



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

---

Number 148

2nd Session

34th Legislature

---

## HANSARD

Thursday, April 25, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2019 Spring Sitting

**SPEAKER — Hon. Nils Clarke, MLA, Riverdale North**  
**DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Don Hutton, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun**  
**DEPUTY CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Ted Adel, MLA, Copperbelt North**

### CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
<b>Hon. Sandy Silver</b>	Klondike	Premier Minister of the Executive Council Office; Finance
<b>Hon. Ranj Pillai</b>	Porter Creek South	Deputy Premier Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation
<b>Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee</b>	Riverdale South	Government House Leader Minister of Education; Justice
<b>Hon. John Streicker</b>	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate; Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission
<b>Hon. Pauline Frost</b>	Vuntut Gwitchin	Minister of Health and Social Services; Environment; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
<b>Hon. Richard Mostyn</b>	Whitehorse West	Minister of Highways and Public Works; the Public Service Commission
<b>Hon. Jeanie Dendys</b>	Mountainview	Minister of Tourism and Culture; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board; Women's Directorate

### GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

#### Yukon Liberal Party

<b>Ted Adel</b>	Copperbelt North
<b>Paolo Gallina</b>	Porter Creek Centre
<b>Don Hutton</b>	Mayo-Tatchun

### OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

#### Yukon Party

<b>Stacey Hassard</b>	Leader of the Official Opposition Pelly-Nisutlin	<b>Scott Kent</b>	Official Opposition House Leader Copperbelt South
<b>Brad Cathers</b>	Lake Laberge	<b>Patti McLeod</b>	Watson Lake
<b>Wade Istchenko</b>	Kluane	<b>Geraldine Van Bibber</b>	Porter Creek North

### THIRD PARTY

#### New Democratic Party

<b>Liz Hanson</b>	Leader of the Third Party Whitehorse Centre
<b>Kate White</b>	Third Party House Leader Takhini-Kopper King

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Floyd McCormick
Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Karina Watson
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Harris Cox
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Thursday, April 25, 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

**Speaker:** Under introduction of visitors, the Chair would like to introduce Annette King, Yukon's Child and Youth Advocate, and Lynda Silverfox, the Child and Youth Systemic Analyst. I would ask members to welcome them to the House today.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** Merci Monsieur le Président. J'aimerais encore une fois dire un grand bonjour à un professeur. Alors bonjour Monsieur Herry. Bienvenue encore pour la quatrième, cinquième ou sixième fois. C'est toujours un plaisir de vous avoir ici.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Assembly today to help me in welcoming Wendy Tayler, Tina Woodland, Lillian Vetrie, Mike Moore, Richard Parkinson, and Nick Schonewille, who are here today for our tribute to Whitehorse Motors.

*Applause*

**Mr. Istchenko:** I do want to welcome Red Grossinger, Shannon Cooper, and Karen Carriere here for the tribute to D-Day. I want to welcome them to the House. Thank you for coming.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Mr. Speaker, can we also please welcome Mr. Red Grossinger — and I think it's now Shannon Grossinger, but I stand to be corrected, who I think also happens to be a past mayor of Mayo — I don't know. Karen is a neighbour. The Member for Takhini-Kopper King already welcomed Yann — and his mother, Simone. I would like to just say that they are here because Yann is going to be taking a few dozen students over to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day in France; that's why he is here today.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Are there any tributes?

## TRIBUTES

### In recognition of Whitehorse Motors 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to the owners and staff of Whitehorse Motors.

Whitehorse Motors was established in 1969 and it is celebrating 50 years of serving Yukoners. In 1969, Ford of Canada sent a representative to Whitehorse to find someone to take over the Ford dealership from Northern Commercial Company, which had been selling Ford vehicles in the Yukon since 1922. As many people know, long-time Yukon businessman Rolf Hougen expressed an interest and subsequently became the dealer. He then acquired land on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, remodelling an existing building and added a showroom.

The dealership moved from its original location at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Main Street with an official opening of the new business on November 17, 1969. Over the years, Rolf Hougen built the dealership to become a cornerstone of the Whitehorse business community. Rolf Hougen of course retired from the business in the late 1990s.

Rick Nielsen then took over the helm of Whitehorse Motors and ran it for many years. Rick expanded and modernized the dealership, bringing up new technologies and innovative tools for diagnosing and repairing vehicles. During Rick's time, he headed up a tight-knit group of Yukon staff who spent years and decades in the dealership. Throughout the years, the Whitehorse Motors antique cars have shepherded dignitaries and VIPs and have been seen on various parade routes.

Today the dealership is owned by two Yukon businesswomen — Wendy Tayler and Tina Woodland. Wendy and Tina are both very active in the local business community. With more than 50 employees, Whitehorse Motors provides meaningful and ongoing employment opportunities for Yukoners. Back in 2012, the Ford dealership undertook a major renovation along with a grand reopening to update and upgrade their services to Yukoners.

For 10 months during the anniversary year, Whitehorse Motors is donating \$5,000 a month to various Yukon and Northwest Territories organizations, for a total contribution of \$50,000. So far, they have supported the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, the Yukon First Nations Hockey Association, and the Challenge Disability Resource Group. This approach to giving back to the community is one of the reasons Whitehorse Motors has been such a strong part of the community over the years.

Transportation has changed so much in the past 50 years, and we know that it's on the brink of another massive shift with autonomous vehicles and energy efficiency. Community-focused companies like Whitehorse Motors will help that future, and as a happy customer, I want to thank you for the amazing service that you always provide every time I have an opportunity to walk in and see your team.

*Applause*

**Mr. Kent:** I am pleased to rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to Whitehorse Motors and Budget Car Rental, which are celebrating 50 years of operation in the Yukon throughout this year.

As mentioned by the minister, 50 years ago, Ford Canada sent a representative to Whitehorse in search of candidates to take over the Ford dealership from Northern Commercial Company, which had been the sole Ford dealer in the territory since the early 1920s. Rolf Hougen took on the role of the Ford dealer, opening the new business on November 17, 1969, in the very same location on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue as it sits today.

While Mr. Hougen retired from the business in the late 1990s, Whitehorse Motors is still going strong. Its two incredible Yukon entrepreneurial owners — the current dealer, principal Wendy Tayler, and general manager and dealer, partner Tina Woodland — offer great service to Yukoners throughout the year. Budget Car Rental is managed by Michael Moore, and it's a pleasure to see Wendy, Tina, Mike and the rest of the staff here in the gallery today.

Although vehicles and technology surrounding them have changed dramatically over the last 50 years, Whitehorse Motors and Budget Yukon's firm commitment to quality service in the community remain unchanged. To celebrate this incredible milestone, Whitehorse Motors is donating \$5,000 a month, for a total of \$50,000 in 2019, to local charities and non-profit organizations to recognize their valued customers and to reciprocate the deep support that Yukoners have provided both businesses over the past five decades.

These charities and causes are being determined in numerous ways, including being chosen by staff and customers in order to give profile to some of the territory's smaller organizations that do such important work for Yukon citizens. This anniversary celebration initiative is over and above the numerous community causes that Whitehorse Motors and Budget Yukon so generously support. These include but are not limited to: Yukon Hospital Foundation's Northwestel Festival of Trees, Motorcycle Ride for Dad, Whitehorse Food Bank, Yukon Arts Centre as well as other arts organizations, the Every Student, Every Day initiative, Yukon Quest, Run for Mom — and, Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on. There will be a customer appreciation event held on Saturday, August 24 at the dealership, and everyone is welcome.

I would like to thank Whitehorse Motors and Budget Car Rental for their service to the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and northern British Columbia, as well as for their continued community support.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Whitehorse Motors. Congratulations for 50 years of commitment to community. We know that it hasn't always been easy, but what exists at the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue location is a testament to a half-century of hard work. Congratulations on reaching this milestone, and we can't wait to see what comes next. Congratulations.

*Applause*

### **In remembrance of D-Day 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I rise today to pay tribute to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

On June 6, 1944, 150,000 Allied forces landed on France's Normandy coast, making it the largest amphibious invasion in history. The ensuing battle spearheaded the liberation of occupied western Europe and was a pivotal event in World War II. Fourteen thousand Canadians were involved, and their objective in the morning light of June 6 was to take Juno Beach.

When our soldiers left the protection of the boats, they were met with heavy opposition. Al Clevette, who served with the Canadian Scottish Regiment, remembered that morning — quote: "You die a thousand deaths every time the machine guns start clattering around your ears. And the bullets are flying and you know darn well the next one could be you."

The Canadians faced two German battalions and SS special units backed by heavy machine guns and armoured support. We had a 50 percent casualty rate during the initial waves of the landing. Despite these daunting odds, within several hours, we had cleared the beach, and by the end of the day, our soldiers advanced farther than any of the Allies.

All war cradles tragedy, Mr. Speaker. D-Day saw over 1,000 Canadian casualties and 359 who would never return home. Over the coming weeks, the balance of the war changed in favour of the Allies. The cost for Canada was more than 5,000 lives as part of the Battle of Normandy.

At the Canadian war cemetery in Bény-sur-Mer, the white headstones stretch across the field. All are carved with a maple leaf; many read, "A Soldier of the 1939-1945 War — A Canadian Regiment — Known Unto God".

By the third week of August, the battle was won. Less than a year later, Nazi Germany and then Japan surrendered. Seventy-five years later, it is hard to fathom the sacrifice. So today we pause, we take time to remember the offering of the Canadian and Allied soldiers in turning the tide of war.

Mr. Speaker, 11 Yukon French first language students and 20 French second language students from Whitehorse and Dawson will also be remembering our soldiers' sacrifice during a trip to France from May 25 to June 9. Their trip involves an official ceremony to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Juno Beach, home to Canada's Second World War museum.

While in France, they will be hosted by local families and they will be welcomed on June 8 as part of a ceremony in Rots, a small town in Normandy liberated by Canadians, 17 excruciating kilometres inland from Juno. All of these students have been raising funds since September to support their travels.

Nous saluons ces jeunes Yukonnaises et ces jeunes Yukonnais qui vont faire l'effort de se rendre sur place pour assister aux cérémonies de commémoration de ces événements marquants de l'Histoire.

We applaud the young Yukoners for their efforts to witness, commemorate, and participate in these important events.

I hope that we all take time to reflect upon the value of D-Day — a day which, I believe, secured a legacy of peace and a path to universal human rights.

Thank you to the thousands of Canadians who fought for us that morning — June 6, 1944 — 75 years ago. Thank you to the men and women who continue to serve.

Souvenons-nous d'eux et souvenons-nous d'elles.

Lest we forget.

*Applause*

**Mr. Istchenko:** I rise to recognize June 6, 2019, as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Normally we're not sitting on this actual date, so I thought it would be important to tribute this day in history. I want to thank the Third Party — the NDP — for letting me do this on their behalf, and I want to thank the minister for his tribute also.

I want to thank those who are in the gallery — those who came today — and I do want to highlight Yann — on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, he had the opportunity — he does this all the time. He took my child over there and some locals from my community, and they learned a lot — so I want to thank him for that.

Germany invaded much of western Europe in the spring of 1940 during the opening months of the Second World War. A narrow stretch of sea, the English Channel, was all that separated the surging enemy forces from Great Britain, but the island nation held firm. The conquered countries on the continent would suffer greatly under the harsh Nazi occupation in the years that followed.

To win the war, however, Germany would have to be defeated on the ground in western Europe, and 1944 would be the year the Allies would finally strike back. The target for the Allied landing forces would be the beaches of Normandy in France. Planning and preparation for this immense undertaking — code named Operation Overlord — began more than a year earlier.

Successfully establishing a beachhead in occupied France would be a huge challenge for the Allied forces. The Nazis had turned the coast of Europe — from the Spanish border to Scandinavia — into a daunting series of defensive positions. Dubbed Fortress Europe by Adolf Hitler, its shores were studded with landmines, barbed wire, concrete bunkers, artillery batteries, machine-gun nests, anti-tank walls, and thousands of watchful enemy troops.

If the landings were successful, our forces would finally gain that all-important foothold in western Europe and could begin the liberation campaign after years of harsh German occupation. Allied war planes undertook countless missions, attacking coastline defences and lines of transport in occupied Europe in the months leading up to Operation Overlord. Despite questionable weather conditions, the Allied high command made the decision to attack on June 6, 1944 — a date that has become known in history as D-Day.

A massive Allied force would cross the English Channel, heading for an 80-kilometre stretch of the Normandy coast and five landing zones assigned to the forces of different nations. Some 7,000 naval vessels of all types — including

284 major combat ships — took part, and the Royal Canadian Navy shelled German positions on shore and cleared the sea mines in the approaches to the French beaches.

Many Royal Canadian Air Force planes were among some of the 4,000 Allied bombers and 3,700 fighters and fighter-bombers that relentlessly struck at shoreline defences, inland targets, and enemy squadrons that day. More than 450 members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion jumped inland before dawn on June 6 and were the first of our soldiers to engage the enemy on D-Day. A few hours later, some 14,000 Canadian troops, composed of military units from coast to coast, would begin to come ashore at Juno Beach. Their mission was to brave heavy fire to establish a foothold along an eight-kilometre stretch of coastline.

Many Canadian soldiers were young and new to battle, but our infantry and our armoured troops would be thrown into action against some of the best German forces in Normandy. The Canadians successfully captured their shoreline positions at Juno Beach and penetrated the furthest inland of any of the some 155,000 Allied troops who had landed on June 6, 1944.

But D-Day was only the beginning of the struggle to liberate France. Canadian troops battled forward despite desperate struggles. Finally, on August 25, 1944, Paris was liberated by the Allies, officially bringing the Normandy campaign to a close.

Victory in the Battle of Normandy came with a terrible cost — some 359 Canadian soldiers were killed on D-Day alone and a total of more than 5,000 of our men would die during the two and a half months of fighting in Normandy. Most of these fallen heroes lie buried in France. Over 13,000 more of our soldiers were wounded in Normandy, with many suffering injuries to body and mind that they would carry for the rest of their lives.

Normandy was the beginning of 11 months of hard fighting in northwest Europe. Canadians helped to defeat the Germans and to see victory in Europe — VE Day — declared on May 8, 1945.

Canada's impressive efforts in the Second World War remain a point of national pride and, even many decades later, we still have great national pride. The brave Canadians who came ashore on D-Day and saw action in the Battle of Normandy were among the more than one million men and women from our country who served the cause of peace and freedom during the conflict. Sadly, over 45,000 of them would lose their lives.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to quote — like I did last year — from Hansard, Monday, June 6, 1994, by the Hon. Bill Brewster. He was the MLA for Kluane who served with the Royal Canadian Winnipeg Rifles during World War II, and he landed in France on that day — and I quote: "I hope we can now take a moment from our busy lives to honour and remember the wartime sacrifices made by Canadians overseas and at home so that we can enjoy peace today."

Lest we forget.

*Applause*

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** The Chair has for tabling a report from the Child and Youth Advocate, entitled *Empty Spaces Caring Connections — The Experiences of Children and Youth in Yukon Group Care*.

**Mr. Cathers:** I have for tabling today two photographs of ruts on the Takhini River Road.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I have for tabling a legislative return, which is the answer to a question posed on April 8 by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King during debate on the Department of Education budget.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

## PETITIONS

### Petition No. 11

**Mr. Cathers:** I have for presentation the following petition signed by 129 Yukoners to the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

This petition of the undersigned shows:

THAT school bus safety is vital to keeping Yukon children safe, and recent collisions involving other vehicles hitting a school bus and near-misses involving children on the road demonstrate a need for more enforcement, and tougher penalties for drivers who endanger the lives of children on and near school buses.

THAT the Province of Prince Edward Island strengthened its penalties for illegally passing a school bus to include suspending the offender's driver's licence.

THEREFORE, the undersigned ask the Yukon Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Yukon to add dashboard cameras to school buses to make it easier to catch people who drive dangerously near a school bus, and hold public consultations on legislative changes to increase the penalty for illegally passing a stopped school bus to include suspending the offender's driver's licence.

**Speaker:** Are there any further petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to continue to show leadership in reducing the number of children living in government care through the use of extended family care agreements.

**Mr. Cathers:** I rise today to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to improve the safety and functionality of Takhini River Road by:

(1) immediately taking steps to repair the ruts and improve the road surface; and

(2) investing in engineering and design work aimed at doing a major upgrade to the roadbed, road surface, and ditches.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to investigate the required legislative and regulatory requirements necessary to make reverse mortgages available in Yukon to support Yukon seniors who wish to use this financial tool to assist them to remain in their own homes as they age.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motions?

Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Politicizing the public service

**Mr. Hassard:** Yesterday, it was revealed through an ATIPP response that the Department of Economic Development had been instructed to monitor the political opponents of the Liberals. Thanks to an unredacted version, we see that the document was in a folder called "research for minister". We also saw that the public servant instructed to do this work was uncomfortable, as they wrote that they didn't want to be "... alerting people that this kind of activity is being undertaken."

Those two bits of information had been redacted based on the rationale that they were advice to the minister. Yesterday we asked the minister if he had instructed the non-partisan public service to conduct this political activity, and he denied doing so or ever seeing these documents.

That raises this question: If the minister never saw this document, as he claims, how could the information be redacted based on it being advice to the minister?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, the political arm of the government is not made aware of who is requesting these particular documents. Secondly, I don't take part in the work that is being done by our ATIPP coordinator to identify how the protocol and procedures are done.

What we saw yesterday, once again — I had an opportunity after it was tabled — just for Yukoners to know, it was a list of events that ministers from the Yukon Party government attended. There were, like, 15 different events that they attended. It wasn't the Yukon Party; it was the previous ministers — work that was undertaken by a public servant.

Once again — a lot of noise, a lot of innuendo, and a lot of smear. That is how the Yukon Party, I guess, is going to spend their time in the Legislative Assembly.

I thought that we would come in and talk about a decision, a policy point, a budget, or a line item — but no. What we are hearing about is — walking something into the Assembly, turning it into something that it is not — it is simply just a list of identified events that — this document was produced in the first 90 days of government back in 2017. If this is where we are at this point in the session, it certainly says something. We are not talking about the economy; we are not talking about the opportunity for jobs; we are creating smear that doesn't even exist.

**Mr. Hassard:** It is interesting that we are also not talking about answering the question.

I will continue. The document that we obtained shows that the minister appears to have instructed the non-partisan public service to monitor meetings being taken by political opponents of this government. We have both redacted versions and unredacted versions of the document, so we can compare the information that was removed. A key piece that was redacted was a public servant indicating that they were uncomfortable conducting these activities. It was redacted based on it being considered advice to the minister. The cover note that accompanied the ATIPP also states that the redacted portion "... pertains to advice, proposals, recommendations and analysis developed for the minister" — but yesterday, the minister denied that it was advice for him. So it was either advice to the minister or it wasn't; it can't be both.

So is the minister saying that his department inappropriately applied the ATIPP act on this document?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Yukoners can tell that the Spring Sitting of this Chamber is drawing to a close. The Yukon Party asked five questions yesterday — one of substance and four focused on character assassination and personal smears. Here we go again today.

When you have nothing of substance to go on, you are left with personal attacks. A question was answered yesterday: Did I give direction? Quite simply: No, I did not.

What we do know is that the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Member for Lake Laberge have, I guess, colluded with someone. The request for ATIPP — just for the record and for Yukoners to know — it was actually a file that I have never even seen, and they asked for the exact file — how unbelievable — the exact file and folder of the file.

As per the request, which is appropriate information — so it is quite interesting that what we are seeing today is some real interface between the opposition and someone, I guess, who has breached the confidentiality that they signed off on.

Anyway, above that and beyond that, once again — a smear campaign, a document that I have never seen, and a document that, really, if I did see it, is a list of 10 meetings that a previous minister went to. It's a real stretch by the opposition.

**Mr. Hassard:** So according to the information in this ATIPP response, it appears that the minister has instructed non-partisan public servants to conduct political activity for him. The embarrassing parts of this ATIPP are in the fact that the file is in a folder called "research for minister", and that the public servant who had been instructed to conduct this

political research was uncomfortable in doing so. Those two embarrassing portions were redacted based on them being considered advice to the minister.

Now the minister denies that this advice was for him, but the redactions were done based on the rationale that they were advice to him. So either the minister is wrong, or the documents shouldn't have been redacted. Can the minister tell us why this section would be redacted based on it being advice for him if he claims that it wasn't?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, I think — for Yukoners to know and for the media to know — what I have heard yesterday and again today is that the opposition have done an ATIPP on a particular document — something where they knew exactly this particular document — where it was or what it was named. They also have a copy of the document — the original document. So it seems as though they must have had that previously. I know it appears that way. It appears that there was some sort of interaction between the members opposite to gather this.

But once again, even over and above that, what I have been provided — what was sent yesterday — was a list of eight meetings that were what the minister — ministers from the Yukon Party government — it has nothing to do with research on partisanship.

There is absolutely nothing here that points to any direction I've given because I did not give it. So it's very funny. Once again — here we go again. We're going to use the third-last day of the Spring Sitting. We're not going to talk about the economy. We're not going to talk about mining — which the world was falling three weeks ago, and then we went into budget debate and my critic on mining didn't ask me one question. During Question Period, we heard about it, but during budget debate, not one question about the mining sector.

**Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** We must be touching some soft points here. Once again — a lot of noise. Good work on behalf of the real leader, who is the chief of staff for the Yukon Party.

#### **Question re: Diabetes treatment**

**Ms. McLeod:** Yesterday, we debated a motion from the MLA for Takhini-Kopper King calling on the government to provide continuous glucose monitoring devices, or CGMs, to all Yukoners who have type 1 diabetes.

During the debate, the Minister of Tourism and Culture watered down the motion by moving an amendment to only commit the government to "consider" these devices sometime in the future around the spring of 2020.

During her remarks, the minister said — quote: "... I would suggest that it is a little premature given that we are in the process of gathering evidence around the effectiveness of these devices..."

That was later contradicted by the Minister of Community Services, who said — quote: "I don't believe that there needs to be any further research into the evidence of continuous glucose monitors. There is a wide body of evidence out there..."

Who is right — the Minister of Tourism and Culture who says more evidence is needed or the Minister of Community Services who says they have all the evidence they need?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I want to maybe start by just saying that the Liberal government is completely committed to ensuring that Yukoners are provided the services and supports they need. The people-centred approach to wellness is really what drives us and the department thrives on. We have to look at ensuring that every Yukoner is given the support that they need when it comes to health and wellness.

Now, Yukoners — we have a growing population. We have an increased diversity of individuals. We have people who are at different stages of their lives. In fact, I just spoke to someone at lunch hour about the constant glucose monitoring and the effects it is having — the positive effects. There is no doubt about the fact that it's necessary and it's essential. We will continue to do the good work and ensure that every Yukoner is provided the support they need as we look at different circumstances.

**Ms. McLeod:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker — and no answer.

A suggestion we made that would assist in the evidence gathering over the next 11 months of the pilot project is to expand it beyond current eligibility to include all Yukoners. Again, to quote the Minister of Community Services from debate yesterday: “Hence the pilot study — that is what I think we are trying to do here, not decide whether continuous glucose monitors are effective at all, but where we should apply them across the territory.”

Given these statements by the minister, will the government expand the pilot project to include all Yukoners with type 1 diabetes so that they can gather the evidence about where they should apply them?

**Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** A great question, as the Member for Lake Laberge just noted off-mic. It is a great question. Why is that? Because those are things that we are certainly considering and we will contemplate that as we look at the health and wellness of all Yukoners. It's certainly something that we will consider in the future.

We are now covering both type 1 and type 2 diabetes patients — 100-percent coverage for their insulin under the Yukon health care insurance plan. We do have a pilot project, and I'm happy to say that we are working with the parents, we have looked at the constant glucose monitoring and the positive effects it's having, and we're working on ensuring that we have consistency in the future. That is something we are committed to.

That's the answer that I think Yukoners want to hear. They want to hear that they're being listened to, that we're taking into consideration the needs of every child who is out there, that we're taking into consideration every type 1 and type 2 diabetes patient. So we're clearly looking to ensure that we provide the services.

The pilot project is eligible for one-time funding of \$10,000 to cover expenses such as sensors, transmitters, and receivers, and we'll continue to do that into the future.

**Ms. McLeod:** In a social media post, the Yukon T1D support network indicated that they believe that children with T1D do not have their health and well-being supported in Yukon's K to 12 system. Yesterday we asked a question about management of type 1 diabetes in schools and Yukon's poor rating given by the Canadian Paediatric Society. In response yesterday, the minister said — and I quote: “In fact, all good policy should be reviewed.”

But in the Department of Education's written responses to the Canadian Paediatric Society — and despite the minister's statement about a review — there is no indication that a review of T1D policy in schools will take place, only references to the existing policy.

Will the minister be initiating a review of this policy and, if so, when will it start?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I recall answering this question yesterday, so in less than 24 hours, I haven't had the opportunity to determine what policies will be reviewed in relation to this specific medical treatment for children in schools. I will undertake that work and will work with the department to make sure that children in school are safe, that their medical needs are first and foremost in the safety and care of children in our schools. That work will continue and will be reviewed as a result of the fact that all policies and the opportunity for children to be safe in their schools is an absolute top priority for the Department of Education.

#### **Question re: Highway safety**

**Ms. Hanson:** Rabbit's Foot Canyon along the Alaska Highway has been the site of numerous serious motor vehicle accidents, with several resulting in death. This area has seen increased traffic with residential development along the Fish Lake Road and on War Eagle Way. As well, the access to the City of Whitehorse landfill is located along this stretch.

Although there is a dedicated northbound left-turn lane off the Alaska Highway onto the Fish Lake Road, the lanes are difficult to see, often covered in drifted snow and are used as a passing lane by both directions of traffic. This section of the Alaska Highway is one of the only sections within the city limits with a speed limit of 90 kilometres an hour. Many drivers can attest to feeling vulnerable when waiting to turn left while vehicles pass on either side of them at 90 kilometres an hour on a curving, narrow section of highway.

What action has the minister taken to reduce traffic speed to 70 kilometres an hour in the Rabbit's Foot Canyon stretch of the Alaska Highway?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I thank the Leader of the Third Party for the question this afternoon. The issue she is referring to is traffic safety, and the Department of Highways and Public Works has taken many measures in the last two years — and prior to that as well — to improve highway safety throughout the Whitehorse corridor, from the south Klondike Highway to the north Klondike Highway.

We have recently announced that we are going to be doing a number of road improvements to Range Road and then moving into Hillcrest. That is the area we are focusing on right now. It is one of the busiest stretches of highway in



northern Canada, so we are spending almost \$20 million on that stretch of road over the next three years.

The Leader of the Third Party has referenced the Fish Lake Road and the Rabbit's Foot Canyon stretch. That stretch of road is going to be addressed by the Department of Highways and Public Works in future projects. It is in our timetable to deal with it, but right now, we are dealing with the stretch of road between Two Mile Hill and around the Beringia Centre.

**Ms. Hanson:** This has been an issue since 2002. At the turn onto the Fish Lake Road, there is a northbound dedicated left-turn lane. We have heard from concerned constituents that too often when approaching this dedicated lane, they are met by southbound vehicles attempting to pass slower traffic. To add to this risk, the short stretch of road where risky overtaking occurs is also on a curve, which increases the likelihood of an accident.

The Fish Lake Road has seen increased traffic due to the development of residential and agricultural lots, such as Eagle Eye, Jackson Lake treatment camp, the numerous local businesses using the Fish Lake area, and Whitehorse residents who are simply looking to get outdoors close to home. Rumble strips are helpful in warning drivers if they stray over their lane, but do little to deter those intent on getting ahead of everyone else. Has the government considered building a traffic island on this stretch of the highway to ensure safety of those turning onto Fish Lake Road?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** We have done extensive assessment and preliminary planning along the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse, with a focus on intersection safety improvements for vehicles and pedestrians. Highways and Public Works will continue to assess the requirements for improved intersection safety and, as our plans develop, we will seek input from stakeholders.

The Leader of the Third Party has brought forward the Rabbit's Foot Canyon stretch. I have received a letter, and I believe she has as well. That letter is being caseworked; it has gone to the department for a review and for action. We will have a look at that and see what we can do in the short term. I can assure residents of Whitehorse that we are looking at the entirety of the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse. It is a very busy corridor. We are doing assessments and triaging the developments. At the moment, we are dealing with the stretch from Two Mile Hill through Range Road. That is a very important stretch of highway. It is difficult — we have heard lots of complaints about the traffic flow through there and have heard how dangerous it can be.

We are then moving from there to Hillcrest. Again, it is a very complicated stretch of highway bordered by the airport on the east side and by a lot of development on the west side. We are going to deal with that stretch, and then we are going to move down the highway from that to deal with other areas like Rabbit's Foot Canyon.

**Ms. Hanson:** It appears that the Yukon Liberal government's legacy will be studying more studies of past studies. We also have the city landfill and the War Eagle Way entrances along this stretch — the same situation for these two

entrances. We are talking about road safety — individuals passing in dedicated turn lanes, excessive speed through this section of highway and a microclimate — due to high cliffs and McIntyre Creek — that can cause that road condition to suddenly change. These are all factors contributing to a section of the Alaska Highway where drivers often feel they are in danger when trying to access their own neighbourhood or services.

Mr. Speaker, there is clearly no will to reduce the speed limits in the Rabbit's Foot Canyon corridor. Will the minister at least consider immediately constructing a dedicated southbound turning lane so that vehicles can safely pass cars that are turning right?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** First of all, we got a fairly detailed letter from a resident of Whitehorse raising these concerns. It was well-written. I appreciate the feedback from the public, as I always do. That letter has gone to the department for action. They are going to review it to see if there is any action they can take on this file immediately.

The member opposite has asked for improvements to be done within the Whitehorse — they asked for this in the last Sitting. We have moved very quickly to address some of these concerns. We are spending millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the Yukon government has a budget of about \$70 million to maintain 5,000 kilometres of road. We have the tax base of Campbell River to do that. We are doing an amazing job. The Department of Highways and Public Works is doing an amazing job maintaining those roads. I will say that, yes, in terms of such a restricted budget — a budget less than the cost of replacing a single bypass in Victoria — we are maintaining 5,000 kilometres of road in absolutely remote and difficult terrain in a very difficult climate. It is an amazing job. We will continue that good work to make sure that our roads are safe for travellers because those roads are our conduits to the doctor, to work, and to our families.

#### **Question re: Government employment of tradespeople**

**Ms. White:** Today there is a Yukon Territorial Skills Competition where Yukon students and apprentices are competing in diverse trades and technology. The event is intended to promote trades and technology careers as a top-choice option for Yukoners.

While we often talk about the importance of supporting the trades and we recognize the positive impact it can have on the Yukon's economy, it is unclear whether the Yukon government actually backs up those words with actions. The Yukon government is a great vehicle for employing and developing tradespeople.

So my question is for the Minister of Highways and Public Works. The Government of Yukon employs roughly 5,500 people. How many of those are ticketed tradespeople?

**Speaker:** The Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for that clarification. I do believe that it does fall under my other portfolio, although I know that within Highways and

Public Works, we do have a lot of tradespeople. I know that the Premier and I have been working on improving the trades. My son is actually a member of the trades as well. I know how important the trades are to the territory, and certainly they keep the territory running.

We in the Yukon government are committed to the trades. This afternoon, we will have a discussion — perhaps, if we get to it — about the Public Service Commission. At that time, I'm sure that we can get to the numbers. If not, I will endeavour to get a legislative return for the Member for Takhini-Kopper King on the number of tradespeople employed within the Yukon government.

**Ms. White:** I look forward to that legislative return.

Yesterday, the Minister of Education said — and I quote: "... trades are a key to building thriving communities, infrastructure and businesses. We rely on skilled trade workers for many of the services we take for granted each and every day. Tradespeople and students are critical to the Yukon economy." Mr. Speaker, we couldn't agree more, yet there are 488 apprentices in the Yukon, and currently only two of them are employed at the Yukon government. The Government of Yukon makes up a quarter of Yukon's workforce, yet two tradespeople who are currently apprenticing for Yukon government make up a measly half-percent of all apprentices registered in Yukon.

The minister says that skilled tradespeople are essential to Yukon's economy, and she is right. So, Mr. Speaker, why is the Yukon government currently apprenticing so few Yukon tradespeople?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** As the member opposite has noted, as of December 2018, there were 488 registered apprentices in the Yukon apprenticeship program — 144 of whom are First Nation individuals and 57 of whom are women. The Government of Yukon is pleased that the majority of these apprentices are employed by Yukon businesses. It has been a focus in the past — finding and assisting individuals with apprentice opportunities here in the territory.

As of December last year, there were two apprentices employed by the Yukon government. The government provides, in addition to that employment, the following supports to apprentices — because it is an entirety of the program; it's not just about individuals who might apprentice in particular positions or at particular jobs. The opportunities do exist here in the territory for people to apprentice. We also support them through tuition costs that are paid by the department through agreements with either Yukon College or Alberta apprenticeship and also employment insurance eligibility. Through that, apprentices can apply for funding for travel and commuting and second residence or daycare costs — which are otherwise potential barriers for them to continue with their education and their apprenticeship.

I hope that I will have an opportunity to continue with more information.

**Ms. White:** So the single biggest employer in the Yukon has two registered apprentices within their ranks. To give a little perspective, if the Yukon government's share of apprentices was the same as their share of the labour force,

they would be employing 126 apprentices rather than the two they have noted.

The previous Yukon government had managed to bring up that number of apprentices employed to four, so it appears they have taken a step back. Former governments have had in place a program whereby departments — individual departments — were subsidized by an apprenticeship branch in order to bring apprentices into government employ.

Has the Minister of Education discussed implementing a similar program to improve Yukon government's dismal apprenticeship numbers?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I think it's of note that, first, we had the Minister of Education having an opportunity to speak to this and to identify the fact that we have a very large number — a robust number — of individuals who are moving through the trades process. Yukon College — moving to Yukon university — has done a great job of still providing the levels and expanding their work. In the role of Energy, Mines and Resources and Economic Development, we are in touch with the director of the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining and the trades wing — just ensuring that we continue to talk to the private sector.

I think it's quite interesting, because what we're hearing is there should be more opportunities within government. If there's a position where we have a shortage of opportunities, then yes, we should be having that discussion with the Public Service Commission and Highways and Public Works and all our departments. But what we are seeing is the Third Party taking a run at the fact that we have a significant number of individuals — as well of note, women who are in the fields, as well as First Nation individuals — and all those individuals continue to work in the private sector. From my experience, having an opportunity to work for a private sector company, getting to build a relationship in that particular field, and then moving into a full-time job is what we want to see for a robust private sector.

I think that's the right thing to do, and I think that's some good work. I want to commend our private sector for giving individuals those opportunities.

#### **Question re: Procurement policy**

**Mr. Cathers:** On February 19, the Minister of Highways and Public Works indicated to the media that his department will now be looking at Canada Revenue Agency taxation documents of companies when determining whether to award them a contract. Can the minister tell us how the Department of Highways and Public Works will get access to this private tax information of Yukon businesses?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I believe that the Member for Lake Laberge is referring to the improvements we've made to procurement this afternoon, and I'm more than happy to talk about that. I believe I fielded some questions about how we're not going to have a new definition of a "Yukon business" — and, lo and behold, we actually do.

That definition was developed in concert with the business community. We have been praised by the local

contractors association and also by the chambers of commerce for that definition. It was developed in concert with business.

What it does — it follows the money. We want to make sure that Yukon businesses are actually contributing to the Yukon economy. So what we have done is make sure that we track where the tax filings are being done — so businesses that file their taxes in the Yukon — that's one of the criteria that makes them a "Yukon business". We're very happy with the new definition that was endorsed by business and contributed to and developed in concert with business. This marks a change in the way the government is doing business.

We are also striving to keep more money in the territory, which is something that the business community and the community as a whole has asked for, so we have delivered on that.

**Mr. Cathers:** Well, the minister talked about a lot of things other than answering the question. What is being talked about here, based on the minister's statements to the media — businesses are concerned about not only the invasion of privacy and the increased red tape, but are questioning the legality of the minister's change in policy.

On February 19, the Minister of Highways and Public Works spoke to media about how his government will now be awarding contracts and he said — and I quote: "Now we can actually look at the Canada Revenue Agency documents and see how much money a business actually makes in the Yukon or is it all going to BC or Alberta?"

Who in the Government of Yukon is going to have access to these taxation documents?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I will repeat my answer: We have developed a new definition of what constitutes a "Yukon business". We have done that in collaboration with the community, including local businesses.

That definition was developed in concert with the business community. They came up with a solution: Follow the money. We have done that. This isn't about the CRA, Mr. Speaker. We have privacy laws that this government put into place. We have rewritten the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to modernize and improve the protections for our citizens in terms of privacy. Certainly, rooting through their tax documents would not align with the new rules we have brought in under protection of privacy.

Just to ratchet down the fear that is being used by the members on the opposition benches there — what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, is looking at where companies file their taxes. If they file their taxes in the Yukon, that will be one of the measures we use to determine whether or not they are a Yukon business. That was a decision that we came to in concert with the business community and I thank them for their support of this initiative.

**Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, what we're hearing from Yukoners is they're concerned about not only the invasion of privacy but more Liberal red tape, and it's not the first time that this minister, through measures such as the infamous airports act, has added to the load being faced by Yukon companies.

On February 19, the minister told media that his department would be going through Canada Revenue Agency documents for companies that bid on government contracts. Again, I'm quoting him: "Now we can actually look at the Canada Revenue Agency documents and see how much money a business actually makes in the Yukon or is it all going to BC or Alberta?"

Can the minister tell us this: Under his new procurement policy, with the department now apparently going through taxation documents from the CRA to determine whether to award a contract, what information in these documents will be used to determine whether a business will be awarded a tender? What will the thresholds be, or will this be an arbitrary determination?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I want to say again: Yukoners deserve accurate information out of all of their elected officials. MLAs are their community's voice in the Legislative Assembly, and when they use their time in this House to spread misinformation instead of advocating for their constituents, well, that's disappointing, Mr. Speaker. It really is.

Currently, Yukoners experience the benefits of a strong economy. Our government is respectfully working with other governments.

**Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

#### Point of order

**Speaker:** The Member for Lake Laberge, on a point of order.

**Mr. Cathers:** I think that the minister just contravened Standing Order 19(h) in suggesting that another member was uttering a falsehood when in fact we were actually quoting his own statements to the media. I would suggest that he should retract his statement and apologize for making it.

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

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** That's not what I heard the minister say at all. He didn't accuse anyone of uttering a falsehood. It is a dispute among members and not a point of order.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** I would remind all members once again, subject to reviewing your Standing Orders at some point, that Standing Order 19(h) states, "A member shall be called to order by the Speaker if that member: (h) charges another member with uttering a deliberate falsehood".

Many members do stand up from time to time and say that another member has charged another member with uttering a falsehood, but it seems to me that often the concern does not contain the modifier that is clearly within the Standing Orders.

Anyway, there is no point of order.

Minister of Highways and Public Works, you have approximately one minute.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, Yukoners deserve accurate information from

all of their elected officials. MLAs are their community's voice in the Legislative Assembly, and when they use their time in the House to spread misinformation instead of advocating for their constituents, it is disappointing.

I have said this afternoon — and I've said it before — the fact is that the business definition says that we are using where they submit their taxes to determine whether or not they are a Yukon business. It has nothing to do with CRA or rooting around in their tax records, Mr. Speaker. What we are saying is that we are using where they file their taxes as one of the criteria to determine if they are a Yukon business. This correlates with our carbon rebate criteria as well. That is how we are doing it.

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Mr. Hutton):** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order.

The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 32, entitled *Act to Amend the Securities Act*.

Do members wish to take a 10-minute recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

*Recess*

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

### Bill No. 32: *Act to Amend the Securities Act*

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 32, entitled *Act to Amend the Securities Act*.

Is there any general debate?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Before I rise to say a few words, I would just like to welcome to the Chamber today Mr. Lawrence Purdy from the Legislative Counsel Office, who is someone I have known to be very capable around this type of drafting. As well, I would like to welcome back Ms. Louise Michaud, the assistant deputy minister for Corporate Policy and Consumer Affairs.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to rise to speak to the exciting Bill No. 32, *Act to Amend the Securities Act*. The purpose of

this bill is to make changes that will strengthen protection for all Yukon securities stakeholders, including investors, and help to ensure that Yukon's securities legislation is harmonized with legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions.

As I mentioned during the second reading of this bill, Mr. Chair, the Yukon and all of the other territories and provinces are members of the Canadian Securities Administrators. The mandate of the Canadian Securities Administrators is to foster fair and efficient capital markets and to protect Canadian investors from unfair, improper or fraudulent practices.

The Canadian Securities Administrators have identified five specific areas of potential weakness affecting investor protection. It is recommended that each jurisdiction make changes to their legislation to address these weaknesses. All jurisdictions have made or are in the process of making these changes to their securities legislation, so I'm sure that it is generally welcome here as well.

The amendments to the *Securities Act* will strengthen protection for Yukon investors, and equally important, the changes will strengthen protection for all Canadian investors. No matter where investors are located, they can be assured that, once these amendments are made across the country, they will receive the same level of protections.

I want to just cut my remarks off there. I want to thank Ms. Michaud and Mr. Purdy for coming in today to answer any questions that the members opposite may have, and I look forward to the questions and answers.

**Mr. Cathers:** I do appreciate the introduction by the minister on this as well. With this piece of legislation — as I noted at second reading — it is quite technical, and though it may not be the most interesting reading for everyone, as I noted at that point in time, the importance of the *Securities Act* and some other pieces of legislation that deal with things that are very fundamental to our daily lives. So it is an important area.

I also understand that these amendments came from the cooperative work with other jurisdictions. At this point, especially considering where we are in the Sitting — this being the third-last day — I'm not going to spend a lot of time on technical questions, understanding that this emerged from that work with other jurisdictions, working in harmony.

I am going to ask and reiterate the question I asked the minister during second reading. I reminded the minister of the fact that the Yukon, along with a number of other jurisdictions — including British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and, as of April 10, Nova Scotia — are working together on a cooperative capital markets regulatory system. I asked the minister if he could tell me about the progress toward CCMR, including when the current anticipated date is of moving to that system and having one regulator. The minister, at that point, was not able to provide me with an answer, but undertook to get back to me. I would just ask him to provide that update here today.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I thank the member opposite for his question. I'll provide the response the department has provided to me. Since 2015, the Yukon has worked with the

federal government and five provinces — Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island — to create a national approach to securities regulation. The initiative is growing, as the group just welcomed Nova Scotia as a new participating jurisdiction just a couple of weeks ago.

The new cooperative capital markets regulatory system will operate across jurisdictions, and a key objective will be to provide enhanced oversight and protection for investors by working together in a cooperative manner — as the Member for Lake Laberge notes — much in the same way that this act that is before us today is seeking to achieve.

Participation in the project will likely result in an enhanced regulatory environment and a reduction in red tape in the Yukon, and the new legislative framework will also strengthen investor protection and align securities regulatory standards across Canada. Jurisdictions participating are committed to working together toward implementation of the cooperative system following a November 9, 2018, Supreme Court of Canada decision that confirmed that key elements of the initiative are consistent with the Constitution.

I'll just finish reading here, Mr. Chair.

Participating jurisdictions are reviewing the timelines for the launch of the cooperative system to ensure a smooth and secure transition for market participants. When the review is complete, we will be in a better position to provide an update on the anticipated timing.

I don't have a timeline at this moment. I know the conversations with the other jurisdictions are ongoing. In my time in this role, I have seen that timeline pushed out, but as the smallest jurisdiction involved, we are looking for our larger partners to set the timeline, and we're happy to follow along. I don't have a specific time that I can give for the members or for the Yukon public today, but I can say that it is still a work-in-progress, and I'm looking forward to it coming forward.

**Mr. Cathers:** I will just wrap up my remarks by thanking the officials for their work on this legislation. I would ask the minister to provide Members of the Assembly and the public with an update on the progress toward the CCMR model as soon as he is in a position to do so, including the anticipated completion date of this initiative — when it would be launched.

With that, I will turn it over to the Third Party for any questions that they may have.

**Ms. Hanson:** I welcome the officials here this afternoon attending with the minister. I also want to thank them for their detailed briefing on what is, I think, a pretty dry — for most of us — piece of legislation. As the minister has pointed out, this *Act to Amend the Securities Act* is really a series of amendments that came about as a result of — as I understand it — a number of areas — five areas of concern that the Canadian Securities Administrators had identified. From the briefing, it is my understanding that these amendments do address those areas of concern, that the changes are technical, and that their main function is to protect investors.

So I am not going to question that at this stage. If, when going through, the minister — or the advice, I'm sure, of his officials — if there are any particular areas that he thinks we should be focusing in on — but, effectively, when we're looking at amendments to an act — most of us don't have the *Securities Act* in front of us, so we won't be looking at that.

So I don't have any questions nor any extensive debate on this Bill No. 32 at this moment. I would suggest that we move forward.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** First of all, as I rise, I will make a commitment to the members opposite — as per the request of the Member for Lake Laberge — that when I get an update on the timing of the CCMR — I apologize about the acronym, Mr. Chair; I have to go back and read it to even remember the acronym — I will certainly update the Legislature once I get any information on that.

Second of all, I would just note for the Member for Whitehorse Centre that the day I had to give the second reading speech was the day that we had the Youth Parliament in here, and I was left reading a rather technical speech for a group of very active and engaged young people. I can appreciate the challenge of finding ways to make this accessible to all Yukoners.

I will just highlight very quickly the five things that we are seeking to do with this act. To address these five concerns, the proposed amendments will: (1) confirm that an order sanctioning or restricting a person issued by a regulator in one jurisdiction automatically applies here in the Yukon; (2) protect Yukon investment industry stakeholders by considering wrongdoing by a person in another jurisdiction when deciding when to issue an order against that person in the Yukon; (3) establish disclosure requirements — for example, information given to potential investors for investments that are not stocks, either mutual and/or other — funds traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, for example; (4) ensure that while an alleged wrongdoing is in court, the clock on limitation periods is paused; and (5) enable the designation of financial benchmarks. Benchmarks are set collectively by the Canadian Securities Administrators members and are values that can be used to set rates of return or values of investments or contracts.

So that is the broad summary, Mr. Chair. I want to thank my colleagues for coming in to be here to answer questions and for providing the background information for all members of the Legislature.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Bill No. 32?

Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line debate.

**Mr. Cathers:** Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all clauses and the title of Bill No. 32, *Act to Amend the Securities Act*, read and agreed to.

**Unanimous consent re deeming all clauses and title of Bill No. 32 read and agreed to**

**Chair:** Mr. Cathers has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all clauses and the title of Bill No. 32, entitled *Act to Amend the Securities Act*, read and agreed to.

Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.  
*Clauses 1 through 40 deemed read and agreed to*  
*On Title*  
*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 32, entitled *Act to Amend the Securities Act*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by the Hon. Mr. Streicker that the Chair report Bill No. 32, entitled *Act to Amend the Securities Act*, without amendment.

*Motion agreed to*

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is general debate on Vote 22, Yukon Development Corporation, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to take a 10-minute recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order, please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

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

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is general debate on Vote 22, Yukon Development Corporation, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Is there any general debate?

**Yukon Development Corporation**

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I want to first welcome some of our team members here today to the Legislative Assembly — president of the Yukon Development Corporation, Mr. Justin Ferbey, and our chief financial officer, Mr. Blaine Anderson. It's good to see you. Once in a while, during this particular debate, Mr. Anderson and I get to see each other.

There are some brief opening remarks that I would like to share, and then we can get directly into questions on our Yukon Development Corporation budget.

It should be noted that we did have witnesses appear before Committee of the Whole again this year. We think it's an important undertaking. For the record, we did have Mr. Mike Pemberton, who is the chair of Yukon Development Corporation board of directors; Mr. Ferbey in his role as president and chief executive officer; then we also had

Lesley Cabott, who is the chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation board of directors; and Andrew Hall, the president and CEO of Yukon Energy Corporation.

I would like to take a brief moment to thank the members on both boards whose terms have expired. I would like to thank Joanne Fairlie for her service as chair of the board for Yukon Development Corporation — an extremely dedicated public servant in her role with Yukon government. I just appreciated her patience and wisdom around the files of the Yukon Development Corporation and her ability to spend time with me to help me understand the history of what had taken place and the decision-making processes, as well as what she saw as appropriate governance and future undertakings for the Yukon Development Corporation. I wish Joanne all the best. I know she is in Alberta spending more time with her family.

Thanks also to JoAnne Harach, Michael Lauer — who was here with us the other day — as well as Collin Young, William LeBarge and Jackie Bazett for their commitment as corporate directors.

I would also like to acknowledge the recent passing of Yukon Development Corporation director, Dan Reams. There was a fitting tribute that was undertaken here in the Legislative Assembly. As we touched upon, Dan was of course our very own “Mr. Biomass of the North”. He worked tirelessly to advance the biomass energy industry in the territory. Dan was of course very passionate about the benefits of biomass technology and what they could bring to Yukon, and he was always eager to share his deep knowledge and expertise with his fellow board members. He will surely be missed by many.

Access to sufficient, reliable, and affordable electricity is essential to the sustainability of our communities and the growth of Yukon's economy. Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation are working together to ensure that the best possible investments are made in electrical generation and distribution to meet the needs of Yukon's growing population and economy now and into the future.

Yukon Development Corporation's mission is to ensure a continuing and adequate supply of energy in the Yukon in a manner consistent with sustainable development. In support of this objective and in response to my mandate letter as Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation, we are supporting the development of community-led renewable energy generation projects across the territory. Through the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative, Yukon Development Corporation is working with First Nations, development corporations, communities, and community-based businesses to bring renewable energy projects to fruition. This investment of \$1.5 million per year for four years encourages both public and private sector investment in such technologies as wind, solar, biomass, and small-scale hydro generation.

To date, we have supported the development of renewable energy projects in the communities of Carcross, Teslin, Burwash Landing, Old Crow, Whitehorse, and Dawson City. We are further supporting isolated Yukon communities to secure their renewable energy future by

helping them to access federal resources, such as the Arctic energy fund.

I would just like to touch upon — congratulate Chief Tizya-Tramm for his work. The Chief of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation was in Seattle over the last couple of days. He was there with the Consul General of Canada and presented — it was noted, as I'm sure many of us saw it. He was doing a great job of sharing his story of his First Nation and the work that they are doing at the grassroots level. I saw on social media that he presented for about three hours with a number of other people — just explaining — in the Seattle area in front of a lot of different individuals and innovation and government entities — the work that is being done. I commend them on the work that they have been doing in Old Crow.

With the help of this 10-year, \$50-million fund, Yukon communities not connected to an electrical grid can reduce their reliance on diesel by investing in clean, sustainable, renewable energy generation projects. These initiatives, in conjunction with the implementation of Yukon's independent power production policy, are some of the important ways in which Yukon has become a leader in northern energy diversification and energy security.

Not only are we helping communities to generate new energy from clean, renewable resources, but we are also taking action to wisely manage the energy that Yukon generates today. The Yukon Energy Corporation, with the support of the Government of Canada, ATCO Electric Yukon and the Yukon Development Corporation, recently announced the residential demand response pilot program. This innovative energy-efficiency program will allow participating electrical customers in grid-connected communities across the territory to become virtual power plants, shifting their space-heating and water-heating electrical loads off critical peak electricity demand periods.

Yukon Energy Corporation is mandated to generate, transmit, distribute, and maintain a continuing and adequate supply of cost-effective, sustainable and reliable energy for Yukoners. As the main generator and transmitter of hydroelectricity in Yukon, Yukon Energy Corporation is responsible for ensuring that the energy we have is delivered reliably and that the supply of energy is sustainable into the future as the territory's population and economy continue to grow. Yukon Energy is looking at a broad range of projects and investments that will deliver sufficient, sustainable power while minimizing the impact on their existing customers.

Again, I would like to thank the officials from both corporations who came in and provided ample opportunity for both opposition parties to ask a multitude of questions, and I look forward to discussing the budget for Yukon Development Corporation today, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I want to welcome the staff here today and those who are listening to the Assembly on the phone today, providing information to the minister. I do want to concur with the minister and thank those people whose terms have finished, as he had highlighted. Energy is so important to

the Yukon and we do, on this side also, want to thank them for their hard work.

It has been nice that we have seen Yukon Energy Corporation and Yukon Development Corporation in the House. We just had them in, so I don't have a whole bunch more questions. There are some clarifications that I am going to want, but not a whole bunch — so let's start.

I just want to talk first of all about demand-side management. In the Yukon Utilities Board's reason for the decision, they said that the board is of the view that it is better to leave demand-side management projects to the government rather than having ratepayers fund these projects. My read of that, Mr. Chair, is that the Utilities Board is not actually telling Yukon Energy Corporation that they cannot do demand-side management. Instead, it sounds like they are just saying they shouldn't make the ratepayers cover it. I am just wondering if the minister could clarify. Do I understand this correctly?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** That is what I understand, Mr. Chair.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Regardless of the Yukon Utilities Board decision, are the government and Yukon Energy able to pursue demand-side management programs as long as they are not paid for by the ratepayers?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Yes.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Regarding the Southern Lakes enhancement project — I had asked a few questions when the witnesses were here, but could the minister just expand and give us a little bit more of a quick update?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Can I just get the member opposite to repeat that question?

**Mr. Istchenko:** I'm sorry. It is hard to hear in here. This new system is working wonderfully — not.

Regarding the Southern Lakes enhancement project — I am just wondering if the minister could give a little bit more of an update than we got from the witnesses.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The Southern Lakes enhancement — and I will talk just in general about enhancement projects. There are two that we discussed here with the witnesses. The enhancement projects — such as the Southern Lakes enhancement project concept and the Mayo Lake enhancement storage project — are of course always a cost-effective way of reducing Yukon's need for thermal generation during the winter when demand for energy is the highest.

While all energy projects have some impacts, the government wants to ensure that any projects address, as best as possible, Yukoners' values for environmental protection, cost, reliability, and social responsibility. Research has shown that there should be no significant impacts on fish, birds, and land animals as a result of these projects; however, we are aware of the concerns of some Southern Lakes residents, and we are interested in seeing whether there might be a solution that is acceptable to all parties.

We have discussed this during Question Period. We have also had an opportunity to discuss this on multiple visits from Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation. As I understand the history of this particular file,

there were substantial dollars that were put toward the study of the project by Yukon Energy Corporation. As I understand it, Yukon Energy Corporation came to a position that they were not going to move forward on the Southern Lakes project. They brought those particular costs that were incurred to rate — what we call that process — to the Yukon Utilities Board. The Yukon Utilities Board felt that there needed to be more work undertaken and that they were not going to accept those particular costs and the submission at that particular time. Of course, that predates my work with these organizations or entities.

Since then, we have also heard individuals come to the House and ask me questions and identify the concerns. I also have had the opportunity on a couple of occasions to sit with individuals from the Southern Lakes who have come in and wanted to voice their concerns about this particular project. They touched on the legacy events that occurred there. Many of us can remember some pretty substantial flooding that occurred around the Marsh Lake area. They even at times had some very technical advice provided to them as well through hydrologists who live in that community.

What we have committed to doing is, as directed by the Yukon Utilities Board, to undertake another round of consultation that is appropriate so that we can speak to those community members. We feel that this is appropriate. We have directed to do that. We know that what we would call “closing this file” — in my words — cannot be undertaken until that work is completed. We will undertake that work. I will not predetermine, of course, the outcome of that, but let’s just say that we’ve had some strong voices from that community already sharing their perspective.

I know that we also have had on at least one occasion the Official Opposition come to the Assembly and note the fact that there was a letter provided by the Carcross/Tagish Development Corporation. I can’t remember if it was the member opposite or another member of the Yukon Party, but they came in and said, “Why aren’t you going forward with the Southern Lakes project?” or “Are you going forward with the Southern Lakes project now that you have that letter?”

We feel that it is more appropriate to have a broader conversation not just with the First Nation, but with all of the people who are affected in that particular area. That is the work that we are looking to undertake. I believe that the pricing is being put together now by Yukon Energy Corporation within their existing cash flow for the next fiscal year to undertake that work.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the minister for the answer.

Regarding power outages during the winter — I am just wondering if the minister could explain a bit about what the plans are — or if there are any plans — to expand backup power for the territory and if there would be any cost estimates.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** As many will note, first of all, the member opposite is really speaking about — the terminology around it is an N-1 scenario, which is an outage, but it is an outage that takes into consideration what would happen if you lost your largest piece of infrastructure — your largest energy-

producing piece of infrastructure. For us, we would contemplate what would happen if you were to lose the Aishihik hydro facility for a period of time. It’s something that has occurred previously for a short period of time. We have been lucky in the past that, when that has occurred — although it has occurred in the winter — we’ve had situations where it has occurred in the first two weeks of December, but it has occurred on days that were particularly warm for that time of year. So we were blessed in the sense that it wasn’t a minus 35 December day.

Still, I have heard from multiple members of the Assembly about the pressure that any outage puts on their constituents and Yukoners who rely on the work that we do here.

For many, if you drive by the south access, you’ll see a series of sea cans that are set up. Right now, they are our temporary emergency power source. In our resource plan in 2016, we showed there was a gap in our capacity in the N-1 scenario, so Yukon Energy Corporation and its parent Yukon Development Corporation are working to address this.

In the short term — as an insurance policy and to ensure reliability for Yukoners — Yukon Energy Corporation rented six portable diesel generators that were used at times this winter, when necessary.

I should note that, in particular cases, as part of our lease agreement for those particular generators — it was negotiated that we would have the ability to use a particular number of hours on a monthly basis. It was worked into our set rate. What the team has done — each unit — it gave us 60 hours of run time per month at no extra charge. So what we have done at particular times over the winter is that we would defer to those particular generators, and that would offset the stress and pressure on some of our aged infrastructure that’s in place. We had that set rate and then we would also maximize the use of the generators.

That has been our backup plan. Yukon Energy Corporation is still looking and doing the due diligence that’s necessary concerning what a thermal backup would look like. That is our long-term insurance policy.

Yukon Energy Corporation has hired a consultant to help evaluate several 20-megawatt thermal generation resource options in the Whitehorse region. No decision has been made about whether to proceed with building more thermal, but Yukon Energy Corporation is simply doing its due diligence to determine what the best thermal options might be. The government continues to work with YEC.

I would just like to put on the record — if we had a reliable short-term option that we could defer to, that would provide us with 20 megawatts of reliable power that was a renewable source we could work on over the next couple of years — that was the key solution. I think that would be the option we would look at. We always have to take into consideration cost, debt cap, and things such as that, but it would be an option we would look at.

At this particular time, Yukon Energy Corporation is doing its due diligence to see what infrastructure would be appropriate from a thermal perspective to be a backup — and



just to answer the question of the member opposite, it's still defining the cost of what that would look like. I know that in the resource plan, there was some high-level costing that was originally done, but it's trying to define that and also trying to define the location. It was a sensitive subject that was discussed here when the witnesses appeared. There have been a couple of different locations that have been contemplated for this work, but I do think it's appropriate to add that it does not mean that Yukon Energy Corporation — and they touched on it when they were here — is not going to continue to look at renewable energy sources of the same magnitude — and we talk about 20 megawatt.

It might end up being that they cobble together different micro-projects along with some of our private sector partners that are looking at wind and solar options — and there are also other things being contemplated in the resource plan — but I will say that we're going to continue to do that work and, at any time that I am very comfortable and think it's appropriate, I can bring back findings, once they're defined, around what those short-term strategies look like. That will be continued work — and at the same time, understanding that we have a responsibility to come up with larger renewable projects.

As many members in this Legislative Assembly will know, it has not been an easy task to find the location for those projects previously. Members will remember the work that was undertaken around larger scale next-generation hydro. There was a lot of work done that melded down that process to a few locations and also did a high-level analysis of what the cost of energy would be, based on high-level capital expenditure analysis. At the end of the day, I think that there was never a potential partner willing to sit there and undertake those projects.

I have heard it from even the Leader of the Third Party — are there projects you can find that are smaller? I think that is a great point. That's what we're looking to do, and that's the work that Mr. Hall spoke about when he was here with Yukon Energy Corporation.

I hope that answers the question and gives a little bit of a handle on where we are. I think that by the time fall comes, we should be able to come back with more defined information around next steps on our thermal insurance policy.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I just want to go back to the last question that I had. With the six backup generators — I understand it is a lease or rental — what are the costs? What does Yukon Energy Corporation/Yukon Development Corporation pay for those per month?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The cost to rent the units this past winter — and that also included our 60 hours per month use time — was just over \$1.5 million. It also included a cost of \$350,000, which was a one-time expense that had to be undertaken to ensure that our generators could operate optimally within our system and within our grid. Those costs, of course, were covered through the Yukon Energy Corporation's 2018-19 operating budget.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Obviously with Whistle Bend growing so much, we are going to see a much larger demand of electricity and energy in the near future.

The minister has been talking a little bit about this now, so I just want to continue the conversation. I am wondering if the minister can tell us what the plans in place are — I know that we have enough backup generation, but we are going to be growing — and he spoke a little bit about this earlier in his response — to ensure that there is enough power to meet the demands of the territory's growth. Are there contingencies in place to ensure that there will be enough power to support this growth?

The other thing that I wanted to ask was if there are any early cost estimates or business cases out there for new future projects — whether they are green energy projects or just more generation through diesel or LNG.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I would first ask the member opposite to refer to the work that was undertaken up until January 2017 — the integrated resource plan that was started and conducted under the Yukon Party government that concluded — I think it was first presented publicly in the third week of January 2017. That particular plan, costing, and long-term work was the work that still stands.

There were a couple of things that, upon review of that, I felt needed to be contemplated in a broader sense. One was that there was not a lot of looking at the biomass sector — we will call it that — and there was not a lot of contemplation for future allocation of energy needs toward biomass. It's not that the Yukon Energy Corporation was doing anything inappropriately. Their scope of what they do is pretty well-defined, but I felt that it was appropriate for us to contemplate — as Yukon Energy Corporation, Yukon Development Corporation and government — what our future looked like when it came to biomass. We talked about that within my first meetings with Yukon Energy Corporation.

Since then, of course, we have discussed it here — more of a multi-departmental approach — where we are looking at mitigating our fire risk and adapting to climate change, moving that fibre source in conjunction and in direction with the Yukon Wood Products Association and then, in turn, making sure that our forestry policy and legislation provides the appropriate foundation for that — all the while making sure that we are working with our municipalities and the First Nation governments to understand the specific needs in each community — whether it be what we're hearing from Watson Lake or what we heard last night at the Porter Creek town hall meeting from the City of Whitehorse.

Those are, I think, what we need to contemplate and Yukon Energy needs to — we're going to provide the information to Yukon Energy so they can contemplate that, so that is part of what would change the resource plan.

I think, collectively, we support and are proud of the work that was completed by the public service around independent power production. Coming into this role, it was one of the early briefings that I had. People had to — I am going to try to keep our debate today positive and civil, but some decisions had to be made. That is what was done and

now we have an opportunity that is in place that others — other than Yukon Energy Corporation, Yukon Development Corporation and ATCO — now can take part in our future. That is going to be fluid to some extent, because now we are seeing people understand the framework that has been tabled and seeing the opportunities. We are seeing some players more advanced than others, but I think that is also going to play a very important role in our energy future.

I would say, just in closing that question — let's refer to the integrated resource plan. The plan — if it is asked, "What's your plan?" We are looking at the plan that the members across the way produced. We are looking at some pieces — biomass as well — putting a greater focus on renewable options. Now that we do have an independent power production policy in place, it does give us the option to do other projects such as that. In the Yukon, when we talk about our total energy future, you must also take into consideration that the team at Yukon Development Corporation did put the IREI program in place, which is something that is new to the Yukon. It has been a great catalyst for a series of different programs in many, if not all, of our communities. That is going to be a significant part of our energy future. Then of course, as we talked about in the earlier statement — being in a position now through a bilateral agreement to capitalize the fund over 10 years to \$50 million to look at these renewable energy projects is also very significant.

Also, part of our energy future — it has to be noted that the work of the Energy, Mines and Resources department and Yukon Housing Corporation — seeing the greatest investment in retrofit in Yukon government history in this particular budget that we have been debating the last couple of weeks — that has also been a very significant part of the whole puzzle.

I will leave it at that. I know there are a lot of different items there. Between the policy pieces — the work that is being done by the corporation — the witnesses — I think the opposition members had a great opportunity to ask a series of questions to both of the leads of those corporations. Anyway, I hope that provides a little more information.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I do understand and know quite a bit — because I've read it and had quite a bit to do with the integrated resource plan the minister spoke about. It was the corporation that produced it, but what I'm getting at is that, with Whistle Bend growing and the Yukon growing, I'm looking toward new stuff — new renewable energy options. The minister just talked about \$50 million, but I'm just wondering if there are any early cost estimates or business cases for some sort of projects or opportunities out there as we speak today.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Maybe on the short term — something I was remiss in touching on is the upgrading, which of course involves replacing our older components of hydro-generating equipment with new, more efficient components. That was something that was touched on and is applicable, because these are things that, on an annual basis, we can improve on. So it is in the short term. The result is that the generators can produce more electricity with the same amount of water.

Yukon Energy Corporation is currently working on two upgrading projects: upgrading of the Whitehorse hydro unit 4 to increase unit capacity by 2.3 megawatts and produce an additional 5.5 gigawatts of energy per year; and upgrading of Whitehorse hydro unit 2 to increase our unit capacity by one megawatt, allowing Yukon Energy Corporation to produce an extra 6.5 gigawatts per year of energy.

Those are just some short-term examples, and I think this was touched on by our witnesses when they were here, talking — specifically Yukon Energy Corporation — about some of those pieces. I do have to go back — the integrated resource plan — I know the member opposite just said that, in his previous work, he was very well aware that. That does give you a set of different circumstances. Those are based on, of course, what the demand is. I think, as I remember, there were three different scales — so pending each one. I think what we will do is stick to that particular plan. Some of it has a significant thermal piece in it.

As was touched on here by the members opposite at one particular time in debate — and I will put it in our public record — I love debating the fact that we were contemplating and talking about a grid connection. I think what we are seeing — the initial numbers of the capital expenditure were enormous. They are enormous, and they are enormous in every part of this country. That is the work that is being undertaken. The Northwest Territories right now are going to spend a very significant amount of money on upgrading their hydro and improving maintenance to it. Then they are planning to have a connection between the grid in Northwest Territories, which also includes laying an underwater cable across a massive lake system — that is the work that they are doing.

I think, from our perspective — what I've learned from Yukon Energy Corporation and Yukon Development Corporation leadership — is that our first option is to continue to do what we're doing.

Let's make sure it's a local solution, and let's make sure we find clean local solutions, but if you don't have willing partners to undertake hydro projects, if we do not see the innovation around storage proceeding the way we need it to, inevitably you will be making decisions on the fact that you can either do a tremendous amount of demand-side management, you can do a lot of work around retrofit, but at some point you are going to be having the discussion about how you're going to produce new energy — and the options are limited.

That work that we undertook — I still think in the future I probably won't have an opportunity to be here when that happens, but at some point, people will be dusting off or looking and referring to that discussion again, or they're going to come up with new innovation and technology here in the Yukon. I hope it's the latter; I hope they do. I don't think we need to incur that, but it was something — when you look at the integrated resource plan, you look at the track record of having successful partnerships put in place — it was something we contemplated. The work that was done — I still think we need to continue to look at large electrification

projects, whether it be from Whitehorse to Watson Lake or others. That's what is being asked by ministers across the country. It will be part of the discussions over the next year, and it will be a continued investment at the federal level into electrification.

You want to be able to have potential projects available if particular funding pots come along.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Earlier the minister spoke about new initiatives for retrofitting to reduce energy demands, which is good for Yukon Energy Corporation. I know it won't be in the budget of YEC/YDC, but if the minister could commit to getting back to the House or speak a little bit — or maybe he knows those numbers, the dollars dedicated in this year's budget toward that sort of initiative.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I think it's probably best that we discuss the Energy, Mines and Resources budget line items — if we don't have an opportunity in the last days of the Sitting for the Energy, Mines and Resources budget to be back here — hopefully, we do — if we don't, I'll make sure that I provide a section of the budget that speaks to retrofit. And then if we are back next week, then we'll have an opportunity to discuss the retrofit budget.

**Mr. Istchenko:** Are there any discussions or work being done on analyses of connecting Watson Lake to the Whitehorse grid, or any initial cost estimate?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Most of it was high-level engineering that was completed. There was a study that was completed as part of our work, and we touched upon that. It was within that \$125,000 that was spent on an overall analysis of the grid connection.

We could come back and touch upon the fact that there are different rates that you would use or cost estimates based on each per kilometre that you can come up with, and you base the distance and your average cost. I know the members opposite are aware of that.

But it also takes into consideration what type of line you are going to run and what magnitude of infrastructure you are going to put in place, how many kV lines you are going to run, and then, of course, pieces around that. But I will say that, yes, Yukon Development Corporation has completed a high-level study on electrification from Whitehorse to Watson Lake.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I just want to go back to the backup plans and the backup generation. I did get numbers on the cost for the lease and the initial start-up at \$350,000.

The other number that I was looking for — and I would be remiss if I did not ask this — is: How many litres of fuel or LNG or both, for both the backup generation and the LNG generation, did they use this year? I wonder if there was any analysis done on the carbon tax — because I know that stuff is being taxed already in Alberta — and what the increased cost was to the corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I will reach out to Yukon Energy Corporation to provide us with the data for the question that is being asked concerning what our usage of LNG was. I will go back to the Blues and just review the question so I have a

clear understanding of what cost estimates the member is asking for.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I look forward to seeing that.

When the witnesses were in the House, we had spoken a little bit about the Stewart-Keno transmission line and new projects. I wanted to ask a question about Victoria Gold.

I wonder how much power is estimated that they will need in the summer and in the wintertime. I know that there was some work done on it. I'm just curious about those numbers for summer and for winter.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** We would have to go back to the power purchase agreement with Yukon Energy Corporation.

I will just note that we are happy to be here today. We have our chief financial officer. We are lucky that he is able to take the time to come sit here with us to provide us with some insight on our Yukon Development Corporation budget. We did have hours of opportunity to ask all of these particular questions that could have been asked at that time. I think I remember the Official Opposition running out of questions and then deferring and then the Third Party as well running out of questions. Once again, it's too bad that we did not get into those very particular questions about Yukon Energy Corporation, but we are here today to discuss the Yukon Development Corporation budget.

**Mr. Istchenko:** It begs me to wonder why the minister would put this up in the House today and not go to a department with, say, \$400 million worth of spending on health care when we have asked a bunch of questions, but anyway, that is neither here nor there. It just makes me wonder.

My last question, I guess, for the minister — we talked about a battery storage project, and they have sought funding from the federal government for it. I don't think we really had a definite answer, so I'm just wondering — because this will be something that the minister would have negotiated or been in conversation with the federal government on — if the minister could just update us on: When was this funding submission sent to the federal government? When do they expect to hear back about it? When is the government hoping to begin development on the project? This is really key — the development time.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** First of all, to answer the question of why we are here today: It is felt by our team that it is appropriate to try to ensure that every single department has the opportunity to come to the Assembly and for the opposition to ask questions. Just like each and every spring with Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation, people have the opportunity to ask them all the questions that were prepared. There was time allotted for those to be asked; we think that's appropriate. This has not always been the case, but we believe that it is the appropriate way to work.

As for the battery, I think it was in the month of February that the application was provided to the federal government. I think the capital expenditure was approximately \$22 million in total. I think that the application was requesting \$10 million to \$11 million. I do not believe that the Yukon Energy

Corporation has received an answer on that particular funding proposal.

I know that when I have interactions with the Minister of Natural Resources, I always try to explain the good work that was done over many years here in the Yukon around the grid and the fact that there is a number of entrepreneurs who want to take advantage of the Yukon Energy Arctic energy fund, that Yukoners are concerned about their energy future, and that Yukoners want the opportunity to optimize the use of renewable energy. This battery or multiple batteries in the future are all very important to the energy puzzle of the Yukon in the future.

**Mr. Istchenko:** I thank the minister for that and the staff for being here today, and I will turn it over to the Third Party.

**Ms. Hanson:** Thank you to the officials for their presence here today.

I just have a couple of questions, Mr. Chair, with respect to the Yukon Development Corporation. The minister had touched on the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative. As we know, the focus of the IREI is on the use of established or proven technologies that use renewable energy sources for the Yukon-based generation of electrical or heat energy.

The website — I'm just going to repeat these, because I want to go beyond that, I hope — says that these include photovoltaic solar panels, solar thermal collectors, wind turbines, biomass, gasification and run-of-the-river hydro. As the minister knows, transportation makes up around 60 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions, so any investments to reduce transportation emissions would be of significant benefit.

So my question is: Could the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative be applicable to electric vehicle infrastructure and/or electric vehicles? If so, has there been any policy work done with respect to electric vehicle infrastructure and/or electric vehicle rebates? Have there been any applications under the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative for projects with respect to electrical vehicles?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I thank the Leader of the Third Party for those questions. In our interaction in the Legislative Assembly and in discussion and during Question Period, I think that there have been great ideas and food for thought provided by the Leader of the Third Party, especially around the opportunities concerning multi-jurisdictional planning around electrical infrastructure that can support individuals who are travelling who have made a decision to use an electric vehicle. That could be for tourism, and then hopefully it becomes more of a commercial option.

I would say it has been discussed at a number of tables — about what the electric vehicle future looks like for the Yukon. I can say there has been — I haven't been party to any specific policy work around rebate for purchase. I know that there is some very deep work being undertaken, as we speak, between multiple parties. There was a large consultation that was undertaken, and now the work continues — and that's really concerning our process around energy future and adaptation. That's work that was being led, for the most part,

by the Climate Change Secretariat and had input from a number of departments. That work now continues.

You can't not have a conversation and look at different pieces that support electrification or electric vehicle or electric infrastructure when you're really discussing adaptation in our future — and stating the statistical information the Leader of the Third Party just did about how much that energy is used.

I would say that we are — and I apologize for this, but we have some stuff that's coming very quickly. A lot of people have worked hard on it, and I will just leave it at that. I want them to be able to share what that is within our government organizations. Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation had discussions with a couple of local private sector companies that have shown a bit of interest in getting into that type of investment or that type of work. At least one of those companies is highly skilled on an array of technical expertise. They're a Yukon company that has essentially taken on any challenge and undertaken great work.

In my last discussions with their CEO, they are so busy right now in other areas of the economy they haven't been able to put as much of a focus on it, but that company or another company or any entities that feel that it would be appropriate to get into that sector could come to Yukon Development Corporation. They could submit an application to the IREI fund, and then it would go through the process internally at Yukon Development Corporation to judge that and do an analysis of it and then look to fund it.

But, yes, absolutely — I think there is an obligation for the government. I think that the Yukon Development Corporation is looking to support an array of good projects, such as what the Leader of the Third Party said, and that the opportunity is open now for people to look at it. Other than that, I think the questions have spurred me to look at some other work of course — and reach out shortly after that to our Alaskan counterparts, looking at some of their long-term investments and then looking forward to discussions with the BC government once the House sits — taking a look at what their plans are, through a possible connection and tourism routes — and then hopefully commercialization of these opportunities.

**Ms. Hanson:** I appreciate the minister's answer, but it was quite circumspect, so I am going to come at it a bit more directly. Has the government developed a policy framework with respect to putting infrastructure in place? I look at the Development Corporation's mandate, and part of it is to promote employment and business opportunities — he spoke about business opportunities, but you have to have a policy framework behind that in order to respond in a positive way. What I am looking for — I have come to you, and I have a solid business case for fast-charge stations. What we are seeing are governments across the country and businesses across the country putting in place fast-charge electric charging stations so that people are — it makes it part of the economic viability of buying an electric vehicle.

The second part of my question is with respect to the YDC in terms of the initiative, to try to get — there is a tipping point at some point in a market where people start to

purchase electric vehicles. We are starting to see the price of electric vehicles come down. What we have seen across the country is that, in order to incentivize that, governments have provided forms of rebate. We currently know that governments across the country subsidize the fossil fuel industry in the billions of dollars. If we are serious about green energy, we are going to have to start investing in electric vehicles as well in terms of encouraging the early adopters. In other places in Canada, it is faster, but until we have some of that infrastructure and we have some sort of sign from government that, yes, we think this is a solid area of investment — we have been talking about renewable energy. We have had studies and commissions since 1998 in this territory. We have studied up the ying-yang. At some point, we are going to have to do something to make those concrete investments, to help move the market, and that's one.

I am asking the question: What exists in terms of a policy framework, with a strong signal from the government that they want to see that transition as opposed to talking about it?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** A series of themes — woven in with a little sarcasm — but I will do my best to answer the question.

Yes, there is a policy framework in place where a private sector company that would like to invest in a fast-charging station could come to Yukon Development Corporation and submit an application to IREI. I apologize to the Assembly if I wasn't as clear in my previous response.

There has been interest from local companies to do this type of work. They have — on at least one occasion — reached out to me and, on one occasion, I know that they reached out to the president of the Yukon Development Corporation, and I hope that other companies come to us.

There is a way to analyze an application and to weight that to see if it is something that could be funded. But yes, it is — in the criteria, we could look at that.

There has been at least one announcement that my colleague from Highways and Public Works has been part of, and I believe that the Minister of Environment was there as well. That was the investment of fast-charging stations, I believe, at the Transportation Museum. As I stated earlier, I think there is some other information that is coming out from government departments. I get to work with the team at the Energy Solutions Centre, which is very focused on this. I agree that we need to ensure that the infrastructure is in place so that people can make that change. It is not as simplistic as us being able to say that we can incentivize. We are incentivizing people to build greener homes. We are incentivizing people to put solar infrastructure and microgeneration in place. There is a significant uptake, and that means that there is more and more financial pressure because of the uptake.

I agree that we, as a government, can be a leader and should take a role in ensuring that there is infrastructure in place and that we can support the early adopters. I agree with all of those statements.

I don't believe that it is fair for the comment to be made that it is a switchback to studies in 1998. I apologize — I was finishing university in 1998; I was not here working on this

file in 1998. I know that there were studies. We constantly hear this — back to 1998. I know that a lot of different governments, probably of every political persuasion, have tried to move a number of projects forward, and I am going to say to anybody who has been in this job — future or past — that it is difficult because you need to ensure that you have a social licence to do a lot of projects. The Leader of the Third Party is saying that at some point we just have to do it. Well, you can just do it, but you can just do it in court, because that is where you are going to land if you do not have a proper partnership to build these particular hydro projects.

About saying that it is just talk — I think that, in the last 2.5 years, to have an independent power production — to have hydro, solar, wind, geothermal testing, a brand new policy framework, a capitalized fund and, in its second year, at \$1.5 million, a bilateral agreement to put \$50 million — I don't think that this is just talk. I think that it is probably some of the most substantial work that has been done in this sector over a pretty long run. So I don't think that's fair to say.

I can say that the heavy lifting is being done by people like the individuals who are sitting next to me and all the people who work within the public service.

I don't think it is all talk. I think there has been a lot of work done, and I take a little offence to that comment, but I will continue to answer questions about the Yukon Development Corporation budget.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister should know that the comment I made with respect to studies done going back to 1998 — I am not directing it to him as a person. It is the tendency of governments to reject anything that has happened before or to not build on the knowledge base that has been developed in their deep public service.

I can say that there is a huge knowledge base within the public service, but when a government comes in and assumes that nothing has been done — that's the challenge that we face, because then we're constantly starting with — we have this great idea, and somebody says, "Oh geez — you know, we have this, this and this." So how many more studies?

The minister didn't answer the question, I don't think, with respect to the potential policy framework with respect to provision of or consideration of rebates for those wishing to adopt or purchase electric vehicles. I raise this because, in the context of the premise of my question, 60 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions are basically around the transportation sector, and the Yukon government, in its current policy framework, effectively encourages greenhouse gas emission increases by our form of rebates that we have right now to a broad sector of transportation in terms of gas or fuel rebates, in addition to which we rebate on top of that any of the so-called carbon pricing. At some point, we have to start to equalize some of this out.

That's why I ask the question — if people are asking, or if there was an opportunity for encouraging adaptation or adoption of electric vehicles to go up to the Transportation Museum and plug in. One of the challenges — one of the interesting things is, if we look at the current range for most electric vehicles, anybody who is living within Whitehorse

and commuting within Whitehorse is going to be quite fine. They don't have to worry about fast-charge stations. It's on a daily work basis.

There are real opportunities for pilot projects, where even the government — is YDC, YEC, Economic Development or any government departments taking a lead in exploring that? They did it with hybrids — are they looking at electric vehicles?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** As I stated before, I haven't been part of any policy discussions around a rebate system. To be more clear, we have not undertaken work — at least me and the team at Yukon Development Corporation — around a rebate system for the purchase of electric cars.

I see value in that work, but also — just to touch upon, we are under — and we could absolutely have a great debate about the value — I'm sorry that I can't speak in great detail, but I thought I had just seen that the federal government had put a system in place for rebate, but I'll come back with some information. Hopefully during a Question Period, we can discuss it, but we have not at Yukon Development Corporation undertaken that with the monies that we use.

Our budget is pretty simplistic, really, when you think about it. When we go through — when we're going to discuss these — we have a few line items, we service some historical debt, we have some previous commitments around some rebates — maybe the discussion comes to shifting some pieces around that — and then also we have our ongoing cost going forward.

It's all pretty well accounted for.

Out of our \$1.5 million that has been in place now — that really can be used to allocate to projects that are on-grid. We are open to people coming, as we stated, to be part of that approach for electric vehicles. That means they can come and apply — partner and come in to talk about fast-charging infrastructure. I will put it this way — I will take that under advisement from the Leader of the Third Party to discuss with our officials, whether it be Yukon Development Corporation or Energy, Mines and Resources — to discuss rebate and to look at what rebate systems are potentially in place already at a federal level.

**Ms. Hanson:** You know, Mr. Chair, when the president and CEO of YEC and YDC appeared as witnesses, my colleague for Takhini-Kopper King asked questions regarding the time-of-use rates being implemented in Yukon to further incentivize electricity use away from peak load times.

When referring to the upcoming demand-side management pilot project, we were told that — and I quote: "... we don't have time-of-use rates at the moment in the Yukon, so there is no real financial benefit during this pilot phase in people participating, other than knowing that they have played an active role in helping the utility to shift peaks and manage our greenhouse gas emissions."

Mr. Chair, not only do time-of-use rates encourage people to reduce energy use during the peak load, but they reward people who actively manage their electricity use and thereby contribute to reduce fossil fuel use. My question really is: Is the reason for the lack of time-of-use rates in Yukon simply a

matter of the work not having been undertaken or are there regulatory, administrative or legislative impediments to incorporating DSM initiatives into the Yukon beyond the current Yukon Utilities Board decision blocking DSM? We recognize that and we know that is there, but are there any other regulatory, administrative or legislative impediments?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The first work that we are undertaking is a cost-of-service review, which essentially is an analysis that will look at industrial rates versus residential rates. I have also made a commitment to some of my colleagues in the Assembly to take a look at if there is the potential for even a third rate that would take into consideration some of the adaptation that we have to do around food security. What that would be is taking a look at — is it an option that we should discuss and take a look at a rate for agricultural producers? That is some of the first work we are going to do.

I think that work is underway. I will say that, in the early stages, it is something that has come up. It has been a much more present topic of conversation as of late.

Without having a budget put in front of me and discussion in place with Yukon Energy Corporation — just sort of at a high level, I know that Mr. Hall, our CEO, has said that part of it has been — the initial financial investment is pretty significant across our grid to start to put this in place. I think it's probably around the fact that you need smart meters. That doesn't mean that a quick analysis wouldn't show that you would get a proper ROI over a period of time if you put that in place, but this is work that's, first of all, being undertaken on the cost rate and then, from there, further discussion.

To be fair, I think it is work that hasn't been completed. I think it's important work and it is work that is being discussed as we look at some of these different pieces around demand-side management — just understanding the pressure that we're under now is even greater.

**Ms. Hanson:** Maybe I missed it, but I just want to clarify: The minister is saying that there are no —

**Some Hon. Member:** (Inaudible)

**Ms. Hanson:** Good. He's not aware of any legislative, administrative or regulatory impediments, which is great to hear.

I'm raising one more question with respect to independent power production, because I have heard the suggestion that we won't have the opportunity to come back to Energy, Mines and Resources in this Sitting. I have had some concerns expressed to me around — and I absolutely applaud the work that has been done on the IPP. It has been a long time coming. I can remember in 2009-10 when there was significant public interest in the independent power production policy. There were some significant concerns about it at that time — the public forum, in one instance, that we hosted, with huge interest.

As the minister and I have discussed in the past, one of the missing pieces was that you can't do it until you have a power purchase policy. I have some questions with respect to that. Again, the CEO of Yukon Energy Corporation mentioned when they were here that the IPP projects would

have to pay for their connection cost to the grid. So while, for example, solar and hydro may be able to compete with the blended diesel energy rate per kilowatt hour, their connection costs may be prohibitive, if we're doing it on a straight across.

I have a couple of questions. My first one is: Are there currently any feasible renewable energy projects that can be implemented under the IPP policy with respect to power purchase? Has the government had any interested parties come forward to inquire about entering into an IPP agreement with the government — doing it but finding that they are impeded by the fee structure — the power purchase agreement fee structure?

One of the concerns — and I may not be articulating it in the most clear way, but it's my perception that there's more benefit to power production than just avoided costs of fuel, because there are environmental and social benefits. When the government was developing its independent power production — the power purchase agreements, the policy base for that — did the government consider expanding the scope beyond just the avoided cost of fuel? Because if that is just it, then we may not get there.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Chair, I don't want to talk about the fact that we may not get there, because we just got here. We just actually got here with the policy, so that was the first piece that we needed to put in place. There are a number of pieces there — a lot of them. I will open up a little leeway. I mean, yes, the member opposite is correct — the IPP work inevitably gets led by our policy team out of the Energy, Mines and Resources department. Yukon Development Corporation's role was to provide insight the same way that the other stakeholders did — Yukon Energy Corporation and ATCO. I think there has been dialogue that has occurred between potential entities that would come to the Yukon Development Corporation and talk about their projects — some that we have, some that we are meeting with — continuing to support and to discuss with them their projects — and then see if they would submit applications for funding to the Yukon Development Corporation.

A challenge for us has been — in our early years of IREI, what we have seen from Natural Resources Canada, through probably the NSERC program and the REACHE program — I apologize — I am just giving you sort of the titles of the programs. There has been a lot of money provided across the country, and it is an interesting problem to have, whether it be in Old Crow where they have been successful in leveraging federal money — therefore, monies that we would maybe look to put into projects; they have already realized that.

I think that, from our experience, there are monies available which are really helping to offset the capital costs associated with the projects. There was lots of discussion through the early parts of this to understand that — I guess the sweet spot for the policy was really around: How do you bring these projects in line and into reality and do it in a way where — you try to come up with an elegant solution, which is — how do you displace the cost of thermal, but how do you not put extra burden on the ratepayer? All you had to do was clearly look at the themes that were happening in the

Legislative Assembly — as we started to develop the IPP and probably hear questions that were coming from previous ministers who were in this role — asking, “Hey, who is going to cover the cost? Where is it going to come from?”

Of course, privileged advice to previous ministers is privileged advice to previous ministers — I don't know, but I know that some people had to make a decision and people knew that the decision was that either you were going to have projects that were not feasible or you were going to put costs associated with bringing these projects online on ratepayers.

What we tried to do — and we hope that we have hit the right formula — is to look at existing pots of money that we have committed to us long-term and the existing pots of money that local organizations have had success in leveraging — whether it be in Old Crow or Burwash Landing — taking into consideration what that formula is to see them offset their capital costs, and then have a price in place that makes it a feasible project.

Do we think that we have feasible projects? We do think that we have feasible projects. For many of these projects right now, if done appropriately, there is a tremendous amount of dollars to offset. I have had one proponent come to us and say that they want to make sure that the project has a real business case, because that's what we like to invest in. What we are looking at now is that there is money from many different sources coming to us. That is why we also made sure that our IPP policy — after 24 months, we have the ability, Mr. Chair, to go back and review it. We knew we may not get it all right, but we knew we had to make the commitment to get it out the door.

We do feel that the policy can add to more of these projects. I will endeavour to get information about the connection fee to see if that's going to be something that is insurmountable for — that is not our — in any way, shape or form, we want to see these projects come online. I would have to go to Yukon Energy Corporation and take into consideration what those connection fees look like and how that plays into the overall project plan for specific individuals — where their project is and how close to grid — all those things are different and unique in each case. We think that this policy can help bring projects online.

I apologize if I missed any other questions. I will get back to the member opposite with more concise answers if I did.

**Ms. Hanson:** I appreciate the minister's answer. I do think that we will have to come back to this area. We are not comparing apples to apples here, because costs of fossil fuels right now are highly subsidized. So when you start saying to a new player in the field that you have to meet that price or lower, that is where the question comes as to how you're comparing those two. That's why I keep coming back to the mandate — assuring a continuing and adequate supply of energy in a manner consistent with sustainable development. We know that the definition of “sustainable development” — we go back to the final agreement and back to Brundtland. There is more to it than just simply saying, “We're going to have to have renewable energy competing on an unlevel

playing field against a highly subsidized, well-established fossil fuel sector.”

I would like to move this forward — because I recognize that there are other areas — and this is going to sound like a very strange question, but we have an operation and maintenance budget for Yukon Development Corporation. After almost 10 years, I should know this, but I don’t: Why is it zero for personnel?

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The costs that are incurred for personnel at Yukon Development Corporation are provided for — we recover those particular costs — through the cash flow of Yukon Development Corporation — the money it receives from Yukon Energy Corporation. Today, our budget line items have to do with money that is going through appropriation from the Yukon government. These particular costs are what are presented, but our personnel costs there are from other sources. That’s why they are not listed here in our budget.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on the Yukon Development Corporation?

Seeing none, we will proceed to line-by-line debate.

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures***

***On Interim Electrical Rebate***

*Interim Electrical Rebate in the amount of \$3,500,000 agreed to*

***On Mayo B Rate Payer Support***

*Mayo B Rate Payer Support in the amount of \$2,625,000 agreed to*

***On Prior Years’ Projects***

*Prior Years’ Projects in the amount of nil cleared*

***Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$6,125,000 agreed to***

***On Capital Expenditures***

*On Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative in the amount of \$1,500,000*

*Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative in the amount of \$1,500,000 agreed to*

***On Arctic Energy Fund***

**Ms. Hanson:** I just want to clarify. The minister made a comment about a \$50-million federal commitment over 10 years. Is this a staggered contribution, or is it lower now and will be higher over the next couple of years? Because it is not going to add up to \$50 million.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** The Arctic energy fund is — for lack of a better term — a sub-fund under the ICIP funding which was negotiated with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. What we have done in this particular case is to amortize it out over that period of 10 years, but you do have great flexibility to front load in some years or to see it spent on an equal basis annually. We will look to equal it out at this particular time. It will be close to that number — \$5 million on an annual basis.

That’s essentially what it is, and there’s no loss. There’s flexibility. You may have a project that has greater priority on year 2, 3 or 4, and I think you can look to increase your allocation from that.

It will be noted that you do still have a process, like all these infrastructure processes, for the most part, where once we have identified the project, there’s still the submission that goes in to the federal government for approval.

*Arctic Energy Fund in the amount of \$4,705,000 agreed to*

***Yukon Development Corporation Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$6,205,000 agreed to***

***Yukon Development Corporation Total Expenditures in the amount of \$12,330,000 agreed to***

***On Revenues***

*Revenues cleared*

***On Government Transfers***

*Government Transfers cleared*

***Yukon Development Corporation agreed to***

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I just would like to thank the officials for coming in today and providing assistance. Thank you for the service you provide us. We’re lucky to have you as part of our team. I know it’s busy running a very successful Yukon company, and also thanks to the president for providing assistance and leadership on all of these new initiatives.

**Chair:** The matter now before Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 10, Public Service Commission, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to recess for 10 minutes?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 10 minutes.

***Recess***

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

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 10, Public Service Commission, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

***Public Service Commission — continued***

**Chair:** Mr. Mostyn, you have 18 minutes and two seconds.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. That is a lot of time; I don’t think I require it. As a matter of fact, I am actually going to let my colleagues on the benches opposite ask their questions.

**Ms. Hanson:** Since we last met here on April 18, when we left off there — I will start with where we left off. I had asked the minister a question with respect to how the performance pay for senior managers was being dealt with, with respect to what they call the “PDP Award” and he had agreed with me that it was important that there be sort of a link between performance and pay. But the study that we were finding, the internal audit that had been completed, indicated that there was a disconnection.



I am just wondering if the minister has had a chance or an opportunity to do any further reflection on that and to determine what changes will be made in that policy.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I do recall the question. It came from the audit the member opposite referenced. The assertion or the idea is that perhaps there are senior managers who are receiving a larger chunk of the pay raises than perhaps they're entitled to. As I said, this is information that we will investigate ourselves, under advisement. We haven't changed any policies. We will look into this matter and take corrective action, if necessary.

**Ms. Hanson:** What I just look for is an undertaking, because I think there is maybe a gap here. Can the minister give an undertaking that he will read the talent acquisition and retention performance audit from August 2018, so that when we — because I do want to pursue this conversation with him. There are a number of areas here, in terms of identification of the potential for issues around lack of gender equity in terms of hiring practices, in terms of pay, potential issues around more senior managers getting a higher chunk of performance pay — not pay for work done necessarily. I mean, it is work done, but it's the reward part of the bonus, I guess you could call it, in the most crass form.

What I'm simply looking for is an undertaking from the minister and then I'll move on to other areas of questions — an undertaking that he will read that audit so that we can have an informed conversation.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** To the simple question raised by the member opposite — yes, I will read the audit. I will also let her know that my officials have read the audit and we are taking action on many recruitment and retention issues within the public service. We have \$100,000 identified to do a review of practices within the department. We're doing a strategic analysis of the department and the branches within it to make sure that it's serving the needs. We're also investing — as I said the last time we were in the House — in new tools so that the department officials — the civil service itself — can actually have the metrics at hand to identify these problems.

I know, from talking and working with my colleagues in the Public Service Commission, that they do not currently have good tools to do this job. It is a very difficult job to pull the type of metrics that she is referring to. The audit that was done — the internal audit — was based on a very small sample, as I am led to believe.

Some conclusions were drawn from that sliver of data, but like many reports in the territory, there were very small numbers involved in the sample size. We are endeavouring to get better tools, better metrics, and better ways of measuring how the civil service operates. Currently, that data is very difficult to analyze or come by. It is very cumbersome to actually analyze. I wish I had better data to be able to discuss on the floor of the Legislative Assembly what is happening within the civil service in more vibrant colour, but we do not have those tools. I am working very hard to get them so that we can actually do this work with a greater measure of certainty and success.

**Ms. Hanson:** We look forward to the outcomes of the \$100,000 hiring practices review, as well as the strategic plan that was discussed by the minister when we talked last week.

Mr. Chair, there has been a fair amount of discussion over the years, so this year — in 2013, there was the establishment of the Respectful Workplace office — there was a policy evaluation required after five years. As we know, the mandate of the Respectful Workplace office is to be a resource for employees experiencing disrespect in the workplace, and for those with the responsibility to manage workplace conflict to assess concerns about disrespectful conduct in the workplace and to determine and manage the appropriate process to address those concerns. This is a very important office because it has the active involvement of the union bodies in the Yukon. It is a novel approach. In agreeing to this process, the Respectful Workplace office union representatives gave up other processes. So it is imperative that this works.

There are seven recommendations that came out of this policy evaluation that was posted on the website. One was that the Respectful Workplace office and the steering committee — which, as I said, is made up of representatives from government and unions — should consider implementing the following recommendations: first, develop a conflict management process map to provide more clarity on when and how to engage with respectful workplaces. We have seen, from comments made by a number of external assessments, that there has been some lack of clarity on that. A second recommendation was to improve the perceptions about the transparency and neutrality of the Respectful Workplace office process by developing clear protocols for triaging and processing cases based on their level of complexity and need. The third was to consider strengthening the authority of the Respectful Workplace office in the policy, particularly in the follow-up process. This is one of the concerns I have heard, so I am interested to hear that this is reflected in the evaluation. A fourth recommendation really talks about communications, and getting better information through marketing and communications.

The fifth recommendation is to increase efforts and resources to build relationships and trust with departmental staff, focusing on human resource consultants and senior management, and to deliver capacity-building services. The sixth is to pursue opportunities to integrate Respectful Workplace office workshops and training, with other professional development opportunities available for Government of Yukon employees. The seventh — which is vitally important in my mind — is to develop a performance measurement framework and strengthen reporting on the operations of the Respectful Workplace office.

Can the minister give the House an indication of what work plan has been developed to implement the recommendations of this independent evaluation of the Respectful Workplace office, and when we might see that work plan?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I am really glad that the conversation has moved into the Respectful Workplace office, because, as my colleague in the opposition has noted, it is a

novel approach. In fact, I would say that it is probably a unique approach to managing conflict and problems in the workplace. I would say, in my brief tenure in the job here — two years — that it is working and is a vast improvement over the grievance processes used in other workplaces.

As with any new approach to human resources, like the Respectful Workplace office — it has five years' worth of experience under it, and we have conducted a review. The review was conducted and finished in December 2018. That evaluation confirmed that the office processes are effective in addressing workplace conflict and disrespectful conduct, while also identifying some areas for improvement. In fact, I believe that there were seven recommendations that came out of that process, and all seven of them have been accepted by the steering committee, which is made up of both labour and management representatives. We are currently in the process of implementing and making good on all seven recommendations.

The steering committee that I mentioned — with labour and management representatives — is meeting monthly. It is working to start improving a system that was a vast improvement on the one that went before. The evaluation report is available on the yukon.ca website. The cost of the evaluation was approximately \$63,000.

We also have in this budget — the budget for the Respectful Workplace office is \$1.1 million — if you were to round it — and this includes an increase of \$236,000 for two new FTEs for full-time conflict resolution practitioners to clear out some of the backlog that was developing. We realized through the evaluation that we needed more resources, and those resources have been allocated to the department to improve the Respectful Workplace office.

To summarize, I suppose: It is a good process. It is one that is new. After five years, we did the review, we came up with seven ways it could be made better — working with labour and management, working collaboratively together. They are currently implementing those recommendations and improving a process that is already quite good.

**Ms. Hanson:** I guess what I was looking for from the minister was when we might see — there are seven distinct areas, some of which the minister has under his own control and some of which he does not. Is there a work plan being developed? When will that be completed?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** The short answer to the member's question is that we are hoping — we are working through all seven recommendations, and the goal is to have them all done within the next year. There is a steering committee. Under the steering committee are a number of working groups, all of which are working on implementing the recommendations. There is some policy work that needs to be done, there are process maps, and there is communication in getting this stuff out. There is a lot to this, and it is all being worked on right now.

Again, I think that what we're seeing — the way that I approach these things is that it's not "Do the seven things and we are done." It's "We have seven recommendations. Let's

work through those, assess again, and see how things are working and improve it further still."

The goal, given all of the moving pieces — the collaboration between management and labour and all of the work being done through the steering committee, which meets monthly — we are hoping to have all seven recommendations implemented within the next year.

**Mr. Cathers:** I have a few questions for the Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission. I am going to begin with the question: Do all of the deputy ministers live in the Yukon? If not, how many maintain their primary residence outside of the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** It is our understanding that all deputy ministers employed by the Government of Yukon live in the Yukon and maintain a residence here.

**Mr. Cathers:** I do appreciate the answer from the minister. In part, it is prompted by the minister yesterday in the House — he talked about the ability for people to work from Ontario during motion debate. A follow-up question is: Do all assistant deputy ministers of the Government of Yukon live in the Yukon? If not, how many maintain their primary residence outside of the Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** To the best of our knowledge, all assistant deputy ministers employed by the Yukon government live here.

My comment yesterday afternoon — when we were discussing changes in society — I was basically referencing that we have tools now — the Internet, but beyond that, we have our cellphones and our telecommunications infrastructure — that are changing our workplace. I wasn't referring to any senior management in particular — or in fact at all. I do know that when I go to Ontario, as I did last fall, I was still able to connect to my colleagues in Cabinet remotely and have discussions with them on matters of import to the territory because of the changes in technology which are shifting the way we do business.

The fact is that our ways of working in the territory have to reflect these changes in society, and currently they don't. We're working with — most of the government is run on paper still, because there has been very little investment in information technology, as I have reflected earlier in conversation with the Leader of the Third Party — on how feeble our information technology is within the department of the Public Service Commission — but that could be extended to all government departments.

In my conversation about referencing Ontario, I'm sorry if I have caused any confusion with the Member for Lake Laberge. It had nothing to do with any specific example reflecting any of our senior management or any civil servant in particular at all. It was just basically saying that times have changed and our government has failed to keep up with the times. It's time to invest in change and have a workplace, tools, and the ability for our civil service to work within the environment that we currently live in, which is highly connected and highly mobile.

In some workplaces, there are huge changes happening, and we have to start to have those changes reflected in our workplace.

**Mr. Cathers:** I do appreciate the answer from the minister. I would also encourage him to perhaps look into it further. He indicated that, in the case of deputy ministers and ADMs — to his knowledge, they were all residents of the territory. We have heard from a number of Yukoners that this may not be the case, and we have heard reports of assistant deputy ministers either residing primarily in Ontario or spending a lot of time commuting to family back there.

I am sure the minister's answer isn't going to change right now from what he gave me, but I would ask that he look into it and get back to me via legislative return.

As well, at that point, he may not be able to answer this question today — if there are any assistant deputy ministers of the Yukon government who are commuting to and from Ontario or another province, if he could at that time, in a legislative return, provide the answer of how many days they're being paid for work when they're not in the Yukon.

I'm going to ask a related question on the topic of senior managers — are all assistant deputy ministers employees of the Yukon government?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I have said this afternoon that our deputies and ADMs reside in the territory. I have given that answer and I will stand by it. We have no evidence or reason to believe that any of them are commuting from Ontario or from some faraway places to the territory in their jobs.

Yukon employees, including senior managers, are entitled to all sorts of leave. They have holiday leave and they have bereavement leave, so people have left the territory to go visit family. There is no two ways about it: Things happen. People have time off and they take that time.

If the member opposite has specific concerns about specific individuals, please bring them to my attention. I encourage him to write me an e-mail and I will certainly look into specific complaints with supporting information he might be able to provide from his sources. But I have no desire to start a witch hunt or a wild goose chase on employees who may be living elsewhere and coming into work on a Monday morning to do their job. I just don't quite understand that. I have no evidence and no reason to believe that this is the case.

**Mr. Cathers:** I just do want to note that, contrary to the way the minister framed it or responded to the question, I want to make it clear that this is neither a complaint nor an accusation; it is a question. What the question relates to, again, based on what we've heard from a number of Yukoners as well as the minister's comments yesterday, appeared, at least at the time, to us to be indicating that perhaps what we had been told from a number of Yukoners was correct about assistant deputy ministers potentially not living full time within the territory. Of course, we do appreciate the fact that all employees, including senior managers, do have personal lives and are entitled to respect for their personal lives, but the question I think as it pertains to the public interest question relates to whether someone is available on the spot to manage their staff as they are expected to do — and also for Yukoners

who wish to meet with a senior manager, including a deputy minister or an ADM, whether in fact they are readily available and accessible here in the territory. I would again just encourage the minister to look into that further.

On a question that this has prompted for us as well is whether the health review is being delayed or impacted as a result of either the deputy minister or any of the ADMs in that department not living full time in the Yukon — also, whether the DM and all assistant deputy ministers of Health and Social Services actually live here full time. I would just encourage the minister to look into the matter and get back with a legislative return.

I am going to move now to the question of how assistant deputy ministers are hired, including whether they are directly hired outside of a competitive process. Can the minister please tell me how many assistant deputy ministers the Liberal government has directly — or under the Liberal watch, I should say — how many assistant deputy ministers have been directly hired without competition? Can he indicate, when that occurs, does the Public Service Commission have to approve? Is the Public Service Commission involved with that decision to bypass competition?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019 — that's a year — there have been nine ADM staffing actions within the Yukon government. Of those, four were exemptions, three were competitions, two were transfers from within government. Of the four exemptions, three came through the leadership pathways program.

I'm going to talk about that for just a second, because leadership pathways is a process that I inherited. It came from the past. In the past, it was a selection process. Somebody made a decision and appointed a bunch of people to enter the leadership pathways process. When I came into this position, I said, "That's not right. We have to do better." So we have opened up the leadership pathways process so that now it is a process that has an open call that goes out to all employees to apply to this process that was not very transparent and open before; it was closed; it was a hand-picked cadre of people. That's fine; I wanted something a little bit more transparent, so we actually opened it up and we now have an open call-out that recruits candidates to the process. People know that it's out there and that this is coming and that they have an opportunity to get in, so we have a bigger pool of people coming into the process. It's more open. That was important to me.

Of the nine ADM hires in the last year, four came from the newly improved and much broader leadership pathways process, which is still a work-in-progress, and we'll continue to assess how that's working and make improvements so it's more transparent, more open and is actually doing a good job of bringing up the talent. We have a ton of talent within the civil service, and I think that's our greatest resource, actually — the people we have working for us, the good people — and I want to make sure that our civil servants have a path to success and that everybody has a shot and at least know those things are available and that opportunity for advancement is broad — and we're getting the best people for the job.

**Mr. Cathers:** I appreciate the information provided. It is somewhat concerning to see that, out of the nine ADMs who were hired in the past year, only two were through a competitive process. As much as the program the minister mentioned has obviously benefits to it, the question of why someone would be directly hired through that rather than the position going to a fully competitive process remains an issue and a concern.

Just circling back to one I may have missed mentioning in my question about whether all the assistant deputy ministers live in the Yukon, I would again ask the minister to provide a legislative return and, in that, if he could provide three things, that would be appreciated: How many maintain a primary residence outside the Yukon? Does someone have to approve that? If so, who? And I'd like a breakdown by departments.

I am going to go back to two questions that the minister missed. I asked, when it came to the area of assistant deputy ministers being directly hired instead of going through a competitive process, whether the Public Service Commission has to approve and if they are involved in that decision.

Secondly in that area, I had asked the minister for the numbers beginning in late 2016, when the government took office. If he doesn't have that information in front of him, I would ask him to provide it by legislative return. The question again is how many — beyond the nine in the past year who were hired, most of them without a competitive process — we would appreciate that information. I would contend that the public has a right to that information.

The minister also did not answer the question of whether all assistant deputy ministers are employees of the Yukon government or whether any are under some alternate arrangement — and if that would be on contract or what that relationship would be — if he could answer that question. As well, if there are any in a non-standard employment format — if he could provide a breakdown of how many and in which departments.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I am going to do my best to unpack that list of questions. I am going to start at the front end of the questions.

The member opposite has asked for a legislative return to a question that I have answered. As far as the senior leadership living out of the territory, I have answered that question. To the best of my knowledge, no, there are no ADMs or DMs commuting from elsewhere to the territory.

If the member opposite, as I said earlier, has information or has people who would like to come and give me information that would change my thoughts on that, please have them contact me or send me an e-mail with the information, and I will investigate. But as I have said on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, there are no senior managers living elsewhere and commuting to the territory to do their jobs.

Of course, if some information comes to light that shows that this isn't the case, I will certainly get back to the member opposite, but at this time, I am counting this as answered, and I'm moving on.

The member opposite has asked about ADM appointments. I want to correct — I think I heard him correctly, and I think he got something muddled. There were three competitions for ADM hires between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019 — three competitions. We had four exemptions, three of whom came from our more robust, beefier leadership pathways program. We had two transfers of ADMs. These are ADMs who were already employed by the Government of Yukon and transferred within the department — so they came from other positions into new positions. Those were transfers. So the total staffing actions were nine, of which five of those nine were either already hired and in the job — hired — or went through a competitive process — more than 50 percent, closer to 60 percent. Of the four appointments, three were leadership pathways participants. That leadership pathways process has an open call for participation. So that's that.

I will endeavour to get information to the member on the number of staffing actions that we have had at the deputy minister level. I will say though that, as far as the hiring of ADMs goes, the process hasn't changed under our government. We are using relatively simple — the PSC does not have to approve ADM hires, just as under previous governments, but they are consulted and then it's up to the deputy to make that appointment. The deputy has the authority to make that appointment, but the Public Service Commission is certainly involved in the process, as it always has been.

I will also say that we not only have a much more dynamic, robust leadership pathways process, but we also have transfer lists of ADMs — which is a fairly new development. It means that our ADMs can sign up and say, "I'm interested in other opportunities. If you have one, please keep me in mind." If something comes up, then we will consider them for another post.

We also have standardized job descriptions for ADMs. That is another new initiative on behalf of our government — to have a much more standardized job description. This means that our ADMs are able to move around within the government with a little bit more flexibility and take on new tasks and new opportunities. We can have a much more dynamic, vibrant civil service, and that helps us with staffing. There is a lot of change happening within our civil service. We are seeing a lot of retirements and a lot of new blood coming in, so these tweaks that we have made to this process are allowing us to staff them a bit more quickly and efficiently.

Was there another question? Oh yes, there was some question about if all our ADMs are employees of the government, and the answer to that again is yes.

**Mr. Cathers:** The one the minister began with — indicating he had answered a question and would regard it as answered — I would note again, the question about ADMs living in the Yukon as well as the associated questions that I asked — that I did ask him to look into it and get back to me via a letter or a legislative return — either would be fine. The question has certainly not been answered. The minister indicated that he was not aware of something different, and

that's entirely different from actually looking into something. I would ask him to get back to us by either a letter or a legislative return with that answer.

As it pertains to Outside hires, I'm now going to ask the question of how many managers from Outside, whether they be ADMs, directors, managers or if they are special advisors to a deputy minister — how many of those staff have been directly hired without a competitive process? Who is involved in deciding to approve that?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Again, we're going to go around the mulberry bush a little bit about the member opposite's assertion we have carpetbagger DMs. Let me just be totally clear: We have no DMs in the territory who live elsewhere. They live here. That's the answer. There's no need for a legislative return. Now, I'm not afraid of legislative returns. We on this side have provided 206 legislative returns since coming into office, compared to one from the side opposite. So we are doing our fair share of legislative returns and I will continue that process and I will continue to provide information to the members opposite through legislative returns and other ways — through letters and everything else. But on this one, I don't think it warrants a legislative return, so we'll just move on.

As far as direct hires — we don't have those numbers. I will endeavour to get the member opposite numbers on the number of direct hires for these lower-level management positions, but I am assured by my colleagues in the Public Service Commission that there aren't many direct hires. There is a competitive process. We strive to have a competitive process for our competitions. It's something I personally champion. I think it's important that we get the best person for the job. I think that going through a competitive process sometimes reveals hidden gems, and so I think it is always good. It raises the bar for everybody, so I am a big fan of competitive processes for jobs within the civil service.

I will endeavour to get the member opposite the numbers that he asked for, although I will put the caveat on there that the tools that we have to do that are sort of feeble — but my colleagues in the civil service have said that they would endeavour to get that number to the member opposite.

**Mr. Cathers:** I do appreciate the information that the minister provided. There are still a few questions that he hasn't answered, and I should note that, while he again emphasized that there are no deputy ministers who are living outside of the territory, I would again ask him to look into that at the assistant deputy minister level and get back to me via letter or legislative return once he has actually checked.

The minister was giving the Liberal government a lot of credit for the number of legislative returns, and I do have to remind the minister that a large number of those are due to ministers being unable to answer fairly simple questions in the House. Playing catch-up later via legislative return instead of answering the question is not something that the minister should give himself a gold sticker for.

I should note again the question regarding direct hires from Outside, particularly at management level — a commitment to develop the public service — and some of the

rhetoric of this government — does not take shape if their direct hires for outside senior leadership — or, at least, I should say that if there are candidates here who would do a good job in those roles, they are deprived of the opportunity to even compete for them through that process. It prevents Yukoners from rising in the ranks of the public service if the senior leadership is directly hired from outside of the territory.

I am not going to ask the minister a question. We have seen a number of situations, including the somewhat odd events surrounding the departure of the Deputy Minister of Finance. The Premier announced a long departure that would have actually been tomorrow — I believe it was — in his press release early in March, and then, a mere matter of nine or 10 days later, a second press release went out announcing a removal effective immediately. There was a big change in the tone of language from the first one, which spoke in glowing terms, and the second one, which read like something else had occurred. With that and with other DMs and ADMs who have been fired or given the good news that they were taking early retirement under the Liberal government, can the minister tell me how much money has been paid out to cover severance packages for the deputy ministers and ADMs who have departed government under the Liberal watch?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** We are in the midst of discussing the budget of a human resource department, but I'm not going to get into specifics of human resource matters on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. We have issued news releases on the departure of deputies, and I'm not going to add any more information to what has already been released through news releases from the government.

The member opposite has seen those news releases. I encourage him to read them again and he'll get all the information he needs and all the information that this government is willing to provide on the departure of the deputy.

As for the severance of our deputies, the Yukon government of course values the expertise and contribution of all people appointed to serve as deputy heads in the Yukon public service. Deputies are appointed to their position by the Commissioner in Executive Council following certification by the Public Service Commissioner that they are qualified for the appointment.

Except for the Public Service Commissioner — my good colleague to the left here — the deputy heads serve at pleasure, and their appointment can be rescinded at any time. I'm sure that the members opposite know this. They are well-acquainted with that. Those who accept an opportunity to serve in the capacity understand this reality.

The specifics of an individual deputy head's income, such as salary level and severance provisions, are confidential details of their employment contract, and this type of personal information is not accessible under the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Fall 2018 amendments to that act afford us the opportunity to consider the types of personal information that we may want to exempt from the act through regulation in the future after related provisions of that act are brought into force.

Again, we didn't have that capacity under the previous act because it was kind of out of date and not very modern. We do have a modern act coming in that affords us a lot more flexibility on a number of different matters. That is one that future governments may elect to explore.

As far as that goes, that's where we're at. We haven't changed the way that we talk about employee severance in our government. It's consistent with past governments, and I'm sure that the members opposite, from their past experience in government, know the process. It hasn't changed.

**Mr. Cathers:** It is interesting how the Liberals' tune has changed from when they were in opposition and when the public made the mistake of electing them to office — and seeing what they were really going to do once they had been elected on the basis of their promises. I should note that I respect the decision made by voters, but I would point out that voters took the Liberals at their word, and that has turned out to be a mistake. There has been a long list of Liberal promises where they have broken them without any good reason to do so.

I just want to remind the minister of what the Premier said when he was the Leader of the Liberal Party — seated on this side of the floor and Leader of the Third Party at the time. I'm going to quote from a *Whitehorse Star* article dated April 29, 2016. The quotes are from the now-Premier: "When the Premier hires deputy ministers, then fires them, there's a cost to the taxpayer — hundreds of thousands of dollars each time that this happens..." — said the now-Premier.

Another quote from him: "It doesn't inspire much confidence in the leader of government when there's turnover at a senior level of staff."

Further in the article, the Liberal Party spokesperson of the day said that if — the name of the Leader of the Liberal Party — is elected Premier in the pending election, severance deals would be made public. "We think that the public deserves to know what those numbers are, and we'd make those numbers available, he said.

"Other jurisdictions in Canada publicize the names, positions and salaries of public sector workers making over \$100,000."

Ending my quotes from the article — it is interesting that, despite specifically promising to make information about severance for a deputy minister public if that occurred, the government is now in their third year and, despite the fact that, by the minister's own admission, the act allows Cabinet to approve a regulation that would allow transparency in these matters, we are in year 3 of the Liberal term, and they still haven't kept their promise. We and the public are left again to guess what those severance costs for deputy ministers and ADMs who have been removed — fired — from their jobs or given the unwanted gift of early retirement — what those costs actually are.

I am going to move on to another area, and that relates to the costs of bringing deputy ministers and ADMs into the territory who were not Yukon citizens, and their moving costs have been paid. Can the minister tell me two things: What is the total cost of moving deputy ministers — their furniture,

assets, households, et cetera — into the territory under this government's watch? Particularly, we know that they hired one deputy minister who was briefly the Deputy Minister of Education before apparently being removed by this government — the question of whether the costs of moving that gentleman's furniture, household, and so on from Australia were picked up by the taxpayer. If so, how much money did Yukoners pay for that move?

I see the minister is getting instruction from the Deputy Premier on this, and hopefully the instruction is to be transparent, not to be more opaque on this matter. Again, in case the minister didn't hear the question, I'm asking about the moving costs and the cost of moving assets of deputy ministers hired from outside of the Yukon into the Yukon, including and specifically whether, in the case of the now-former Deputy Minister of Education, who was hired by the Premier and is now no longer in that place — whether his moving costs from Australia were paid and, if so, what those costs were.

I would also ask the minister to provide the total cost of moving assistant deputy ministers into the territory from Outside and what those moving costs were collectively. I would point out in that area that the government has made a lot of commitments about transparency. In the area of severance, particularly, there were specific commitments made by the now-Premier when he was the Leader of the Third Party that the government hasn't kept. At a senior leadership level, as cited by the now-Premier in the April before the election was held, there are other jurisdictions that do provide more details about senior management to the public through so-called "sunshine lists" than would typically be provided for any employee who is at a lower level within the department.

Again, I'm asking about the cost for deputy ministers and for assistant deputy ministers of moving people from outside the territory into the territory under this government's watch, and I would ask the minister to provide that information either now or through letter or legislative return.

Another question, on a slightly different matter, is whether the minister can confirm how many FTEs were transferred from other departments to the Public Service Commission as part of Human Resource Shared Services.

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I'm enjoying our conversation this afternoon. All right — the number the member opposite is requesting, the number of transfers into the Public Service Commission from other departments — to do with our shared services initiative — a way of creating efficiency, getting more work and more strategic human resource management into the civil service — it is 12.78, because we have some departments that have transferred portions of their HR in. You get a fraction, a number that isn't a whole. Individually, you get about 12.78 — that's the number.

All right. Now, the member opposite has been talking about all sorts of things — "sunshine lists", I think is what they're called in other jurisdictions. They started in PEI, I believe it was. The newspaper editor in PEI who I used to

work for was a big champion of sunshine lists and got it into PEI and sort of started a trend across the country.

That's what we are talking about, and the member opposite is right — our Premier has spoken about this. Lo and behold, as I have said — the member opposite, I guess, didn't catch the answer, or maybe he doesn't understand — our ATIPP act — the new ATIPP act, the refurbished, modern ATIPP act is not yet in force. When it comes into force — as I said earlier, the fall of 2018 amendments to the act — the one that we debated on the floor of the Legislative Assembly — my colleague the Leader of the Third Party and I had a great go-around on that ATIPP act. We had a very robust, deep, and rewarding debate on that bill. I don't recall that the members of the Official Opposition were quite so interested in the act. But that act did pass in this House in 2018. The amendments to that act afford us the opportunity to consider types of personal information that we may want to exempt from the act through regulation in the future, after related provisions of the act are brought into force. When that happens, it will then be lawful in the territory to have some sort of sunshine list, should a government decide to do so. Through the passage of the ATIPP act, we have indeed moved a step closer to what our Premier had been talking about when in opposition. We made good on that promise through this new piece of legislation. We have the tools to be able to follow through with those details.

Currently though, under the previous act, it is not permissible. It is not allowed. The specifics of an individual deputy head's income, such as salary level and severance provision, are confidential details of their employment contract, and this type of personal information is not accessible under the existing *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* — the one that has been in place for many, many years — the obsolete, old, out-of-sync, out-of-touch kind of act. That act doesn't permit it.

The new act that we passed on the floor of the House does permit it, and when it comes into force, then future governments will have the option to be able to do these things. That was one of the reasons why that act was brought into force.

Until that happens, things such as moving expenses, salaries, and all the rest of it are not lawful to be provided, so that's where we're at. I answered that question without a legislative return — so there we are: 206 to one it remains.

**Mr. Cathers:** I hope the minister doesn't hurt himself in his rush to get the ATIPP act in force. Again, the point I'm making is, with regard to this point about transparency, whether it requires regulations to be in place or some other mechanism — the issue that the minister is dismissing, which I'm raising, is one of what the Premier promised Yukoners. That issue around transparency, as it pertains to severance packages, is not something that I came up with this morning and decided to ask the minister about.

We're talking about what the Premier promised Yukoners before they elected this Liberal government. I think most Yukoners would agree that it's reasonable, when someone gives them a very clear promise before being elected, that

they, as Yukoners, should be able to say, "I expect you to keep your promises", and not just tell them after the election that they are in power and do not actually have to do it. In this case, the government is in year 3 of the Liberal mandate. The clock is ticking, the sand is running out of the hourglass, and Yukoners expect the Official Opposition to hold the government to account for the promises that the Liberal Party — and their leader specifically, in this case — made to Yukoners before they went to the polls in 2016.

I would encourage the minister to develop more of a sense of urgency on doing whatever he needs to do — whether it be to pass a regulation or change a policy — to release this information to the public and information about severance packages of deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers.

Mr. Chair, seeing the time, I move that you report progress.

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

*Motion agreed to*

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

**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 Chair of Committee of the Whole?

### Chair's report

**Mr. Hutton:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 32, entitled *Act to Amend the Securities Act*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

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

**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.

The time being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Monday.

I wish everyone a good weekend.

*The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*

**The following sessional paper was tabled April 25, 2019:**

34-2-95

*Empty Spaces Caring Connections — The Experiences of Children and Youth in Yukon Group Care — Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office* (April 2019) (Speaker Clarke)

**The following legislative return was tabled April 25, 2019:**

34-2-209

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. White related to general debate on Vote 3, Department of Education, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — educator training (McPhee)