukon through their modern treaties attended the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre to acquire skills and certification in the 1960s. After graduation, they played key roles in negotiating the land claims and self-government agreements that define today.

During the 1970s, students in the heavy equipment operator program at the Yukon Vocational and Technical Training Centre assisted government crews in upgrading roads around Whitehorse. They had real-life expertise to offer employers after graduating — a practice continued today by Yukon College, where students use a simulator and other equipment to prepare for work in mines and on road construction.

The Vocational and Technical Training Centre was home to the fine arts program in the 1960s and 1970s taught by renowned artist Ted Harrison. Among the students who passed through his classes were Jim Robb and Jean Taylor, on their way to establishing their own place as distinguished Yukon artists.

In the early 1970s, Ted Harrison and Doris McLean, who was working at the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, organized a carving project for Yukon First Nation students to produce the beautiful totem pole that is on display at Rotary Peace Park today.

Perhaps most significantly, as we prepared to transition to a Yukon university, in 1973, Yukon First Nation chiefs took the landmark document *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow* to Ottawa and delivered it to the Prime Minister. In this document, they requested a university in the north that would allow their citizens to get a complete education without leaving the territory.

Moving into the 1980s, Yukoners expressed a need for training across the territory and throughout the decade. Yukon government, in partnership with the Yukon College, opened 11 campuses — one in nearly every Yukon community. The level of education and training required was also expanding. The Yukon population started to express a need for academic, in addition to vocational, programming. In 1983, the institution was granted college status and we became Yukon College. Academic courses joined vocational trades training to offer a broad range of post-secondary education to Yukon students close to home. Yukon College began to offer liberal arts, science courses and some partnership degrees, the first of which was the bachelor of education — the Yukon Native Teacher Education Program — which at the time was offered in partnership with the University of British Columbia.

Angela Sidney bestowed the name “Ayamdigut” on the \$50-million Whitehorse campus when it opened in 1988 on the bluffs above the city. The Tlingit phrase means “She got up and went”, referencing that the Whitehorse campus moved from downtown. At the official opening, Angela Sidney expressed her thanks for the new campus where Yukon students could study close to home. On that day, Angela Sidney said, “The reason I sang this song... is because that Yukon College is going to be like a Sun for those students. Instead of going to Vancouver or Victoria, they’re going to be able to stay here and go to school here. We’re not going to lose our kids anymore. It’s going to be just like the Sun for them.”

In 1989, the *Yukon College Act* was amended to establish an independent board of governors for Yukon College. Yukoners from all walks of life have served on the board,

establishing visionary goals, programs and services. Dedicated members bring diverse perspectives and expertise to guide the administration, faculty and staff in meeting the post-secondary needs of all Yukoners.

Plans for the Whitehorse vocational training school included an attached student residence, an essential service for rural and northern students. The move to Ayamdigut in 1988 expanded on-campus housing to provide family units. In the 1990s, the carpenters union contributed to an additional singles residence.

The Canada Winter Games legacy included a larger family residence converted from the 2007 athletes’ village facility. There is a plaque there that honours my late father’s contributions to the Canada Winter Games as a key organizer.

So now we are getting into the 2000s. Fast-forward to 2011 when the Yukon government asked the board of governors to consider what it would require to transition to a university. The board approached this question from a slightly different angle and first went about visiting and/or talking to 60 small universities from across Canada and the circumpolar north to assess their models and, for those that had transitioned from a college, the lessons they had learned.

Key lessons included: Focus your energies on what you do well, and don’t try to be all things to all people as such institutions are failing, and as the only post-secondary school in the territory, maintain a place and a pathway for every learner, upgrading the trades certificate and diploma programming in every rural community.

The board decided to focus on three pillars of development: climate change — society and environment; indigenous self-determination and governance; and sustainable resource development and innovation. Although the college has been permitted by legislation to grant degrees since 2009, we are waiting for an external quality assurance board to be in place. This ensures that our degrees are appropriately recognized and transferable across the country and beyond, providing the best possible value for our students. For quality assurance, there is no board in any of the territories and it would be costly to set one up with only a single institution to oversee. For this reason, the Government of Yukon has chosen to use Campus Alberta Quality Council’s external quality assurance process. Campus Alberta Quality Council visited Yukon College in June 2017 to assess the college’s readiness to offer degrees. In the fall of 2017, CAQC confirmed that the college met the organizational criteria and standards to deliver degree programs. In a letter from CAQC, it was stated that members of council and the review team were very impressed with the college’s self-study and congratulated us on our thorough presentation of the material.

The next step was the review and approval of our first degree which was launched in 2018, the bachelor of arts in indigenous governance. The CAQC’s statement following the review of this degree reads: “This program’s blending of theory and practice in indigenous self-determination studies represents the wave of the future in this area of scholarship, and the potential exists for Yukon College to become a

national and potentially even international hub for the study of indigenous self-determination in practice.” Those are pretty strong accolades.

This past week, Ms. McPhee announced the passing of the regulation for our second degree, the bachelor of business administration. This on-the-land, experiential-learning-based program builds on our very successful two-year diploma program and prepares graduates to build prosperous communities. We hope to be registering students very soon for the fall of 2019.

Next, we will begin work on the bachelor of northern studies degree — which is a working title — which we anticipate will be launched in 2021, if all goes well.

Before I get too far into what else we have been up to, let me give you a quick snapshot of our student population. Yukon College has approximately 1,200 credit students, translating to 550 full-time equivalents, and an additional 4,500 students participating in non-credit programming. There has been a shift over the past decade from part-time to more full-time programming. Whereas only 45 percent of the students were studying full-time 10 years ago, it is now 60 percent.

Degree and university transfer programs account for a little more than half of credit student enrolment. Women account for 65 percent of credit students. About one-third of full-time students identify as First Nation. Yukon College has many mature students. The median age of credit students is about 26 years old. Direct entrants from Yukon high schools account for 14 percent of enrolment. About seven percent of credit course registrations and one-third of non-credit course registrations are by students in Yukon rural communities.

One hundred and twenty-seven of our students are international this semester. Top sending countries include India, Japan and China, with one or two students coming from an additional 20-plus countries. They comprise 15 percent of our credit student population, and we have capped this percentage in order to maintain a high level of quality support and services.

Over the past six years, we have made a number of programming changes as well. A selection of new programs includes an aviation management diploma, a climate change policy post-degree program, community education and employment support, geological technology, the bachelor of science and northern environmental and conservation sciences with the University of Alberta, a multimedia and communications certificate, and increased access to trades and trade levels so that it is now possible to get a red seal here in the Yukon in not only carpentry, but also electrical, welding, heavy equipment technology and plumbing.

We can't forget about the first two made-in-Yukon degree programs — the bachelor of arts in indigenous governance and the bachelor of business administration.

We don't just credential. Like any viable organization, we reflect on where we were successful and where we need to improve. In 2015, we completed an institution-wide program and services review. Flagging programs that require examination over the same time period, we have halted a

number of programs including general mechanics, surveying technician, community support worker, food and beverage certificate, tourism management diploma and northern collaborative information technology.

Let me tell you a little bit about what we're doing now, which is the exciting part. I promise you that in 2020, this will be a shorter speech. We continue to serve the needs of the territory, its citizens, its governments, its businesses and industries. We work to anticipate needs and keep pace with territorial changes, as we have with our First Nation partners in developing the indigenous governance degree.

Yukon College, and the future Yukon university, are here to grow with and for the Yukon. Yukon can play a leadership role in supporting solutions on climate change, indigenous self-determination and governance, sustainable resource development and northern innovation. Of particular note, two authors and researchers from the Yukon Research Centre contributed to the recent report on climate change that we read about in the news earlier this week. We're getting onto that stage.

With Yukon having the lowest unemployment rate across the country, the college sees part of its purpose as recruiting and training labour. Many of our international students work while studying and choose to immigrate to the Yukon. We're bringing in Canadians too, from BC, Alberta and across the entire country. Between 10 and 15 percent of our students apply primarily from Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Ontario.

Changes are taking place in the communities as well. We are in the early stages of changing delivery of programming in the communities from almost solely in-person to a combination of online and in-person. This means that, instead of needing an entire cohort — or six people, perhaps — we can now deliver programming to only one person in each community and connect them through technology.

We have students across the communities enrolled in our bachelor of indigenous governance degree program, for example. There are 12 full-time and seven part-time students in this program. These students are taking classes while living in Whitehorse, Mayo, Yellowknife, Edmonton, Carmacks and Teslin. There are students who hail from nine Yukon communities, three NWT communities and the Lower Mainland in BC. All of the students, with one exception, are First Nation, Métis or Inuit.

Now we have students able to complete an entire degree from any Yukon community or, as a cohort, complete a variety of education and training credentials. We are just getting started in actualizing the vision for communities. Every year, we will be increasing education and training opportunities at a rapid rate in the communities as we move to deliver more online.

It is not just about moving more online. We are also finding ways to increase programming mobility by sending programming out to the communities, such as through the 1,000-square-foot mobile trades training program and two other trailers used for skills and trades training, the mining

simulators, the MoLab — which is a van — we will come back to that one in questions. It's a science lab on wheels.

While I am talking about communities, let me move on to infrastructure. During President Barnes' decade or so at Yukon College, we have made some significant infrastructure improvements: a new campus in Dawson and one in Pelly Crossing; and on the Ayamdigut campus, the Yukon Research Centre laboratory, YRC office space — which was renovated on the ground floor of the family residence building — the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining, the spectacular renovation of the old library — now called the Innovations Common — a renovation of the student services centre, and soon the start of a new science building. All of this work was made possible with \$38 million in federal funding through a variety of funding programs as well as \$11 million from the territorial government over this time.

We continue to seek funding from multiple sources. Through granting agencies, research councils and industry, we have attracted \$17 million in external funding over the past five years. We are also seeking private sector donors through the Yukon University Foundation. This year, for example, we have raised \$2 million through corporate philanthropy. Over the past few years, we have raised \$7 million through corporate and foundation giving. Currently, we have \$4 million in requested proposals and have proposals in development totalling an additional \$5 million.

We are particularly excited these days as the Yukon university brand, which is just wrapping up a seven-month exploration program began last August. Talking to people from across the territory, we put together a brand that we can really be proud of. You will see more of this in the coming years, and we encourage you to check it out when you get a chance.

Our brand in one paragraph reads as follows: "Yukon university will encourage self-determination, belonging and innovation as we strive to create a —"

Deputy Chair: Order. Mr. Milner, under our Standing Order 42(3), 20 minutes is your limit. I now am going to recognize the Official Opposition to ask questions, but thank you. It was fascinating.

Mr. Kent: I would like to welcome Mr. Milner and Dr. Barnes here as well as the various support staff and guests who are here to take part and listen in on some of the questions we have to ask. I do thank Mr. Milner for his opening comments — an awful lot of information to unpack there as well. So the questions I ask — there may be some repeats of some of the information the witness provided, but I was trying to jot stuff down that was contained in my questions.

I get to do one quick history lesson as well. It is a Committee of the Whole Motion No. 2 from February 14, 1995, moved by the Hon. Willard Phelps, Minister of Education. I'll just read it quickly into the record:

"THAT at 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m...." — so this was in the time of the evening Sittings — "... on Wednesday, February 15, 1995, Mr. James Holt, Chair of the Board of Governors of Yukon College, Ms. Sally Ross, President of

Yukon College, and Mr. Wayne Coghill, Director of Administrator Services at Yukon College, appear as witnesses before Committee of the Whole during debate on Bill No. 4, entitled *First Appropriation Act, 1995-96*."

That's the most recent example we were able to find of the college coming here as witnesses. It has been awhile, and we would like to welcome the college back and thank the minister for bringing the witnesses here today.

I'm going to focus on a few areas in my time here today, before I turn it over to the Third Party at around 5:00, or sooner, if I run out of questions. The first set of questions will deal with facilities and programming at the college. The recent announcement in the federal budget regarding the \$26-million commitment that was received — I just wanted to obviously congratulate the college on that for the science facility, but I did have a few questions about the project.

The federal commitment of \$26 million — if the witnesses could confirm that is over, I think, a five-year time horizon. I just wanted to confirm. What portion of the total cost of the facility does that represent?

I will start with that. I do have a few follow-up questions with respect to the facility, but I will start with that one.

Ms. Barnes: To answer your first question, we understand from Crown-Indigenous Relations that it will be a five-year funding project. We anticipate that it will actually start construction sometime in early year 3 — might be late year 2, depending on how it goes. There's a lot of work that needs to be done within our community around roads and how we have access to the new building.

The second question was about what portion of that will cover the construction — is that right? We anticipate that we are going to raise an additional \$10 million, and we hope that will allow us to put state-of-the-art equipment into the building, technology and other things that would just enhance what we could have done with \$26 million — so bigger and better.

Mr. Kent: Then the anticipated cost, I guess, after the fit-out that the college wants, will be approximately \$36 million. Dr. Barnes said that the construction is expected in year 2 or year 3, which is great.

Was there a business case developed for the facility prior to submitting the request to the federal government? Did that business case include estimates for operation and maintenance of the building? I guess the other question with respect to the budget is: If \$26 million or \$36 million isn't enough, who will pay if the project does go overbudget?

Ms. Barnes: The business case for the project — we have been submitting science building requests in our capital plan requests for about six years, so it is not a new thing. We have been talking about it for quite a long time. We investigated under the last SIF opportunity from the federal government, but chose instead to go with the renovation of the library.

As far as the O&M, we have yet to do an estimate on the O&M. We did a functional design when we first went out on the capital plan about three years ago, just to see if we could anticipate the size of the building. At that point, we had put

about a \$30-million tag on the building. It has increased of course over the three years. At that point, we did not do an estimate. We are just completing a functional program plan right now. It should be done next week. At that point, we will actually have the footprint size of the building, and at that point, we will be able to start to anticipate what the costs will be.

Mr. Kent: Dr. Barnes can correct me if I am incorrect, but when the Centre for Northern Innovation and Mining building was built, the procurement, the project management and all the contracting for that was handled, I believe, by Yukon College. If it was the territorial government, the witness can correct me on that. Essentially, that is my question with respect to this project: Who will be looking after the procurement and the contracting — whether it is a design or design/build or however the college decides to proceed? Who will be in charge of project management — will it be the college, or will that be the territorial government or a combination of the two?

Ms. Barnes: You are correct. CNIM was managed by the college. We worked closely in collaboration with HPW on that project. They sat at a steering committee table with us, along with the City of Whitehorse, and we were able to come in on time and on budget on that project. That was our first major project, but because of that experience, we are confident that we will be able to do this one as well. We understand that the money will flow directly from the federal government to the college. We will be managing that budget. We will be managing the construction.

One of the first things we are going to do before we tender for design is hire a project manager who will stay with the project throughout the project. Then we will establish the steering committee, which will bring together all of the stakeholders, including the city, YG and all of the other partners with us on campus today — the Yukon Arts Centre and the seniors centre. Everyone will be involved. First Nations of course will be involved in the discussion about what that building will look like and the impact on the land around it.

Mr. Kent: With respect to the land around the building — and the witness can correct me if I'm wrong — I think it was 2015 that the college completed a land planning exercise for not only the current Ayamdigut campus but some of the surrounding land that was there as well. Was the science building considered in that planning exercise? It doesn't have to be in the exact same location that was considered, but is it close to the same location that was considered during that community planning exercise?

Ms. Barnes: Yes, the master plan was completed in 2015. If you remember that plan, we did commit to making sure that all newly built forms would be contained in the existing footprint to try to protect the forest and the lands around the built form so that we could use natural settings for classroom experiences.

The science building was identified in that 2015 land plan and it was identified in the exact location that we anticipate it being today.

Mr. Kent: Again, congratulations to Yukon College for securing that federal funding and being able to add to their learning infrastructure here in the Yukon.

I am going to move into some program-specific things — the licensed practical nurse or the LPN program. Looking at the main estimates for this year, the LPN program will be receiving a transfer payment of \$491,000 for that program. Can the witnesses tell me if that is part of a longer term funding agreement? Is it a one-, two- or three-year funding agreement for the LPN program? In 2017-18, the actuals were \$474,000, and then last year's estimates were \$491,000, which are the same as this year's estimates. I am just wondering if you are in the midst of long-term funding for LPN or if it goes year to year with asks.

Ms. Barnes: At the moment, we are just in the final stages of signing the agreement for the upcoming fiscal year starting April 1 — on Monday. In that agreement, you are correct in saying that it is the same amount of money that we have had previously for the practical nurse program, but we are anticipating a new intake in September. So of course there will be additional costs because of that, with additional staff required — particularly for clinical placement experiences.

However, this year, we did have a small lapse in some of our other funding agreements, so we agreed that for one year, as we try this new second intake and see if it goes well, we will use that money to cover the additional costs for the practical nurse program, with the agreement that if we are going to continue with an annual intake, we will have additional funding for that.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that response.

So with the LPN program, how many are in the current cohort? What is the maximum size the college can take for a cohort the LPN program? I am assuming that the college does this — but tracking the graduates — how many of them are successful in finding work upon graduation? Do the witnesses know how many of those individuals are working here in the Yukon upon graduation?

Ms. Barnes: I appreciate that question because I think the practical nurse program is one of the great success stories at the college. I do have a little bit of data here that I can share with you. We have had 61 graduates from the program so far. All but two, over the years we have recently been offering the program, have required a rewrite, which exceeds the national pass rate for any other programs in Canada. So we think that the students are doing very well. All of the grads have found employment and are a growing presence in Yukon health programs, including long-term care, Yukon Hospital Corporation, Alcohol and Drug Services and the Kwanlin Dün health centre.

In 2018, there were 26 qualified applicants. We only enter 16, so we know that there are a number of qualified applicants ready for the September intake. We hope that this will continue on in the annual intake because we believe that there is a real need for these program graduates.

Mr. Kent: Congratulations to the college on that successful program. As I anticipated, many of those

individuals are finding successful employment and being successful after that is done.

I want to talk a little bit about the education programs — the education after degree program — if the witnesses can let us know what the uptake is on this option. Will there be a large increase in graduates with this option in place? The other education program — the Yukon Native Teacher Education Program; YNTEP — if the witnesses have some of the numbers as far enrolment in that program goes — again, tracking it through from successful graduation to placements in teaching positions here in the Yukon — if there are any figures.

I will be asking for a number of figures throughout my questions, and if the witnesses don't have them, I would be happy for them to respond later through the minister or whatever the appropriate process is.

Ms. Barnes: Thank you for that question. This is one that I don't have data for, I'm sorry. I can tell you that the introduction of what we call the BEAD program, which is the bachelor of education after degree program, where students who have previous credentials can come into the program in the third year and complete in two years — there has been a really excellent uptake in that program. I think we have had as many as 10 students added to our YNTEP cohort, which has really made a difference when the schools are looking for practicum students or new teachers to hire.

The YNTEP program had a little bit of a dip a few years ago. If you remember, we did a program review. Since then, we have really had a nice resurgence of interest in the program so that we are graduating a better number of students every year into the Yukon schools. We recently had an agreement from Yukon Education under the last YTA agreement that we are going to have a more serious look at the graduates from that program and give them strong consideration for hiring in the schools here. I am happy about that, but I am certainly happy to get you more details because we do track all of our graduates and I can probably let you know where most of them are.

Mr. Kent: Thank you, Dr. Barnes, for that answer. I am going to turn to the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining.

I'm going to ask the witness if it still operates with an industry-led governing council — and similar to the question with respect to the LPN program, looking at the main estimates and the transfer payments to Yukon College in the current Education budget of \$1.2 million for the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining. It has been at that level from 2017-18, 2018-19 and now into 2019-20. Is this a one-, two- or three-year funding agreement? When will that be up for renewal?

Ms. Barnes: The first question about the governing council — yes, we still have a vibrant governing council. Every year, we renew the membership on that council. We look at who the players are in the Yukon Territory and who would have an interest in CNIM. I can tell you that currently we have Capstone Mining still sitting on the governing council — they were founding members; Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, founding members;

Alexco Resources, founding members; Selkirk First Nation; GroundTruth Exploration; we have had Kaminak; Victoria Gold sits now; Selwyn Resources; Golden Predator; Goldcorp; and BMC. They all sit on the council today.

As far as the funding agreement — you're right that we have had continued funding from Yukon government. We understand that it is in the budget for this year again — for April 1 funding. All of our funding agreements at the moment are one-year funding agreements.

Mr. Kent: Again, with the governing council — my understanding is that it was essentially put in place so that training could occur for positions that were available. I think that's why — obviously — having industry leading and participating in that work is extremely important. If the witnesses can let us know what types of courses are being offered and what the uptake is as far as enrolment, that would be helpful. Again, if all that information isn't available, I would welcome it at a later time.

Ms. Barnes: I apologize; I don't have enrolment numbers to the detail of the courses in CNIM. I do have a number of bits of data here about courses from community members.

Let me describe first what CNIM offers. The MLA is correct in saying we consult with the governing council every year at the beginning of the season and ask them what they anticipate we will have in the program for that coming year. Over the years that we have had CNIM in place — which is since 2013 — it has been quite remarkable to watch how those needs have changed.

We anticipated, when we built the building, that it was going to be primarily a trades building, but in fact we have needed to supply the industry with many different things — most recently, it has been environmental monitoring, because when the mines close into care and maintenance, they are required to have a number of monitors on-site. So we are now supplying those monitors to many of the mine sites around the Yukon. That's a high-demand program.

We have a number of students in that program from around the communities, and we offer it in a way that's flexible so that students can come and go, take bits of the course and then go home and come back and take more.

We also have a continuing agreement with Alaska Delta Mine Training Centre, which allows our students to have a camp experience with two simulators: both a surface mine and an underground mine. They also go in there with the heavy equipment program as well as some of the other trade skills, because a lot of those also have to work in camps. They go in for two weeks in Alaska, and then they come back and do classroom training.

We also have, of course, the trades. This year, for the first time — at the direction of the mine industry — we introduced the millwright program. It was late getting started for a number of reasons, but we have four students in that program. One of the students in that program whom we are very excited about — we were actually to start enrolling him in that program before he had completed a sentence at the Correctional Centre. This is a young man who had all of the

aptitude and skills to go into the millwright program. He had the academic requirements to go into the millwright program, which includes a very difficult math requirement. Everyone worked together. The social worker worked together — we got him into the millwright program. He is there, and he is thriving. I just saw him the other day, and he is doing really well at the college. So those programs are doing well.

I think the other really importance piece at CNIM that we don't ever want to forget is that we have a strong attachment to the Yukon Research Centre. We just had a renewal of our NSERC funding for mine remediation — so that's another five years of funding. We are very excited about the fact that it is going to continue our relationship with industry, and they actually contribute investment to that research. Again, the governing council has a subcommittee that identifies what research needs are for the mine industry. That research is absolutely applied to the needs of industry.

Mr. Kent: I know that Mr. Milner mentioned the mobile trades trailer in his opening remarks, and then Dr. Barnes just mentioned the simulators as well. I think Dr. Barnes mentioned that the simulators were in Alaska, I think, as part of the cross-border training. If that is correct, could she let us know?

Where is the mobile trades trailer now? Does the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining have plans for where they will be deployed next? Is there an opportunity to deploy those assets to a mine site? I think of Eagle Gold, obviously, potentially coming into production later on this year.

What courses are currently being offered? Are those trailers specifically used in communities or in remote sites, or are they used in Whitehorse as well?

If the witnesses missed any of those questions, I am happy to repeat them.

Ms. Barnes: I may ask you to repeat a couple of those.

The first question was about where they are. The simulators — as I mentioned earlier, we have surface mine and hardrock underground mine simulators. Both of them have been in Alaska almost since we purchased them. We have an agreement to send up to, I think, 25 students a year into Alaska, which we do. That's just for those simulators. We have other training that goes there, like drill training.

We have been in discussions with, I think, Victoria Gold, but I would have to make sure of that information — that the surface mine simulator will come back into Yukon. We are just trying to determine what the number of students will be, because if we move it into a community, we want to make sure that it is well used. It gets well used where it is now.

The mobile trades trailer, which is such an amazing asset for us and for the Yukon is on the road. I have some information here. They call it the bump-out trailer. The rate of the bump-out trailer is estimated at 85 percent for the academic year — that is a 10-month academic year. Of this, 10 percent is required for mobilization and demobilization and another 10 percent is required for maintenance and repairs. It remains unused for approximately 15 percent of the academic year.

We have other trades trailers — other older trailers — that we also use for about 50 percent of the academic year. They don't have full equipment. They are mostly used for exploration of trades programming, but we do have to bring them back in for repair. As far as where they are allocated, we have a process which has been established where the communities will request a training program through the community campus in that community. The request is brought back to our campus, Ayamdigt, to the community innovation development department and they review those requests. Once they determine that there is availability and resources — that is having an instructor available, making sure that we have the safety issues all addressed, where it is going to be located in that community, and all of that is in place, then we mobilize. We have a semi-trailer truck that we have get a driver for. All of that happens and it goes around to those communities. I don't think I have the information about where it is going next. It was up in Mayo, I know just recently, and that is probably through to the end of the term and then it will be mobilized again.

Mr. Kent: The witness mentioned the partnership with Alaska, which I know has been underway for a number of years and has been very successful, as far as that goes. I believe that partnership initially flowed out of a Yukon-Alaska accord in 2012 that was signed between the Yukon government and the Government of Alaska as well as the college and I think it was the University of Alaska Southeast.

Are there any other initiatives that are currently underway as part of that accord and has the accord been replaced with an updated document or is it still operating from that initial document that was signed approximately seven years ago?

Ms. Barnes: As far as I know, there have been no additions to the accord. At that time, we had agreed to the mine training as a key part of that. We also, of course, offer the master of public administration through the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau.

We have a number of research discussions that take place through Fairbanks and we continue to have an arrangement with Fairbanks around the YNLC language credential, but there haven't been additional discussions with Alaska recently. There has been a change in their administrative structure in the University of Alaska system and so we were just talking about that the other day, that it might be time to reinvigorate that agreement.

Mr. Kent: I am going to bounce around here a little bit. I was very optimistic that we would get through all of my questions, but I don't know that we will. I will follow up with written questions to the minister with things that I don't get to here today.

With respect to the international students, Mr. Milner, I believe, mentioned that there are 127 current international students enrolled from a variety of countries. I apologize if he answered this when he made the statement in his opening remarks, but I am just curious what the primary area of study is for those students. Is it across multiple disciplines?

Ms. Barnes: Yes, we have certainly had an influx of students from around the world recently and it has been a

wonderful thing for the college and I think for Whitehorse as well.

When students come in, the number one program that they are seeking is our business program. Certainly, the addition of a degree in business on campus is going to attract more international students, we anticipate. But interestingly, once they arrive on campus, a number of them choose to move within the program mix. For example, last year, we interestingly and unexpectedly had a number of those students move into early childhood. If you go around to the daycares today, many of them have graduated and moved into positions in daycares in the Yukon, which is wonderful, because there was a shortage of daycare workers.

We see them in liberal arts and in general studies. They are very active students. Yesterday, we met with our student union leadership and I think three of them are students from international destinations, so it has been really wonderful to have them on campus.

Mr. Kent: Is the college experiencing any challenges in housing for those international students?

Ms. Barnes: Housing generally is an issue for our students. Certainly, when we had the unexpected bump in international students last January — which was as big a surprise to you as it was to us; it was to do with visas that had been fast-tracked through the federal system — there was a real issue. We felt very badly about what was happening with those students and everyone mobilized to make sure that those students were able to find locations to live.

We do have some students from the international cohort in our campus housing. This year, we actually explored a partnership with a private developer to see if we could locate some units that were within a reasonable price range that we could offer to international students when they were coming in. It's going quite well, apparently, but it is very early days. If that goes well, we hope that we can do that with further units.

The international students like living with families, so many of them have found locations where they can live with a family because it helps with their English and other things. Many of them have managed to find housing within the city. I ask many times when I am with those students if they are okay with their housing and they seem to have all settled in quite well.

Mr. Kent: Maybe we will jump over to the questions that I have with respect to overall student housing at the college. Can the witness tell us if there is a wait-list for student housing and, if so, how long is it? A couple of follow-up questions: Are there any plans in the works right now to seek funding to build additional student housing units on campus here in Whitehorse? As part of that question, as well: Are there any private sector partnerships beyond the ones that the witness explained with the international students that are under consideration with respect to student housing?

I guess the broader piece that I would like to ask is: What is the total number of units that the college has on the campus here in Whitehorse as far as student housing units goes?

Ms. Barnes: So the last question first — currently, on campus we have 60 dorm-style units, 33 apartment-style units,

which is a total of 93 units. Within some of those units, of course, there are non-students because we have family units, and that allows others to live on campus. At the moment, we have 133 students living in campus housing in those units, so many couples actually come and both go to school.

The wait-list — this year, we had 225 applications we received by September for the fall term for those 93 units. By the middle of October, we usually have gone through the wait-list. What happens is that people come and they leave mid-term, or they turn down the offer or choose, for whatever reason, to leave the unit or take themselves off the list — is often what happens. So we often don't have a wait-list by the middle of the term, but then it builds again for January. We usually have about a 95-percent occupancy in the campus housing, so that is high to be maintaining that for campus housing. Of course, in the summer we also offer it to public use, and so we keep them very full through the summer.

One of the things that we identified a few years ago was that, because we didn't have very clear guidelines about how students could access campus housing, we had some students who actually were staying in housing for up to four years or five years because they were in degree programs. It meant that first-year students couldn't get into housing. We changed our application process and admissions-into-housing process so that we prioritize students from Yukon communities and first-year students. They have the first priority. So, Yukoners first is kind of a high-level principle that we operate by. Once the list is filled, then it is offered to second-year, third-year and ongoing. Students, at the end of April, are told that they have to reapply. It is not automatic that they get to remain in housing, which is very typical of most post-secondary institutions, and we give them lots of notice. When they move in September, they are given that information, so they know that it's possible that they won't have a unit at the end of the year.

Does answer all your questions?

Mr. Kent: Just the one question I think — whether there are plans to seek funding or some sort of a partnership to build additional units on the Whitehorse campus.

Ms. Barnes: In the initial stages of us putting together a capital campaign to raise private money for the college and university, campus housing was identified as a need. At the moment, we are not actually seeking funding for campus housing as part of that capital campaign, but I am having a number of conversations with people around what we could do under a private arrangement. We are still working through the complexities of the MOU under the land, and how we are going to build on that land. We did do a survey of students a few years ago to see if they wanted to live on campus or if they prefer to live in town, and we could work with developers in that way. A strong majority of students said no, they want to live on campus and have a student life on campus.

That is certainly what we would also like to see as well. Now, just this year, we are trying to capture the need. In the past, the need has only been available to us through the number of students who apply for housing. If you don't apply

for housing, we don't know if you need housing. So we only knew of the students who thought there was housing available and applied, but we have heard anecdotally that there are many people out there who think there's no point in applying because there's no housing.

So right now, we're trying to work with our PACFNI members, all of our education training officers who are in all of the communities, to ask them to identify who would like to come to campus and, if so, would they require housing and see if we can get that data. When I have talked to private developers outside of Yukon who build housing in other places for campuses, they have ratios that they need to see. They need a waiting list that's this long; they need a demand that's sustainable over a number of years.

So we're trying to now develop what that business case will look like and then we'll go seek funding.

Mr. Kent: Are there any student housing units or assets that are owned by the college in the communities outside of Whitehorse?

Ms. Barnes: There is one in Pelly Crossing. We own a mobile trailer in Pelly Crossing which we purchased — I can't remember which year, but it was around the time that we opened the new campus, because the housing that we have there originally was just not adequate and we felt it was important to provide that trailer.

This year, we're having some issues with that trailer, so we're just determining what — in the past, we have been able to use our tradespeople to repair and maintain the trailer, but it has gotten to a point where we probably have to replace it, and it has just come up this year so we're looking at what that will look like.

Mr. Kent: So the trailer in Pelly — that's for student housing or is it —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Kent: — sorry, for staff of — I think the witness clarified, and she can when she's on her feet for the record, that it is for staff housing. That leads nicely into the next question that I have with respect to staff housing. Are there any plans to expand staff housing opportunities in the communities? Is the college — we have heard from a number of employers around town, or others, that affordable housing is often — sometimes after a job offer is made to an individual, they are unable to attain housing in Whitehorse at an affordable level or in the communities where they're designated for. Are there any options around staff housing units here in Whitehorse or adding additional staff housing units in the communities where you have campuses, beyond the one trailer that's in Pelly Crossing?

Ms. Barnes: Sorry, yes — I misunderstood that question. Staff housing in the communities — we have an arrangement in the communities with Yukon Housing Corporation, where we work with them to see if we can identify Yukon Housing Corporation that we can use, and that is true in some of the communities. I'm sorry, I don't have details on which communities that's available in. One of our goals in every community campus is to hire people from that community, and we're now up to eight community campuses

where we have hired people from the community to staff the campuses, so they had housing available to them.

In Whitehorse, we can provide — and do in many instances — temporary housing for staff when we first hire them. We put them either, if it's available, in a family unit or we have what is called the “northern research house”, which we converted into housing a few years ago. It is the original NRI house. We do put people in there for temporary purposes while they are looking for housing.

Like anyone else coming to find work or get work in Yukon, it is a challenge to find housing, depending on the time of year. We always work with new hires. We make sure that they have support in their search for housing. We have, in some cases, found places for them on a temporary basis through word of mouth or networking.

Mr. Kent: We will stay on the topic for a little bit here with respect to the community campuses. Can the witnesses confirm whether there are any difficulties staffing some of those community campuses? Perhaps the witnesses can let us know if there are any vacancies with respect to staffing at any of the community campuses, and if they do have the information, which ones those are.

Ms. Barnes: Again, I apologize, I don't have exact numbers. I know that, over the years, there have definitely been fluctuations in the number of campuses that have been fully staffed. I think that there was a period last year when we went through quite a long period of time where we actually had fully staffed campuses, and it was a really great thing. Again, we sort of credit the ability to hire local people into those positions as being a more stable alternative for the community campuses.

Where possible, we have worked closely with the communities to help us with the hiring, so we have in fact hired a number of First Nation individuals working with the governments in the communities. They have been very successful because they know the community and they work well with the students in the community.

When we have had to hire into the community campuses, we generally have a good application pool. We often attract new young graduates out of universities who want an experience in the north, which is wonderful. They make excellent community campus hires because they are young and energetic, and they really want to have the experience of living in the north. Unfortunately, they also often have a time limit, so that's why we really put a lot of effort now into hiring local people — training them up, if that is what is required.

Mr. Kent: When it comes to continuing education or skills training courses that are offered at the community campuses, are they offered based on demand or are they scheduled throughout the year? I guess the follow-up question to that would be: What kind of enrolment is the college able to handle in some of those continuing education or skills courses? I will leave it at that. What is the capacity versus what is the enrolment for those courses offered at the community campuses?

Ms. Barnes: The question about scheduling is an interesting one and certainly I would have to say that our experience in communities has really changed over the last few years.

It used to be that community campuses were the doorway into the college and so they primarily were offering upgrading courses or short, general interest courses. I would say that, in the last three to four years, we have changed that quite dramatically. First of all, we now do a campus plan with every community and that has to be signed off by the First Nation, the school and the municipal government. They work with us to identify what the training needs are in that community. Those programs are often imported — for example, mine training or the trailer comes out for trades — one of those kinds of things. Those programs will come in and work with the community campus, but often it brings additional staff into the community.

We continue to offer the upgrading courses, but now we are offering more and more of them. So there is more available to the communities and the students in communities. But many of those are now offered through distance. They have a bigger menu of courses in the communities, but they are often linked together with other communities so that we are able to offer more courses.

As you heard in Mr. Milner's speech, we used to have to say, "Well, we have to wait until we have a certain number of students to offer a course," and now we can offer it much more readily.

Mr. Kent: Back to Mr. Milner's opening remarks and Dr. Barnes' remarks with respect to the distance learning and the opportunities that come with it — I think they are great. You can have one individual in one of our communities participate through distance learning with a larger cohort in Whitehorse or a different community.

The question that I have is with respect to the infrastructure in place at those community campuses. Is the Internet speed sufficient for distance learning in all of the campuses and if not, which ones are you seeing where there are some challenges? Has the college put together a plan to address that over the coming years as far as Internet connectivity?

Ms. Barnes: The question of technology is both an opportunity and a challenge — as you can imagine — as we know in the Yukon. I don't have the exact communities that are not yet connected by fibre optic or broadband. That has made a massive difference for us on education in the Yukon — the ability to offer high-speed Internet into some of the communities.

I will just give you an example. Recently, we decided that we would offer the office administration program in an online format into the communities. We didn't know what the uptake would be. There were 29 people registered in the first month that we offered that program. We now know that there is a need and a desire for people to learn, in their communities, a full credit program. The only way we can make that viable is to do that through technology.

So we are working very closely with our providers and with the government to determine when and how we can anticipate reliable Internet. For the most part, the programs are quite well able to continue. We have the full indigenous governance degree being offered by distance to the communities. Those students are able to access all of their courses and they successfully completed their first year, but it is a challenge that we continue to work on.

We have enhanced staffing in what we call the teaching and learning centre at the college, so we now have four or five instructional designers — people who support the instructors on how to develop online programming — but we also have a number of people we call learning mentors, who are both on the campuses and at Ayamdigut and who help the student navigate the intricacies of online learning.

What we have found is that, as we expected, kids coming out of high school today are pretty savvy on technology and it's more the teachers who need the help than the students. There are a number of older students in the communities still who require lots of support and we are allocating lots of resources to that now.

Mr. Kent: When it comes to the transition into a university — Mr. Milner mentioned off the top that the bachelor of indigenous governance is in place. There was a recent announcement about a bachelor of administration starting this fall. I guess my question is: What is the college looking at next, as far as degree programs? Has there been any thought as to what the next degree program is that they're looking to develop and put through the accreditation process and then eventually offer?

Ms. Barnes: In 2012, or maybe 2013, we put out an academic plan, which is available on our website. In that plan, we identified the first three degrees that we would anticipate putting forward. We listed some others that were kind of thinking about what would be possible, but the first three that we made a commitment to were the indigenous governance degree, the business degree, and the third one being what we're calling now a northern studies degree.

For a very long time, Canadian students have had to study the north from the south, and we thought that if we could offer a very exciting, integrated, land-based program about the north that was actually in the north, not only would we attract kids from across the north to come and study, but kids from across the south as well.

Mr. Kent: I'm curious as to if the college is looking at the possibility of increasing the offering of post-graduate studies, especially to complement degrees that are currently offered. I know that Dr. Barnes mentioned earlier in her remarks here today the master of public administration, in partnership with the University of Southeast Alaska. I believe that there are some other post-graduate degrees currently offered in partnership with other institutions, but what we're looking to see is if there is a possibility of increasing those post-grad studies here at Yukon College.

Ms. Barnes: Certainly, we have always said that the college has thrived on partnerships with other post-secondary institutions and that has really made the difference for us in

our ability to offer more to students in the Yukon. As you mentioned, we do currently offer three masters degrees — some are in partnership, some are situations where we offer space and an institution comes in. That would be the case with Cape Breton University, which has offered to intake seven MBA. We have had a masters of education, both from Simon Fraser and from UNBC.

We have one — what we call — “post-degree certificate” that is going to be offered again in September. That is the climate change policy certificate, which is a post-degree program, not a graduate program. Within the current legislation, we only have the ability to grant bachelor’s degrees. That is one of the questions that will happen with the transition to a university. We need to determine what the scope of the programming might be. I think that there could be a very strong demand.

It is interesting. Having the new degree programs on campus — or even the bachelor of science degree, which we have been offering since 2010 with the University of Alberta — what we have found is that the students, once they get into a degree program, immediately start talking about a master’s degree. The first- and second-year IGD students are already asking, “Where should I go for my master’s?”

It is really interesting that there is that interest, and I think it will be one of the natural evolutions of this institution. We started with certificates and now we are doing degrees, and then the next natural evolution is graduate school.

Mr. Kent: I want to turn my attention for a little bit to trades training at the college here in Whitehorse as well as in the communities.

I think we have all heard stories of students who are turned away from trade programs in southern technical schools or colleges because those programs are full. I am curious about what the college’s experience has been over the last couple of years with its trades programming. Are those programs normally fully subscribed to, or is there a percentage that the witnesses can provide us with as to what percentage those enrolments are at?

The next question flowing from that is: If they are not fully subscribed to, does the college look at ways to attract students from outside of the Yukon to fill up those programs? Mr. Milner, I believe, mentioned that some of the other jurisdictions in Canada from which students are attending are Alberta, British Columbia, the NWT and Ontario. Are those students coming in for trades training or are they more on the traditional academic side? What discipline are those Canadian students from outside the Yukon normally coming here to study?

Ms. Barnes: Trades training is one of those areas that has really been changing as well. I have some information here for you which I can share.

We do offer a number of different trades. Historically in the Yukon, we didn’t offer the full suite so that students could complete a journeyman certificate in the Yukon. They were required to go Outside.

The apprenticeship system is run through the Yukon government and the apprenticeship board, so they essentially

buy seats from us. They determine which trades, in many cases, we are going to be offering.

Most recently, because of the addition of the CNIM building, we have the space now to offer more trades training. We now complete all the levels — we have always done carpentry, but we now offer all four levels for electricians, welders, plumbers and heavy equipment and truck transportation technicians. They can actually complete their program in the Yukon.

This week, we had our very first red seal electricians pass their red seal exam, and they completed all four years of that program here in the Yukon. That’s the first in the Yukon. So it is new, but we anticipate that is going to be good news for everybody.

I will just give you some numbers. In carpentry, we offer all four levels. In 2017-18, we had 53 students within those four levels. Construction electrician — we offer all four levels. We had 18 students complete. In welding, we offered levels 1, 2 and 4 just because that’s who the students were. We only had four students in welding. In plumber and oil burner mechanic, we had only level 1 last year, and we had four students complete.

The complex issue about apprenticeship is that students require indentureships in the Yukon in order to move from level 1 to 2 to 3 to 4. Currently, there is a real lack of indentureships in the Yukon, and unless students can get those here, they can’t stay here. So often that is what drives a student outside the Yukon to complete their apprenticeship. We are working very closely with our connections in business and industry to try to work on that situation.

One of the really exciting initiatives that we piloted for the federal government two years ago was the rural apprenticeship program. The rural apprenticeship program allowed us to work with First Nation governments, and what they did was, with that First Nation government, they identified people who had journeyman certificates who could be the master journeyman to look after those apprentices and sign off on their apprenticeships. It was an incredible program, and it really did result in students in communities getting into trades programs. That was 1.5- or two-year pilot funding. It hasn’t been renewed, although in the new federal budget, I noticed that there actually is new money for rural apprentices. So we will go after that again because it was a really good program. The trades trailer was what made that work, because we could take trades training into the communities and offer it right where the student was.

But it is a challenge for us to make sure that we are working closely with businesses to provide those opportunities so that students can continue in their program. It would certainly be something that I think all of us in the Yukon need to work on.

Mr. Kent: I do have a few more trades questions, but seeing the time, I am just going to move over to a couple of other areas that I wanted to talk about on the budget and the financial side of things.

When we looked at the 2017-18 annual report that was tabled earlier this week, the tuition fees from 2017 to 2018

increased by over \$650,000. Is that increase due to tuition increases or is it increased enrolment? Which one of those two factors is that primarily due to?

Ms. Barnes: The increase in tuition overall was primarily due to that influx of international students. The international students pay a differential rate, of course, because they are expected to pay the full cost of their education without the subsidies from government. So they generally pay a higher tuition rate. Because of the big bump, we had a big bump in tuition revenue. Because students are staying longer, our retention is going up. Of course, that also increases tuition revenue. We do work under a tuition policy that regulates our tuition so that the tuition goes up, but only very marginally, every year — usually around one percent.

Mr. Kent: I appreciate that answer. One of the other questions that I had is with respect to the Yukon College Foundation. Mentioned in the annual report is a national fundraising campaign that I think was touched on briefly by the witnesses earlier:

“In 2019 the Foundation will embark on an \$85,000,000 campaign that will be broken out into 2 phases and will incorporate federal, territorial and private sector funding. A national volunteer committee is forming and the development team has begun national outreach. The goal is to announce the campaign publically in 2020.”

Can the witnesses give us a little bit of additional information on this campaign? I know that this report is essentially from the last school year, so is there any new information to report on this? What type of dollars are they looking for from the different funders — be it federal, territorial or private sector? Obviously I would think the \$26 million recently received from the federal government would be part of this, but if the witnesses wish to correct me on that, that would be great.

Ms. Barnes: As you mentioned, the \$85 million campaign goal is a two-phase approach. This is the first time the college has done this scale of seeking private money outside of Yukon. Out of the \$85 million, we did identify the \$26 million federal government ask as one of the cornerstones of that campaign, and that was certainly identified in the early stages of this planning.

We also did a business plan as a starting point for this campaign where we identified the needs across the campus, and from that list, we were able to identify the costs and the money we would like to see raised. The Yukon government has given us a lift for the university transition the last three years, and we are in discussions now to talk about what that ongoing investment could be in the university. Then there is \$40 million left through the private sector.

Since September, I have spent considerable time on a plane and also visiting many people in Toronto and Vancouver in the private sector. Working with the Yukon government, we identified a number of key players in the Canadian banking system, the mining industry as well as people like Power Corp. who have connections back to the Yukon. They have been incredibly generous in meeting with me. I have met with the CEOs of most of the banks or the

chairs of the boards. I've met with the CEOs of Agnico Eagle or VPs of Goldcorp, Teck Resources, Power Corp. and Lucara Diamonds. All of them have expressed a sincere interest in supporting the campaign, helping us reach out to others and find people who would be interested in donation.

As mentioned in this speech, we have \$4 million in proposals out to banks right now, and we're in negotiations with a number of these players I mentioned — around \$5 million in further proposals. We already have a \$5-million investment from the Mastercard Foundation.

We have received in the last year almost \$130,000 from the McConnell Foundation. The Garfield Weston Foundation has given us a half-million dollars to build a new program called “building maintainer”, which will be a pre-apprenticeship program. We have attracted dollars from a couple of anonymous donors outside of Yukon. One is a small donation that allowed us to build the mobile science lab, and they have already committed to further donations to us. We are just working on a proposal with them. The Rideau Hall Foundation has continued to support us as well through the EleV project. We also have been working on, of course, enhancing our student awards through individual donations, mostly from Yukoners who have been very generous in supporting our students.

Mr. Kent: I do have a number of other questions that I have been unfortunately not able to get to with respect to milestones for the university and questions about the Yukon Research Centre, but at this point, I want to thank the witnesses for coming here today and answering the questions that we had.

I will turn it over to the Third Party to continue the discussion here this afternoon. Thank you to the minister for inviting the witnesses from Yukon College to attend here today.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the Member for Copperbelt South for so ably canvassing a broad swath of what I was going to try to cover myself. Now I am in the position where I am going to have to pick and choose where I have crossed things off and where I haven't. I will try not to be too disjointed as I ask my questions.

I want to pick up where the Member for Copperbelt South asked some questions with respect to enrolment and tuition figures. The witnesses had mentioned that there had been 127 foreign students and the breakdown with that.

I was just curious, when I looked at the report, as to the witnesses' interpretation of what we are seeing in terms of the data that was included with respect to the trend from 2015-16. So for the last three years, there is a decrease in, first of all, direct entrance from Yukon high schools. So in 2015-16, the number of applications was almost 300 — 295 — and in 2017, it was reported as 121. I looked at each of the areas, First Nation applications and overall. I am sure that halving of it or more must have caused some concern. Is there any interpretation that one can apply, or is it incomplete data?

Ms. Barnes: Enrolment data is something that we're working very hard to do better at capturing and analyzing, so

I'll start by saying that. I think that over the years we have gotten much better at it.

The entrance direct from high school in the Yukon is a fluctuating number. It is interesting to me that we did have a bit of a dip. The other interesting thing for me is that we had that dip at the same time as most institutions across the country were actually experiencing dips in enrolment due to high employment.

Employment rates were higher, but also just the demographic across this country has changed. Direct-from-high-school entrance to post-secondary in Canada is changing as a result of that. What has happened is that international students are filling that gap across the country.

We haven't actually analyzed the data from Yukon high school entrants, but it is a very good question, and we certainly will take that back. One of the things that we are really working on is trying to get more of the students direct from the communities into the college because sometimes that transition can be very difficult and we want to make sure that they are supported through that.

We now have community campus liaisons and we are hoping, through the money that we receive from Mastercard, that will get more kids who come from communities into the universities and colleges. So we have been able to get things like career guidance positions — additional ones — learning supports, tutors and career counsellors. All of those things, we hope, will increase that number.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the witness for that. I just want to touch briefly, if I could, on the Yukon College master plan. I think a number of us can remember being up at the college and sticking little stickies on boards and stuff as people were talking about what the vision was for Yukon College and Yukon university — people dared to dream five years ago about that. I am curious as to — so this was 2015 and it is a phased plan, obviously — is this plan sort of evergreened, and has there been an update to this master plan? There was a lot of discussion at the time around the concept of endowment lands. Could the witnesses just provide a brief update on those key parts?

Ms. Barnes: The master land use plan, as she said, is 2015. That plan is really now coming to life with the science building because that was certainly identified in the master plan. So it is exciting to see that dream is actually coming to life.

As you may know, there were other priority builds identified in that plan and we have put those into our national fundraising campaign as well. The next one is something we call the "gateway building", which will be a building that will be housed across from the new science building adjacent to the Arts Centre. We hope that will be a bit of a mini-conference centre, which is something that is greatly needed in the Yukon. But it will also be a place that will really celebrate the traditional lands that we sit on as well.

Then the third building, which we know is needed — we have an outstandingly beautiful campus, but it is 35 years old, so we want to update the student service centre and the whole

front entrance of the campus to make it more welcoming. That also is in the national campaign.

We are just embarking on what we are calling an update of the principles of the master land plan, which is identifying things like the protection of the parkland which we identified in the first plan. We want to reinforce that. How are we going to connect learning on the built-form campus to the parkland and vice versa? How do we use the land around us more in bringing traditional knowledge and other lenses into our learning?

We have just worked with the Government of Yukon to identify a naming policy. What happens is that these corporate donors or philanthropists can actually name a building, which would be a first for the college. We are just working through the intricacies of that and that will be in the master plan then as well.

We are working with the government. We have signed an MOU around the endowment, so that has established the 97 hectares. It is still an education reserve. The next step, of course, is to perhaps move that title over to the college.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the witnesses for that response. My colleague canvassed a lot of the enhancement developments around the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining, trade sector and the two new university degree programs. The witnesses mentioned the 2012 academic plan. When that academic plan was developed, Yukon College didn't have a direct relationship with SOVA. One of the issues or questions that I would ask is that — we are talking in the territory right now about developing a creative and cultural industry strategy. It seems to me that here is the opportunity for a fine arts program. When I am thinking about this, we are talking about the visual and performing arts, design, the museum curatorship, music, art, art appreciation, art history, animation, photography, and the list goes on. These are all things that Yukoners do. We take a lot of pride in them. They contribute to our GDP. When I, over the years, have talked with people who have been involved with the Dawson City Arts Society and with SOVA — it is my understanding that the vision was for a four-year degree program. They have a one-year transfer. It is a very rich program that allows that transfer to established art colleges across this country. What I am interested in from the witnesses, first of all, is what the governance relationship is with respect to the relationship between Yukon College — because it used to be, as I understood, Yukon government and SOVA, and now it's Yukon College. Where does SOVA fit in with the Yukon College? Because we have Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in involved in this; we have the Dawson City Arts Society involved and now the college, and we have a SOVA governing council. Have there been discussions about updating, first of all, the 2012 academic plan to envision a fine arts program based out of SOVA? I will start there.

Ms. Barnes: Just to correct the information: Actually, the original SOVA agreement, which I think dates back to 2007, was DCAS Dawson City Arts Society, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the college. That agreement was established right from the beginning. In the language of the agreement, it

said that the certificates granted at SOVA would be under the auspices of Yukon College. We actually grant the credential. Those students receive a Yukon College credential, but in every other way, that is a partnership program. We have a governing council where the three partners each have two members, and that has been since inception. Certainly, the players have changed, but we continue to meet regularly. We hire and manage all of the staff, but again, always in collaboration.

As you mentioned, the dream of the SOVA school which started just the year before I arrived — so in the first three years I was here, I was actually very actively involved in the governing council. One of the challenges has been attracting students to Dawson for that program.

The initial vision was that it would house 20 students, and the building was built to house 20 students in a full contemporary art first-year foundation program. We have never yet filled the program, but we have come very close. This year, we have 11 full-time students and one part-time student. In the fall and in the winter, we have seven full-time and two part-time. Last year, we had 10 full-time, seven and eight full-time and six. It's still lagging behind full enrolment.

We are doing a couple of things that we think will really enhance that. First, we're starting this September a new one-year certificate in traditional arts. That program will be primarily focused on traditional First Nation cultural arts and it will be piloted first in Whitehorse, but we anticipate that it could be a program that moves around to different communities — certainly Dawson could be one. To get the enrolment up, we needed to start it here. That program will start, and it's designed to be a feeder program into SOVA, so that's something that we have been working on.

The second thing is that we understand that there is a mandate from this government to do something in traditional indigenous fine arts, so we're having conversations right now. I have been having conversations with the Department of Education to try to define what that could look like. Should it be an addition to SOVA, as in a second year that would eventually build up to a degree, or should it be a complementary certificate that could have courses that are shared? We're just having that conversation now, and we'll be going out and sort of canvassing the need across the territory.

Ms. Hanson: In the long term, does the college envision revisiting the 2012 academic plan with a view to incorporating a fine arts degree?

Ms. Barnes: Yes, sorry; I missed that question. The arts has always been one of the things that we have really wanted to incorporate. The original college was actually built with a theatre. I don't know if you were aware of that, but it's in the basement of the college, which is a weird place to put a theatre. But we have the beautiful Arts Centre, so we have access to a beautiful theatre.

One of the challenges is, as we have with SOVA, finding people to come into those programs. Arts programs can be difficult to bring students to if you don't have a full robust suite of courses. At the moment, we haven't really gone any further than just talking about what we'll do to enhance

SOVA. With the university, I think there will be a higher expectation that we have a breadth of fine arts or at least a breadth of different kinds of programming in the liberal arts, and the arts need to be included for students, as do languages. I anticipate that our next academic plan, which will be in development in time for the 2020-21 strategic plan, will incorporate that thinking.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the witness for that. I would really encourage — maybe by 2021, I can get involved in championing that one.

I will apologize if Mr. Milner may have covered this in his opening statements. I unfortunately didn't hear all of that. Is the focus of the college on the tourism and hospitality-related programming? If you have already covered it, it will be in the transcript, but if you haven't — again, this is an area where there is a lot of focus. Government has talked about this very large investment in a tourism strategy. One would think that, commensurate to that — in the same way that we focus on our mining sectors and the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining — we would also be looking at — what does it mean if we are successful in developing this strategy and we are successful in attracting all of these tourists — then what? There is such a broad spectrum of training there.

In past years, Yukon College has been involved in various studies and research in terms of options for tourism training. There were discussions about using off-campus sites such as in Haines Junction at the old research station there that became Parks Canada — the lands available there.

I am interested in where we are with all of that and where we are going with the tourism- and hospitality-related programming.

Ms. Barnes: Certainly tourism programming has been top of mind for us since I have been at the college. We have tried a couple of different things. One is the food and beverage worker program — so we had an add-on to our culinary program, which has always been extremely popular. It was a one-year certificate program for students. They essentially ran the Hilltop Bistro, our dining room on campus. Unfortunately, two things happened. One is that the students would start the program and, after about three months, they would be offered jobs by the restaurants in town, and so they would go off because they were trained and were good servers. So they wouldn't complete the program, but they would be trained by us. The second is that, unfortunately, the tourism industry — and the hospitality industry, in particular — does not provide a “value add”. So if you go and get training in tourism or hospitality, you don't generally get paid more than you would if you didn't have the training.

That is something that we are working on with the industry right now. We have actually entered into a conversation with NVD to have them house a training program that we would help them operate. It would be under their auspices, but they would certainly entertain students who would go out into all of the industry here in the Yukon. They have a real need for workers in that area, and so they have come and asked us if we can work with them to develop training. That is a good news story.

The other thing in tourism is that there are so many other opportunities in small business, for example. With the new business degree and the innovation hub, we anticipate that we may see some people coming forward either to get business training for their small business in tourism or to incubate new ideas in tourism. We are really hoping that will happen.

The other thing is that, on the community campuses, we are starting to hear quite a bit of interest from community members in starting small tourism businesses. I was just in Haines Junction at a community dinner a few weeks ago, and they are clearly far down the road — the municipality, the First Nations and the campuses all working together to identify what they could do in the beautiful Kluane park that would build some business and employment opportunities. So we are talking about what that training could look like there.

Ms. Hanson: This is a really interesting area to me. I think that beyond the service sector — they are a form of small business, but there are particular kinds of training — thinking about our beautiful Kluane and other parts of the territory. In British Columbia, I think there are only one or two places for wilderness tourism training — specialized training. It is very niche, but it also attracts a very high-end market.

Again, I am wondering about that kind of broadening — it is not necessarily a degree, but it is highly skilled and highly sought-after skilled people in terms of positions, and so I am wondering, in the conversations in the communities or within the college — moving beyond the service sector, which I think is important — it is a vital underpinning to a successful tourism strategy — but the other aspects of it as well.

Ms. Barnes: The conversation about wilderness training is something that has come up, as I mentioned earlier — the whole eco-tourism — all of those areas. It comes up regularly for us. One of the things that we have really had an explosion in is that short course kind of training in communities — certainly things like wilderness first aid and small-engine repair. We have a campus employee up in Old Crow whose family has just started a tourism guiding business.

Fortunately, we have recently done things like wilderness first aid, skidoo repair, all of the small machinery, marketing and event planning. So we have those little pieces that we offer in certificates to communities — some of them through online, but many of them by demand. If a community asks, we send the training out.

As you know, we have upward of 5,000 registrations in those programs every year, so there is high interest for those short courses. As you say, credentials aren't always the answer, and in industries like tourism, it may not be the answer. It may be that you have to cobble together a number of short courses in order to put together some kind of employment in a small community.

Ms. Hanson: One of the things that, over the years, there have been discussions about — because we have these amazing summers — whether or not Yukon College has ever looked — what current discussions there are about offering programs — now we have this wonderful movement around

the indigenous governance program and the degree. As the witness pointed out, much of the academic work and research that has been done historically across this country has occurred elsewhere. Every once in a while, you hear a conversation about “Wouldn't it be nice if there were colloquia or whatever that were offered in the seasons when those folks aren't teaching, but actually came here and sat in the Yukon and talked with Yukoners about the research that they do about the north?”

I am just sort of wondering — has the college looked at — so when the students who are here in fall to spring are gone and that beautiful campus sits — I am not going to say it's empty because I do know that things happen up there, but it is pretty quiet — to maximize that and to also broaden that reach that we have with respect to forcing that southern-based northern academia into the north?

Ms. Barnes: Obviously there is a very exciting opportunity with the university to attract that kind of colloquia up here — meetings and such. Over the past few years, we have actually been strongly encouraging our faculty and campus staff to invite their networks to hold meetings in the Yukon. Over the years, we have had the Canadian Geological Survey meeting that our staff helped to organize. This week or next week in fact we have the Canadian mental health post-secondary — whatever group that's here with all the post-secondary institutions across Canada — hosting at Kwanlin Dün. Our registrar actually sits on the organizing committee for that.

Every year, we host at least one of what's called an articulation committee of the university post-secondary in British Columbia on campus. Those are discipline-specific, so we might have biology or we might have English. This summer, we are hosting 50 university presidents and vice presidents from across Canada to talk to us and to come to see what we're doing with our community engagement and indigenous governance and other programs with First Nations in Yukon. That's going to be very exciting.

In December, we're hosting the board meeting of the University of the Arctic, so we'll have 10 presidents from the eight Arctic states coming here from universities across the global north. We're very excited that we're about to become another country with a university north of 60. So they'll be here one month after the legislation is tabled — so very exciting to be able to offer that opportunity to them.

We are looking absolutely for opportunities to do that.

Ms. Hanson: I thank the witness for that. That's really exciting news to hear. One of my colleagues wanted me to make sure that I did ask a question, because in the campus plan, there's a whole section on green building parameters. I just wanted to confirm with the witness that the new science building will be built according to those green building parameters, particularly when it comes to energy efficiency. The questions we're including are: Was the building going to be using a biomass system that would be integrated into the college residence, or the Arts Centre perhaps? Will there be a solar installation? Will it be net zero? Will there be in-floor

radiant heat? Pretty specific, but I have colleagues who are really interested in that level of detail.

Ms. Barnes: As you can imagine, since two weeks ago, when it was announced, we have all sorts of dreams happening around that building right now. We probably haven't heard about the in-floor heating, but that's probably something I'll hear about soon. Bike lockers were a big part of the conversation this week.

We have a very strong commitment to energy efficiency. We have an NSERC chair in renewable energies currently on campus, and he hosts upward of 25 students from across Canada every year on energy solution research. We are very much committed to incorporating as much of that learning into the building. We want the building to also be a place of learning on energy efficiency — and how we can incorporate research projects around that into the building.

We haven't yet identified — and we won't probably until we get an architect — on what level of LEED we might be pursuing, but that's in the conversation. We currently have solar on campus. We use solar that was set up at the research lab, and it actually takes us off-grid for much of our campus housing for part of the year, which is wonderful. We have a very strong sustainability committee that keeps us — today we were all reminded again not to use plastic bottles. We banned plastic bottles on campus five years ago, so we do have a very strong commitment as a college and a future university to that.

Ms. Hanson: I probably could go on, but I recognize the time. I would like to thank the witnesses for appearing here today and for answering all the questions that both my colleague from Copperbelt South and I have raised with you. Thank you.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Just before I thank our witnesses, I would like to speak to the record for a moment.

Mr. Milner mentioned his father, but not by name, and around here, it is important for us to make sure that we have names in the record. I would like to note that his father was Peter Milner and was, of course, a driving force in the 2007 Canada Winter Games here in the territory. He has left a legacy through that work, not only at the Yukon College, but in our entire community. I thank you for that. We thank your family for that. We know how important he was here in this community.

With that, I would like to thank the Yukon College officials for having been here. I know how uncomfortable those seats can be, probably, for two hours — very patient. I would also, on behalf of Committee of the Whole, like to thank Mr. Chris Milner, chair of the board of governors of Yukon College, and Dr. Karen Barnes, president and vice chancellor of Yukon College, for appearing here as witnesses and for their very thorough answers to the questions and excellent information in the opening remarks. Thank you both for taking the time and being with us here today.

Witnesses excused

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by Ms. McPhee 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 Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole?

Chair's report

Mr. Adel: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, and directed me to report progress.

Also, pursuant to Committee of the Whole Motion No. 9, witnesses appeared before the Committee of the Whole to discuss matters related to Yukon College.

Speaker: You have heard the report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: 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. Monday. I wish all members a good weekend.

The House adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The following legislative returns were tabled April 4, 2019:

34-2-201

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. White related to general debate on Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* (Streicker)

34-2-202

Response to oral question from Mr. Istchenko re: Liquor transport (Streicker)

34-2-203

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Cathers during second reading of Bill No. 208, *Third Appropriation Act 2018-19* (Streicker)

34-2-204

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. White related to general debate on Vote 11, Women's Directorate, in Bill No. 208, *Third Appropriation Act 2018-19* — Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Canada capacity development funding (Dendys)

The following documents were filed April 4, 2019:

34-2-65

Yukon Lottery Commission Annual Report 2017/2018
(Streicker)

34-2-66

Rapport sur les services en français 2017-2018
Report on French-language Services 2017-2018
(Streicker)

34-2-67

Government's failure to properly consult about Mandanna Lake regulation change, letter re (dated April 1, 2019) from Geraldine Van Bibber, Member for Porter Creek North, to Hon. Sandy Silver, Premier (Van Bibber)