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HANSARD

Tuesday, April 30, 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
Hon. Sandy Silver	Klondike	Premier Minister of the Executive Council Office; Finance
Hon. Ranj Pillai	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
Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee	Riverdale South	Government House Leader Minister of Education; Justice
Hon. John Streicker	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate; Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission
Hon. Pauline Frost	Vuntut Gwitchin	Minister of Health and Social Services; Environment; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
Hon. Richard Mostyn	Whitehorse West	Minister of Highways and Public Works; the Public Service Commission
Hon. Jeanie Dendys	Mountainview	Minister of Tourism and Culture; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board; Women's Directorate

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Yukon Liberal Party

Ted Adel	Copperbelt North
Paolo Gallina	Porter Creek Centre
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Yukon Party

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

THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

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

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Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, April 30, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I would like to ask my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to help me in welcoming some very special guests here for a tribute to the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships that we'll be doing in a few moments. These are hard-working volunteers and staff members: Karee Vallevand, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Karen Lepine, Megan Cromarty, and Echo Ross. Thank you so much for being here.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, today I have the pleasure of giving two tributes. I would like all to please welcome from the community midwives association of Yukon: President Kathleen Cranfield, Erica Oppen, Paige Galette, Becky Shrubbs — and a very strong supporter of the midwifery folks, Mr. Jonas Smith.

I would also like us to welcome here for the Apollo 11 50th anniversary tribute from the Yukon Astronomical Society: Aldo van Eyke, a past student of mine; Vikki Zsohar, president of the association; Dyson Hale, and Christa van Laerhoven and also Mr. Forest Pearson from the Yukon Astronomical Society.

Mr. Cathers: I would just like to correct the minister — he meant to say the Community Midwifery Association of Yukon. I would like to join in welcoming the guests here in the gallery, as well as welcoming Dyson Hale and Christa van Laerhoven, who are constituents of mine. Dyson is the fire chief in Ibex Valley.

Applause

Mr. Hassard: I ask all members to join me in welcoming someone who is certainly no stranger to this House — past Speaker Dave Laxton.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of National Aboriginal Hockey Championships

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to the 2019 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, which will be held in Whitehorse May 6 to 12. Founded in 2002 by the Aboriginal Sport Circle and sanctioned by Hockey Canada, the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships are equal parts athletic showcase, proving ground, and cultural event.

Through the exhilaration and challenge of competition, young indigenous athletes learn the self-esteem that comes from dedication, discipline and teamwork. Off the ice, the championships also present an amazing opportunity for participants to meet, share, and learn from community leaders and fellow players from across the nation, forming bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime. From a cultural perspective, this event celebrates the pride and heritage of all of Canada's First Nations, Inuit, and Métis from coast to coast to coast.

The tournament's opening ceremony on May 7 at 8:00 p.m. at the Takhini Arena is not to be missed. It is a powerful and inspirational ceremony filled with music, dance and tradition. The opening ceremony truly sets this event apart.

Thanks to the innovative and impassioned bid put together by the dedicated host committee, Whitehorse was awarded the championships, marking the first time the tournament will be held north of 60. I know that the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council are proud to be hosting this event on their traditional territory.

This year's tournament will feature 18 teams of elite male and female indigenous athletes, aged 15 to 18. We look forward to welcoming over 1,600 athletes, coaches, family members, and delegates to our fantastic Canada Games Centre, historic Takhini Arena and the amenities of our beautiful capital city.

Select Yukon athletes will participate as members of Team North, comprised of the best of the best from Yukon and Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Due to the distance and cost, Team North is unable to hold conventional tryouts to determine their roster, so Hockey Yukon and the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle worked together throughout the year to identify eligible athletes through scouting and coaching reports. The Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta and the recent Yukon Native Hockey Tournament provided excellent opportunities to assess players from the three territories.

In addition to the thrill of a national competition and the atmosphere of cultural unity and pride, the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships also bring with them an opportunity for grassroots hockey development in the host region.

In an effort to promote rural participation in the great sport of hockey, the 2019 NAHC Host Society has partnered with Hockey Yukon and BC Hockey to travel to several rural elementary schools to deliver fun educational presentations of basic hockey skills. Carmacks, Carcross, Teslin, and Whitehorse will each receive hands-on demonstrations of

floor ball, Hockey Canada's initiative to introduce the skills and joy of hockey in a low-impact, accessible way. Thanks to the generosity of tournament partners, the floor ball equipment used in demonstrations will stay in each community as a legacy of the tournament. Congratulations and thank you to the host committee and our community partners for bringing this event north for the very first time ever.

Thanks also to the Aboriginal Sport Circle. For almost 25 years, they have been addressing the need for more accessible and equitable sport and recreation opportunities for Canada's indigenous peoples. We are grateful for your continued vision and guidance in athletic development for indigenous youth throughout Canada.

I would like to speak to the heart of the event for a moment. For years, many of us in the Yukon hockey world dreamt about hosting this event. During the time that I sat on the board for the then-Yukon Indian Hockey Association, now known as the Yukon First Nations Hockey Association, each year, we discussed this tournament and how awesome it would be to host it here in Yukon. It seemed like a very daunting goal. I want to absolutely hold my hands up to all of these amazing women who are here today.

This is hard — thank you very much for persevering to see this happen — to Michelle, Doug, George, Karee, other current and past board members — but most of all, I would like to dedicate this tribute to the late Sandi Gleason for her vision and dedication and for instilling in each of us the importance of providing opportunities for indigenous youth. She would be very proud to see this happening, so let's keep her in our hearts and in our minds as this dream becomes a reality.

Thank you again to the coaches and the trainers for their dedication. Thanks to the army of tireless volunteers — without them, an event like this would not be possible. To all the players, teams, and fans, I wish you a week of exciting competition and comradeship.

I encourage all Yukoners to come out and watch some high calibre hockey, cheer on Team North and share in the unique spirit of the 2019 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. Let's showcase our legendary Yukon hospitality to all of our visitors. May the games be a tremendous success, keeping in mind our Yukon First Nation values of trust, respect, and honour. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Applause

Ms. Van Bibber: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition and the Third Party — the NDP — to pay tribute to the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships 2019.

From May 6 to May 14, the Whitehorse Canada Games Centre and the Takhini Arena will be pulsating with youthful energy. Go back one year to May 12, 2018, when the announcement was made that Whitehorse was the place that had won the successful bid. I'm sure it was on the scale of

winning an Olympic bid. This is the first time that these games have come north of 60.

The Yukon First Nations Hockey Association, in partnership with the Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle, were elated, excited, and probably saying, "Oh boy, now the work begins." We have such an amazing team, led by the chair, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, and all the women we have in the gallery today who host the very successful annual Yukon Native Hockey Tournament, which just wrapped up for another year. I think they are fearless.

This championship began in 2002 to encourage bantam- and midget-aged aboriginal youth to play hockey at an elite level and also to increase participation and provide unity and pride in their accomplishments. There will be 20 teams of elite female and male athletes aged 15 to 18 showcasing their talents, meeting new and old friends and, of course, arriving in a part of Canada where they probably never thought they would come and visit at this stage of their lives.

I need to mention that this event is sanctioned by Hockey Canada and will be live-streamed by SportsCanada TV, so will be available across Canada. How exciting is that? I will display a little bias here: Go Team North — which is usually comprised of Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Yukon players.

So we welcome to Yukon all the players, coaches, parents, and staff and also thank the sponsors, who will arrive from across our land in the coming week. We wish you a successful, fun-filled and exciting week in our capital city, Whitehorse.

Thank you, mahsi' cho.

Applause

In recognition of International Day of the Midwife

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to midwives in Canada, around the world and here in Yukon. There is no question, Mr. Speaker, that the birth of a child is a life-changing event.

On Sunday, May 5, the International Day of the Midwife, we celebrate some of the amazing people who help families of all kinds during this monumental transition. Because healthy pregnancies are the foundation of healthy births, investments at this critical time of development result in exponential gains in the health of newborns.

Registered midwives are primary health care professionals who provide safe, effective, and low-risk births. They also provide care for women and their infants from early pregnancy through to postpartum. Midwives are responsible for the majority of births in many countries around the world, and this year's theme for the international day is a tribute to how midwives support women and defend their rights.

Having had the pleasure to work with the Yukon Midwifery Association, I know that they are strong champions for women and infants.

Canada currently has more than 1,500 practising, regulated professional midwives. In Canada, midwives are responsible for about 10 percent of all births, so there is clearly room to grow. Welcoming, funding, and regulating the

profession of midwifery in the Yukon is a great step for our health care. We are partnering with midwives and physicians who deliver maternity services to fulfill this commitment. Regulated midwifery will complement and add to the supportive care options during pregnancy and birth and following delivery.

Mr. Speaker, midwifery in the Yukon is an important piece of an interprofessional model for maternity care that provides choice to Yukon families. Birth days — and I mean literal “birth days” — are the days when a mother labours to bring a new person into a family with effort and love. That journey is made possible and is supported by caregivers like our midwives.

So on this weekend, on May 5, thank you to our midwives, defenders of women’s rights.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize the International Day of the Midwife and to pay tribute to midwives across the Yukon and around the world.

Midwives care for a woman through pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and sometimes beyond. While we are so fortunate to have hospital services and medical professionals, having the choice for an alternative form of care is important to many women and their families. The number of women opting for home or natural births varies among jurisdictions and is dependent largely on access to midwifery services.

We are fortunate here in the Yukon to have an incredible group of people dedicated to the profession and advocating for Yukoners’ rights to access midwifery services. Almost clear across the country, professional midwives have been fully recognized, regulated, and integrated into the health care system.

The work to regulate midwifery in the Yukon continues. It has been a work in progress for a number of years, spearheaded by the former government with ongoing commitment from the current government. We are eagerly awaiting the regulation and funding of this important branch of health care.

Yukon is ready to take its place among other jurisdictions to improve its health care system by welcoming midwifery to its professional ranks. I would like to recognize and thank the Community Midwifery Association Yukon. I know that there are a number of you here today. We thank you for your dedication to all families in the Yukon.

Applause

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the NDP caucus to pay tribute to the International Day of the Midwife. Across Canada and around the world, these health professionals care for women during their pregnancy, labour, and birth and care for both mother and newborn during the first six weeks after birth. In most places, these health professionals are partners in an integrated health care approach.

Registered midwives work to empower families by offering informed decision-making throughout the pregnancy.

They are patient-focused health champions who recognize that pregnancy and birth are life-changing events for every family. Midwives offer continuity of care, choice of birth place, and a focus on the women as the primary decision-maker in her maternity care. When women or their newborns experience complications, midwives work in consultation with appropriate specialists. Midwives are the experts in healthy pregnancies and healthy births.

We thank the good work and long hours put in by the Community Midwifery Association Yukon. These community champions have brought us to where we are today: on the cusp, but not quite to the goal of fully funded and integrated midwifery services for all Yukoners. Their ongoing events, celebrations, community presence, and unwavering advocacy for choice have made the topic of midwifery an important discussion in Yukon.

We thank the board and all the members for your continued dedication and perseverance. You have brought us to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, right now, it’s a race between us and Prince Edward Island to see who will be the last jurisdiction in Canada to implement regulations around midwifery — an award I’m hopeful we will not be awarded.

We look forward to the day when midwifery in Yukon will be available to all Yukon mothers and their families as part of a truly integrated health care system.

A big thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the midwives across the country — and especially in the Yukon — working to offer choices to women and their families to bring healthy babies into this world. Thank you very much.

Applause

In recognition of Apollo 11 mission 50th anniversary

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Commencing countdown, engines on — four, three, two, one.

Earlier this month, astronaut David Saint-Jacques became the fourth Canadian to walk in space. Just two days later, we saw the first-ever photo of a supermassive black hole. It was the Event Horizon of the century. Two Saturdays from now, the Yukon Astronomical Society will be hosting an astronomy-themed family day, which I know will be the event of the weekend.

All of these things are tribute-worthy, Mr. Speaker, but today, I rise on behalf of all MLAs to celebrate another astronomical occurrence: a different celestial object — the moon. Specifically, I’m standing up on my tippy toes to celebrate 50 years since the Apollo 11 mission. Giant steps are what you take walking on the moon.

Let me take you back to the 1960s, Mr. Speaker. It was rock and roll, civil rights, free love, assassinations, and the Cold War. Russia and the US were competing, spying, decrying, and escalating a nuclear impasse. The theatre of the Cold War was global — global and beyond, as we entered the space race.

After the USSR sent the first cosmonaut into space in 1961, the Americans redoubled their manned rocket program. Who would be the first to the moon — the eagle or the bear?

Apollo 11 came at the end of the 1960s. The Eagle landed on July 20, 1969 — 50 years ago. It was an amazing feat of engineering, science and determination. It used “calculators” — which were people — computers that were room-sized, and astronomy that was out of this world.

In that moment when Neil Armstrong stepped onto the lunar surface — “... one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind” — it all changed. Even as a six-year-old kid watching from my school assembly, I knew this was a shared moment of human achievement. This wasn’t about the Cold War; it was about human potential.

Before I sit back down, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to mention Apollo 8. Lesser known, the Apollo 8 mission went to look at the far side of the moon. There is no dark side of the moon, really.

NASA supplied the crew with rolls and rolls of black and white film to take lots of black and white moon pictures. As the Apollo 8 spaceship came around the moon shadow, they photographed the dusty lunar surface. Then they rolled their capsule, and to their stunned surprise, they became the first people to ever see the earth from afar.

We take it for granted today, but that moment was simply awesome in every sense of the word. That photo led to a brand new perspective of our world. The next year was the inaugural Earth Day. The year after that, Environment Canada was created, and the year after that, we held the first Earth Summit.

The moon, it turns out, was a mirror. That colour photo, *Earthrise*, showed us a beautiful blue sphere in the vast darkness: our shared home for all living things, our spaceship. “Check ignition, and may God’s love be with you.”

Applause

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

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Ms. Frost: Pursuant to section 50(1) of the *Environment Act*, I have for tabling *Yukon state of the environment interim report 2019*.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Pursuant to section 103(1) of the *Workers’ Compensation Act*, I have for tabling the 2018 annual report of the Yukon Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety Board.

Ms. McLeod: I have for tabling a letter to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I have for tabling four legislative returns responding to questions from the Member for Whitehorse Centre, the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, and the Member for Lake Laberge on April 16 and April 25.

Mr. Cathers: I have for tabling today a copy of a letter to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, entitled

“Additional names on petition regarding Grizzly Valley zoning”.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I have for tabling a legislative return from questions arising out of general debate on Bill No. 210.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I have for tabling a letter written to the Member for Lake Laberge regarding the RCMP police priorities.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I have five legislative returns for tabling.

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

Are there any reports of committees?
Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 10 — response

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I rise today to respond to the petition presented by the MLA for Watson Lake on April 15. I would like to thank the member for bringing the petition forward to the Legislature.

At issue is the stretch of highway from the junction of Ravenhill Drive and the Robert Campbell Highway to the subdivision of Two and One-Half Mile. Residents are concerned about the safety of the travelling public, including pedestrians and motorists who would like to have streetlights installed along that corridor.

I would like to thank the 373 constituents who signed this petition, and I realize that this is an issue of concern for the community of Watson Lake.

Highways and Public Works collected data on this stretch of road that indicates that lights are not warranted on that section of the Campbell Highway. The survey found that stretch of road saw an average traffic volume of four pedestrians per day, three cyclists per day, and one off-road vehicle per day.

The cost to install streetlights is estimated to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000, with annual operation and maintenance costs of approximately \$12,000. In an effort to make roads safer for all Yukoners, the department prioritizes its work based on safety considerations, traffic volumes, and budgetary constraints.

With that said, we are committed to undertaking an additional study of traffic volumes along the stretch of highway in question later this spring. Additionally, we will review our winter maintenance practices to determine if it is possible to improve pedestrian safety along the route through snow removal modifications. That of course will work during the wintertime when it is darkest.

This government remains focused on making sure that travellers get to their destinations safely and efficiently.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Further with regard to petitions: Yesterday, the Chair informed the House that the Executive Council response to Petition No. 11 is due on or before the fifth Sitting day of the 2019 Fall Sitting. In fact, the response is due on or before the sixth sitting day of that Sitting.

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has departed from past practice, by failing to table the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board's report during both the 2018 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly and the current 2019 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly; and

THAT this House urges the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to be more accountable in future years by returning to the past practice of tabling the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board's reports during each Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motions?

Is there a statement by a minister?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Re: Nisutlin Bay bridge in Teslin

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I rise today with good news for travellers, the transportation industry, the community of Teslin — indeed all communities in the territory and First Nations in the territory.

Yukon highways, roads and bridges are more than just strings of asphalt, BST, gravel, and steel. They are the links that bind our communities together. They are what we drive on to get home safely to our families and they are what connect us to our friends and neighbours. They are what we use to get our goods and resources to market and to take us to the doctor.

Our roads, highways and bridges, in short, underlie the Yukon's social and economic well-being. Whether it is here in Whitehorse, in Watson Lake or Carcross, our government is making investments throughout the territory to keep these vital links safe and open for business and for the territory's citizens.

It is my privilege today to announce that the Government of Yukon and the Teslin Tlingit Council have signed a project charter for the Nisutlin Bay bridge. As can be expected of a piece of infrastructure that predates the first manned moon landing by 16 years, the bridge is nearing the end of its life cycle. The shared goal of the Yukon government and the Teslin Tlingit Council is clear: a safer, more reliable, more sustainable structure that can accommodate increases in traffic while also improving safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists.

The recently signed project charter forges a partnership to determine how we can best achieve that goal and, together, we have developed five indicators to measure the success of our partnership: first, that the bridge provides value for money,

particularly in terms of improved safety and reliability; second, that we will collaborate effectively, government to government; third, that we maximize economic benefits for the local community and the entire territory through job creation and contracting opportunities; fourth, to provide capacity building for the Teslin Tlingit Council so that it can deliver large complex projects in the future; and finally, that we develop a process for delivering the bridge that becomes a model for other major capital projects in the territory.

Collaborative procurement planning will begin shortly to provide direction on the big questions of what and how. Following that, an implementation plan will be developed that will detail the procurement strategy, specify the approach that will be used to deliver the project, and outline the Teslin Tlingit Council's role in providing input for procurement documents and its advisory role in reviewing proposal evaluations.

We are in the early stages of this process, but we anticipate that the tender will go out in 2020, with an aim to complete the project by the end of 2023. The project is identified in our five-year capital plan, and some of the funding for it will come from the small communities fund portion of the federal government's New Building Canada fund. Today's announcement is a testament to what can be done when we work together in the spirit of reconciliation. Gone are the days, Mr. Speaker, when governments dictated to First Nations. Whether it is greater economic opportunities, safer communities or a healthier, more sustainable environment, all Yukoners, by and large, want the same things out of life. It is in our best interests, therefore, to work together. Our government has high hopes for this partnership with the Teslin Tlingit Council and what it will accomplish not just for the local community, but indeed for the entire territory.

Mr. Hassard: Thank you for the opportunity to rise today in response to this ministerial statement.

As the MLA for Pelly-Nisutlin, I certainly understand the importance of this piece of infrastructure not only for the riding and the community of Teslin, but the entire Yukon and Alaska alike. I thank the minister for the update.

I look forward to — and I hope that the minister will be willing to provide us with it — the procurement strategy for this project when it is completed. I also look forward to hearing more details on the Teslin Tlingit Council's advisory role in this project when that process is completed.

The minister indicated that this project will be tendered in 2020 and that the funding for it is identified in the five-year capital concept, so in his response, I am hoping that the minister can tell us what the actual budget for this project is. Further, I am wondering if the minister can explain how the procurement process that the government is developing for this project will interface with the new First Nation procurement strategy that is also being developed by Highways and Public Works.

Again, thank you to the minister for providing this update.

Ms. Hanson: The Yukon New Democratic Party is pleased to hear that the Government of Yukon and the Teslin Tlingit Council have come to an agreement for the replacement of the old Nisutlin Bay bridge. As we all know, the Nisutlin Bay bridge was previously put out to tender, but then cancelled after concerns over a lack of consultation and input by TTC were raised. We then heard from TTC staff and leadership that they felt that they deserved more input into such significant capital projects. Today's announcement appears to do that. I will note that the projected finalization date puts this 10 years after that initial project was proposed.

In his statement, the minister made reference to the fact that this bridge project will be the model going forward for a collaborative procurement process. This statement seemed to be alluding to the announced northern experience and First Nation participation. That language was pulled directly from the government website, and it's really quite vague and obviously subjective. We are curious, so perhaps the minister could share with this House how northern experience and First Nation participation is actually solicited, reflected, and scored in practice. What proportion of the total score will those sections account for?

We are supportive of this project and it has been a long time coming. We are curious about how funding decisions like this are made. The minister mentioned that the traffic levels are part of that — in terms of what the bridge experiences — and of course its old age — yet other projects recently discussed in this Legislative Assembly similarly deserving of work in the Yukon that also receive significant levels of traffic are not funded accordingly.

We will be following the tendering and construction phases of this project closely to ensure that the government is in fact meeting its commitments and to ensure that as many local tradespeople, contractors and suppliers are part of the project.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I want to thank the members opposite for their comments this afternoon. Improvements to the Nisutlin Bay bridge in Teslin were originally proposed, as the Leader of the Third Party said this afternoon, by the previous Yukon Party government in 2014. It was a major commitment that spring; however, the project was shelved before the budget was even passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Fortunately, it is a new day, Mr. Speaker. The Carmacks bypass is proceeding with the support of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation. The Government of Yukon and the Teslin Tlingit Council have signed a project charter for the Nisutlin Bay bridge. In this way, we can avoid the mistakes of the past. Just last week, we heard the Official Opposition complaining about projects being built in Liberal ridings and not being built in Yukon Party-held ridings — factually incorrect. Today's announcement proves that. Another example is the millions of dollars that were spent to repair the Ross River bridge, which is also in the Leader of the Official

Opposition's riding. So there's a lot of work happening across the territory, Mr. Speaker.

The shared goal of the Yukon government and the TTC is clear: We want a safer, more reliable and more sustainable structure that can accommodate increases in traffic while also improving safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists.

We are in the early stages of this process, but we anticipate that the tender will go out in 2020 with the aim to complete the project by the end of 2023. The project is identified in our five-year capital plan — the first five-year capital plan the Government of Yukon has ever tabled — and the price tag is somewhat north of \$25 million. We will see where the tenders come in when they are secured.

Today's announcement is a testament to what can be done when we work together in the spirit of cooperation and reconciliation. Our government has high hopes for this partnership with the Teslin Tlingit Council and what it will accomplish not just for the local community, but indeed, for the entire territory.

The member opposite — the Leader of the Official Opposition — has talked about the First Nation procurement policy. I am happy to flag that process is currently under development with all First Nations in the territory. I am very proud of the work the department is doing on that behalf to actually deliver on that promise and it is well in hand.

The Leader of the Third Party has talked about northern knowledge and experience, and of course, that is something else we've done to our procurement policies lately to improve them and make sure that we keep money in the territory. We're seeing that play out at the new French francophone high school; we're seeing that at the Nares River bridge; we're seeing that throughout the territory, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you very much for your time this afternoon.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Speaker: Member for Lake Laberge.

MOTION OF URGENT AND PRESSING NECESSITY NO. 2

Mr. Cathers: I request the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 28. That motion is as follows:

THAT the 2019 Spring Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly be extended by two sitting days with Standing Order 76 taking effect at 5:00 p.m. on May 2, 2019, for the purpose of allowing additional debate on:

(1) the estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services, Vote 15, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*;

(2) the estimates for the Department of Education, Vote 3, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*; and

(3) Bill No. 33, *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*; and

THAT government-designated business shall have precedence on Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, in reviewing your previous ruling on the Leader of the Official Opposition's motion pursuant to

Standing Order 28, I understand that I am allowed to briefly — quote: "... make a case as to why the motion is urgent and pressing."

Mr. Speaker, the Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly is set to finish today unless a decision is made to extend the Sitting. The Department of Health and Social Services is the largest department in the budget in terms of expenditures. It has a budget of over \$443 million — almost 30 percent of the government's entire budget — and its employees number 1,414 full-time equivalent positions.

The Department of Education's budget is \$214.5 million. The combined total of the budgets for these two departments is \$657.9 million which is 45.8 percent of the government's total expenses for the year. The Health and Social Services and Education budgets have each had only part of an afternoon of debate — just 4.4 percent of the total hours in this Sitting. We didn't even receive answers to questions we asked at the HSS budget briefing until yesterday. The carbon tax legislation has not even cleared Committee of the Whole. Therefore, I request the unanimous agreement of the House to extend the Spring Sitting by two days to allow debate on these matters.

Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Disagreed.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has not been granted. This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Children in care

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, in the Child and Youth Advocate's report on group homes there are 31 recommendations. The minister has until July 31 to provide a written response. She is then supposed to provide progress reports twice per year. Although the minister didn't answer yesterday, I am hoping that she answers the question today.

Will the minister commit to releasing her written response and the progress reports publicly?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The Child and Youth Advocate report that was tabled — there are some recommendations in the report. We would be happy to assess them and provide a response back on the date specified and we will do that according to the rules that apply. I would be happy to cooperate with that and provide the response in due time.

Ms. McLeod: And again, no answer. As we have discussed, the advocate's review invited input from staff who have worked or are working in group care, child welfare case management and youth justice. Although only 55 people responded, these responses brought forward valuable information that helped the advocate bring forward 31 recommendations on how to improve the experiences of children in group care. A key theme — and indeed a key recommendation in this report — was the need for more and improved professional and cultural training opportunities for staff.

While the minister has until the end of July to respond to this report, she doesn't have to wait until then to start making important changes to this immediately.

Will the minister agree to begin work on these changes today to better support staff as they care for children?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the work of the Health and Social Services Family and Children's Services unit. I am very proud of the work of the department — of course, the progressive efforts that have been put forward since we have taken office to address historical issues and concerns that have been brought to our attention. We have done that by cooperatively engaging with the Child and Youth Advocate, with the PIDWA commissioner and with the commissioned report by Costanzo that helped to address some of the long-term systemic issues within Health and Social Services. I am very proud of that.

We will respond, as indicated, according to the prescribed timelines to the recommendations that have been brought forward. We are meeting with the Child and Youth Advocate to review the report and I am happy to note that we will, of course, look at the recommendations and tie that into perhaps some amendments as we go forward to seek further improvements.

Up to this point, we have done really, really great work within Health and Social Services — within Family and Children's Services — to reduce the number of children in care.

Just this last week, Mr. Speaker, we met with Yukon First Nation leadership to have this very discussion and I am very happy to say that we will continue to have that great dialogue.

Ms. McLeod: When these allegations first broke out through media, the government created a culture of fear in the department. They launched a witch hunt into who spoke to the CBC about these allegations and they kicked employees out of their offices to search through computers under the guise that they were fixing the plumbing. After being ordered not to respond to the advocate's survey, it is no surprise that, even with the direction being reversed, only 55 people out of 200 would respond.

Yesterday, we asked the minister why she refused to provide the advocate with the independent Costanzo report. After QP, she told the media that there was confidential information in it that couldn't be shared. A simple solution would have been to simply redact any personal information to protect privacy while still helping the investigation. Why did the minister not assist the advocate's investigation by providing her with this information?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Let me set the record straight for Yukoners. The work that was done by the department to support the Child and Youth Advocate was done in good faith. We provided her with all of the information that she needed, as was the same for the PIDWA commissioner. The Child and Youth Advocate and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner are both subject to different legal authorities. The Child and Youth Advocate was charged to conduct a systemic review, whereas Costanzo and the Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner were tasked with investigating specific

allegations of wrongdoing. One allegation of wrongdoing happened under the watch of the previous government. What we have done since we have taken office is made significant improvements.

With respect to the Child and Youth Advocate sending out a request — an anonymous survey to Family and Children's Services staff as part of her review — when the staff received the e-mail with an unknown, unspecified address, it raised some concerns. As soon as we validated and verified that it came from the Child and Youth Advocate office, they were authorized to proceed. That is correcting the record, Mr. Speaker.

Question re: Politicizing the public service

Mr. Hassard: Thanks to an ATIPP document, we know that someone instructed the Department of Economic Development to conduct partisan activity on behalf of the Liberals. We know that the department was uncomfortable conducting this partisan work, and they wanted to ensure that they weren't "... alerting people that this kind of activity is being undertaken..."

We also know that the embarrassing section of that document which indicated they wanted to hide this political activity from the public was redacted based on the excuse that it was advice to the minister. The minister has now said that it wasn't advice to him. So why was this embarrassing section of the document redacted?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I think it's very interesting that this is the fourth day that we have walked into the Legislative Assembly and this question has been posed. I clearly answered the question each and every day. Yesterday, we had Committee of the Whole, and the Deputy Minister of Economic Development sat next to me here. The media wasn't here and the television cameras weren't on, but there was a deputy minister here.

Although during Committee of the Whole we normally focus on line-by-line questioning of the budget. There is usually some flexibility around contextual conversations about what is happening in the department. So it is quite interesting that there was not one question answered in this particular instance. We know this is a stunt. We know this is about tearing individuals down. Very clearly, I read the list yesterday of what was on this particular document — standard meetings for the previous government for ministers.

So once again, there is nothing here. At no point did I request partisan work to be undertaken. Once again, Yukoners deserve better.

Mr. Hassard: I have to agree with the minister on that: Yukoners do deserve better.

It doesn't matter if it is in Question Period or Committee of the Whole. We are not here to ask questions of the deputy minister. We are here to ask questions of this minister. As he said, this is day 4 and, no, there has been no answer yet.

When we brought up that someone directed the department to conduct political activity, the minister denied instructing them to do this. When he pointed out that the document was in a folder called "research for the minister", he

denied that it was for him. When we pointed out that the department was uncomfortable about doing this and trying to hide it, he denied it again. When we pointed out that the document was redacted based on it being advice to him, he accused the public service of collusion. Yesterday, he defended this partisan activity as no big deal, but the minister is missing the point. The point is that the public service isn't the research branch of the Liberal Party. If he wants political research, he should do it out of his offices.

So will the minister tell us who instructed the department to undertake this political activity?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I commend the chief of staff for the Yukon Party. Standard great political tactics — keep hammering away at it. Get in there, leader, and keep hammering away at it. That would be standard Harper-style politics.

I will go through the list again: Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, Mineral Exploration Roundup, Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining grand opening, Yukon Wood Products Association AGM — I will hit some of the more interesting ones — Canadian Council of Forest Ministers, Canadian energy ministers, gold show, Yukon Agricultural Association, INAC re: Bill S-6, committee re: risks and benefits of fracking, Toronto meeting with economists and business leaders, and Opportunities North announced launch of next generation hydro — Mr. Speaker, once again, this is a standard list of events that ministers would take part in.

I wish we had an opportunity to get this into Committee of the Whole yesterday. I know that after last week's questioning, I had asked the deputy minister if he had even seen this, and he had never seen this list — once again, a lot of shots and a lot of misinformation — to correct the record — and lots of factual mistakes there.

Mr. Hassard: I don't think that denying everything creates any factual information.

The minister doesn't seem to understand the severity of this issue. Someone instructed the public service to undertake partisan activity on behalf of this government. If the Liberals instructed the department to do political work when it comes to something simple like monitoring who we have met with, how far will they go in politicizing the public service?

What is next, Mr. Speaker? Will they tell them not to hire certain people? Will people get singled out because they are associated with a different political party?

The core of this issue is the independence and non-partisan nature of the public service. Someone forced the department to do political research on behalf of the Liberals. That is inappropriate. The department was uncomfortable doing this work and wanted to ensure that Yukoners didn't know it was happening.

Will the minister ensure that no further instruction is given to any department to conduct political work for this Liberal government?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, what I have been speaking to is a list of public events — almost every one of these was a public event. There were probably photos taken

and there were probably press releases — I don't know — for every single one of these events. These are public events that previous ministers of the Government of Yukon attended. It is not a partisan activity. It is activity on behalf of Yukoners. That is what this particular document is.

Once again, at no point was I asking individuals to partake in research on partisan events — as has been said over and over in this House. Once again, we can leave the smear campaign to continue on. I appreciate the fact that the public service, each and every day — for the departments of Economic Development and Energy, Mines and Resources and for the Yukon Development Corporation — does the good work that they do. I appreciate the fact that I have the chance to work alongside of them.

Question re: Salvation Army shelter and Housing First model

Ms. Hanson: In January, this government took over operations at the Centre of Hope, now called the Whitehorse emergency shelter. Some staff were hired as temporary hires or auxiliary on call, while other staff were brought over from Health and Social Services to set up programming and provide supervision. It's not hard to see the budget for this shelter continuing to grow. We have heard from the minister that this is to be a temporary situation, with local NGOs or organizations being contracted to take over the shelter or provide programming. Tomorrow is the first of May. We have yet to hear anything about who will be taking over management of the emergency shelter and at what cost.

Will the minister update this House on what concrete steps the government is taking to contract with a community organization to manage the shelter, and will she tell Yukoners how much money will be spent to operate it this year?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I am awfully proud of the work of the Health and Social Services staff in acquiring and taking back the ownership of the Whitehorse emergency shelter. Historically, the shelter was built to provide shelter only. We were clearly running into some major challenges with respect to services for those who are precariously hard to house and services for individuals in the Safe at Home initiative and the housing action initiative — all of the priorities that have been set forth by members of our society who have raised concerns. We took that to heart and we had a conversation with the Salvation Army to look at effective services for the clients who would generally use this facility. In doing so, we have met with members of our community — our NGO communities, our First Nation communities — and we looked at options for the future.

I would be happy to have further discussions with Members of the Legislative Assembly and the community on the future of the Whitehorse emergency shelter. We took it over in January and we are continuing to have open dialogue with members of our community. I would be happy to respond to further questions.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because those conversations haven't been occurring that we're raising the question. We are hearing from neighbours, businesses, and

citizens who have real concerns about what is or is not happening at the shelter.

The lack of outdoor space, a lack of ongoing programming and ongoing public drinking and disturbance at all times of day and night is wearing thin for people who live or work nearby. It is not the individuals who are using the shelter who we are critical of, but the management of this facility. Let's face it: With nowhere to sit outside, people tend to spread out and the spreading out lands on business and private properties.

What is this government doing to address the concerns of neighbours, businesses, and citizens regarding the disruptive activities around the emergency shelter — day and night?

Hon. Ms. Frost: We can focus our energy on the negative, or we can focus it on the positive. We can focus on the partnerships that we have formed with the community. We do have letters of support from the business community expressing how things have improved since the department took over operations of the Whitehorse emergency shelter. Clearly, we can make improvements and we are working toward that end.

The conversations have been occurring. Just last week, I had a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Whitehorse and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. We have met with the chamber of commerce. We are working with our NGO community and our stakeholder groups and we will continue to have open dialogue and identify opportunities to improve the services — recognizing that we do have challenges. Granted, we can continue to provide a better venue and a better facility for the vulnerable populations. We will endeavour to do that.

I would like to personally thank the community for its support, as we continue to find better solutions for Yukoners. I am happy to say that I am very pleased with where we are and what the future has in store for us.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, at the same time as we watch what is happening at the emergency shelter, the Housing First project on Wood Street is nearing completion. We have been told that it will be ready for occupation this fall. In looking through contract awards and tender forecasts, we do not see any reference to contracts for support programs required for this new project coming online or for programming or for taking over of the emergency shelter.

Rumbling on the street seems to indicate that not too many NGOs are prepared to bid or enter into a contract to provide these services. We have heard speculation that this government plans to force NGOs to accept one-year funding agreements, along with other restrictions.

Today the Liberal government will pass the 2019-20 budget without future ongoing funding identified for either the shelter or the Housing First project and without answers to many other outstanding questions.

So let's try again: What are projected costs of the emergency shelter and the Housing First project for this year, and what is the plan for their management and staffing?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Let's talk about some of the projects. We have had historically 13 to 14 people in the shelter a night. Now, some nights, we have up to 60 individuals. That

demonstrates success. Why is it demonstrating success? Because we are reaching the people who historically didn't have a place to sleep — those individuals who were kicked out of the facility and those individuals who were in other emergency shelters elsewhere.

This government believes in the wellness of our citizens. We are committed to ensuring that our policies and services are working to provide Yukoners better lives. The needs of Yukon's vulnerable citizens are complex.

The challenges that we face in addressing some of the complex needs are often rooted in historical, cultural-related trauma and we will work with our partners to address the past historical systemic trauma that they've experienced and the fact that they haven't been historically provided the services they needed to be successful contributors of our society. We will do that with our partners in our community and they will have input into what that design will look like. We're continuing to have that dialogue and I'm very happy about that, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased about the work that we are doing with First Nation communities as well.

Question re: *Motor Vehicles Act* review

Ms. Van Bibber: Seniors Action Yukon has identified concerns with a government survey for the *Motor Vehicles Act* review. They point out that there is insufficient information and context around the questions presented, and this appears to be intended to lead the responder to a specific answer.

In one instance, they point out that the survey is actually providing inaccurate information. For example, regarding the question around medical testing related to age, the survey says, "Most Canadian jurisdictions follow the standard set by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators by requiring this exam at age 75."

As Seniors Action Yukon points out, four out of 12 jurisdictions have no age-based requirements. BC and Ontario require medical and vision tests at age 80.

Will the minister agree to update the survey to ensure that it is fair and unbiased?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I am very proud of the work that this government is doing to modernize and improve our *Motor Vehicles Act*. This work is long overdue. The Yukon's *Motor Vehicles Act* dates back to 1977 and has not had a full overhaul since. Rewriting the act is necessary for the continued safety of Yukoners, as people have been telling us again and again and again as we're out in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has been referring to our survey online and she is, I believe, referencing a letter that was sent to me and several other people. We have actually reached out to the individual involved through the department. We're more than willing to hear the concerns about elderly Yukoners and how they interact with the *Motor Vehicles Act*.

I will say, however, that the preamble in the survey is absolutely correct. Six out of 12 jurisdictions require a medical exam at age 75 or 80, with a seventh requiring a medical exam at age 65. That is, as was said in the survey, most of the jurisdictions in the country — they do require a survey. The *Motor Vehicles Act* team has reached out to

Seniors Action Yukon and would be happy to meet and discuss the *Motor Vehicles Act* rewrite with that group.

Question re: Carbon tax

Mr. Cathers: Yukoners want real action to address climate change that will actually reduce emissions — not just make everything more expensive. They don't want a massive new tax scheme that takes money out of people's pockets and puts it through a bureaucratic merry-go-round of red tape. We've already seen the private sector shrink by 600 jobs under this Liberal government, and adding more red tape on small businesses and Yukon citizens will increase the cost of living. That's exactly what the Liberals' carbon tax and rebate scheme does.

Even the former deputy minister of Finance referred to this scheme as — quote: "... nonsensical". The way the rebates for businesses work, if you only lease or rent your assets, then you will not even be eligible for rebates. Why did the Liberals design the rebate system in a way that shuts out a number of businesses in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will just start off by saying that we tabled a report here in this Legislature which did the analysis and has the evidence that shows that actually emissions will reduce with a carbon price. The rebate isn't necessary for those emissions to reduce, but we are happy that we ran on rebating 100 percent of those dollars back to Yukoners — Yukon individuals, Yukon businesses, and now also local governments.

I was there that day when the deputy minister spoke, and that's not what I heard. What she was saying, in my recollection, was that to just rebate back dollar for dollar on a receipt-by-receipt basis would be nonsensical — that the way that the carbon price worked is to put a price on pollution, which is exactly what we are doing.

The great news is that I sat down — many members from this team sat down — with the business community as they worked through to talk about how best to put a price on carbon so that it would work for our business community. I am happy that work was done, and I look forward to the fact that a price on carbon will help us to reduce our emissions — so important as we move forward as a territory.

Mr. Cathers: That is interesting revisionist history for the minister when in fact the government has not presented any evidence that isn't nonsensical. Mining exploration investment in the territory dropped significantly from what the Liberals said it would be in 2018, and it is projected to go even lower this year. Industry is concerned that the Liberal carbon tax rebate scheme is going to be done through a tax credit, which means that exploration companies that lease or rent their equipment will not even be eligible for the rebate.

Faced with declining investment, implementing a massive new tax that will increase costs for early stage exploration projects and advanced exploration projects while designing the rebate system in a way that excludes many mining and exploration companies seems like a recipe for disaster. Can the minister tell us what the government has done to address these concerns for the mining industry about the design of the

Liberals' carbon tax rebate, or are they turning a deaf ear to the concerns of these Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Definitely not turning a deaf ear at any point to the mining industry — I appreciate the work of the Department of Finance and their ongoing conversations when we request with all business sectors, especially in the lead up to the work on this, speaking to the sector.

Of course we hear opposition to the carbon-pricing model in this Assembly, but what, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, did the Yukon Party figure was the price of doing nothing when it comes to climate change? The Yukon Party had no plan to deal with climate change, and they still have no plan. Yukoners are smarter than that and recognize that we need to take action. We cannot just pretend that nothing is happening and hope things will get better. The Yukon Party should either admit that they do not care about climate change or propose an alternative policy to address it.

Mr. Cathers: That is pretty rich coming from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, considering the fact that, earlier this Sitting, he tabled a legislative return with information demonstrating that programs that we implemented, like Good Energy and micro-generation, are having a direct effect. That is our vision: an incentives-based approach to reducing emissions, not a massive new tax on everything.

Placer miners are concerned about the design of the carbon tax rebate scheme. As currently designed, only placer miners with class 4 land use permits will be eligible for rebates. We know that this new tax will make placer mining projects more expensive, and the way that the Liberals have designed this scheme means that not all placer miners will even be eligible.

What has the government done to address the placer mining industry's concern around this flaw in the Liberal carbon tax scheme? Again, I have to remind the ministers that, contrary to their spin, even the former Deputy Minister of Finance admitted that the Liberal carbon tax rebate structure was nonsensical.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that we have tabled evidence in this Legislature — and we put it in a long time ago. The member opposite is talking about legislative returns. I looked back through their previous term here and they tabled one legislative return in the nine sittings — one.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I am happy to answer the question, Mr. Speaker — very happy to answer the question.

Here's another fact that I will put on the table: The Mining Association of Canada has come out and said that they support a price on carbon. We need to move ahead with the times. I know that the Premier meets with — and is happy to meet with — the mining community. We are very happy to have a conversation with them about how they can work to develop placer mining, and mining will be great for the low-carbon economy of the future.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible)

Point of order

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

Mr. Hutton: I can't even hear the member standing beside me because of the off-mic comments over there. Could they ratchet it down a bit please?

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: It is the duty of the Speaker to maintain decorum. Although the temperature in the House was rising slightly, I was still just able to hear the Minister of Community Services — but I would ask members to listen carefully to what the Minister of Community Services has to say, as I was eventually having some difficulty hearing him.

There is no point of order right now.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, today we experience climate change here and we need to do something about it. One of the best methods for addressing climate change is to put a price on pollution. We are working with the placer industry. We are working with all business partners. We sat down with them to design how the rebate would work best for them. We are very happy to have a price on carbon and a rebate that will be going back to Yukon businesses. I look forward to the future here.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

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 now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to take a 15-minute recess?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: Disagreed.

Chair: There will be no recess.

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

Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of

Community Services, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Is there any further general debate?

Department of Community Services — continued

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Because we didn't have a break, I will have colleagues join us in a moment. I am happy to continue this debate here in the Legislature, and I look forward to questions from the members opposite.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 51?

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

Ms. White: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried

Chair: Ms. White has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 51, Department of Community Services, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures
Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$94,063,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$71,241,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$165,304,000 agreed to

Department of Community Services agreed to

Chair: The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to take a 15-minute recess?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: Disagreed.

Chair: Committee of the Whole will not recess.

The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Is there any further general debate?

Department of Tourism and Culture — continued

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I am pleased to be debating Tourism and Culture again this afternoon. As I give a few moments for my officials to come into the Legislative Assembly today, I will go back to my budget speech that I had prepared and didn't quite get through the last time that we had an opportunity to debate this department.

I would like to go back to the Tourism branch of our department. I am pleased to share that 2018 was another standout year for tourism.

Our most recent statistics indicate that the tourism sector employs almost 3,500 Yukoners, which represents 13.5 percent of the total employment in the territory — the highest in Canada, Mr. Chair.

There is 4.4 percent of Yukon's gross domestic product attributable to tourism. This is the second-highest in the country. This translates to \$269 million or approximately \$720,000 per day in gross revenue directly attributable to tourism and Yukon businesses in 2016 alone.

From what we have seen from the quarterly report so far, 2018 is shaping up to be another record year for Yukon tourism and we look forward to tabling the final tallies shortly.

Our mindset, coming into this year's budget, was to keep building on the momentum and truly capitalize. With a capital budget of \$550,000 and an operation and maintenance budget just shy of \$12.9 million, the total budget for the Tourism branch in 2019-20 is \$13.4 million.

In my introduction earlier when we were debating, I touched on the amazing work already accomplished with the *Yukon Tourism Development Strategy*, so I would like to now share some exciting steps ahead. The Government of Yukon is proud to endorse the high-level road map to promote the Yukon and sustainably grow tourism, while protecting the social and cultural values that Yukoners told us were important to them. This is why we have allocated \$875,000 in the 2019-20 budget to advance the priority areas identified by the steering committee. This funding will address priority actions, including establishing a task force to recommend an improved governance model for tourism, adopting a one-government approach to tourism, developing a framework that measures the sustainability of tourism development, establishing Yukon as a premier destination for indigenous tourism experiences, improving signage, marketing Yukon as a year-round destination, and supporting industry access to a skilled and experienced workforce.

This funding will also go toward meeting the vision and goals set out in the strategy. The first goal is to double revenue to Yukon businesses attributable to tourism from \$262.9 million — the last time we had the survey results was 2016 — to \$525 million by 2028. The second goal is to establish a framework within two years that measures the sustainability of tourism development. The third goal is to ensure that at least 80 percent of Yukoners have a positive attitude toward tourism, as tourism impacts all of those who live in this amazing territory.

In these ways, the strategy provides the vision for tourism to be a vibrant, sustainable component of Yukon's economy and society for the benefit of future generations. We want to ensure that we protect the landscapes and the natural environment that make us so special, but not miss out on the opportunities to grow our industry.

In terms of the Industry Services unit — year-round, the Tourism branch Industry Services unit works closely with the

tourism industry, individual communities, and various organizations to identify priorities for its programs. In 2019-20, the unit has been allocated over \$1.8 million to provide industry and entrepreneurs with the education and training they need to make good business decisions and to meet today's visitor needs and expectations. The unit provides \$244,000 in operational funding to the Tourism Industry Association. A \$700,000 allocation goes to the tourism cooperative marketing fund which assists Yukon tourism businesses and organizations with carrying out marketing and attending trade shows to attract clients and visitors, gain international exposure, and strengthen the territory's overall tourism brand. The experiences and services being offered by tourism businesses and organizations continue to be second to none and position the territory as a premier travel destination.

Through the TCMF program, we are helping our partners get the word out. The Industry Services unit also oversees the Yukon visitor exit survey — the initiative through which we are able to collect statistical data and better understand the needs, wants, and overall satisfaction of Yukon's visitors. This year, \$50,000 in capital funding will see the enhancement of visitor research for the territory. \$7.6 million in O&M for the 2019-20 fiscal year will support the management of Yukon's consumer travel trade and media strategies as our marketing team continues their exemplary work promoting Yukon as a spectacular and unique tourist destination. As the numbers show, these strategies are showing their worth in positioning the territory as a desirable travel destination.

\$5.4 million of the unit's O&M budget is allocated to promotional activities such as familiarization — or fam — tours for industry partners, design and printing of promotional materials, media buy contracts, as well as contracts with our marketing agency of record and with our general sales agents overseas.

Also contained within the marketing unit's operation and maintenance funding are several government transfers with industry partners, such as the Yukon Convention Bureau and the Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon, among others.

On the capital side of things, the marketing unit has budgeted \$500,000 in the 2019-20 fiscal year. \$200,000 is for the procurement of photography, video and written material to be used in promotion of Yukon as a travel destination. \$300,000 is for the ongoing maintenance and development of the popular Travel Yukon website. We like to think of that as one dollar for every one of our 300,000 visitors to the site who we welcome annually.

A total of \$2.2 million in operational funding is allocated to Visitor Services which includes Yukon government's photography unit as well as our six visitor information centres.

Upon arrival and throughout their Yukon travels, visitors receive excellent advice and exceptional service from the staff at our visitor information centres. These centres play a critical role in welcoming visitors and improving their Yukon experience while encouraging visitors to spend more time and travel more widely in Yukon. We take pride in our visitor

centres being a welcoming place for the community and visitors to gather and experience Yukon's northern hospitality. They also provide local businesses with a venue to showcase their products. Just shy of 400,000 visitors registered at Yukon visitor information centres around the territory in the summer of 2018 — a six-percent increase over the 2017 season.

By all accounts, Yukon's tourism industry is performing well, with a strong growth in visitation and revenues to Yukon businesses. So the time is right to take us to the next level — to align our priorities and maximize our competitive advantages, to diversify the Yukon economy, to share the scenic beauty, natural phenomena, heritage and culture of Yukon communities. This budget enables the activities and program areas within the Department of Tourism to take us there.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the many highlights of our 2019-20 departmental budget. More than ever, Yukoners are seeing the importance of tourism and our cultural assets to both the spirit and lasting viability of our territory, and they are helping to guide us toward a sustainable vision for these facets of Yukon life. This portfolio is a deeply human one, filled with living histories, creative expression and pride of place. It is important that we get it right. As we showcase the stunning natural beauty and the extraordinary heritage of this special corner of the world — not to mention the unique voices and perspectives of those who call it home — we diversify our economy, strengthen our communities, exemplify our commitment to reconciliation and keep our territory and its citizens healthy and prosperous.

It is my absolute privilege to represent the small but mighty workforce of dedicated staff who work day in and day out to bring their ingenuity and enthusiasm to this portfolio. I truly, truly appreciate all of their hard work. They are the minds who beckon visitors from across the globe and the friendly and knowledgeable faces that greet them upon arrival. They are the careful curators of Yukon's historic places, records and creative expressions. To each and every one of them, I hold up my hands for their unwavering dedication and know-how. I firmly believe that this is a budget that supports the inspired and meaningful work of an emerging and very crucial department of a government that I am proud to be part of. This is a fiscal plan for the territory that I am proud to stand behind. I eagerly anticipate further questions and I'm absolutely pleased to stand today to speak about tourism and potentially other departments that I'm responsible for today.

Ms. Hanson: I would just note for the record that we actually heard most of that speech once before. I can actually pull out excerpts from the transcript of April 15 if I wanted to, but I don't want to. I do want to go back, since we've had 15 days since we have had the Department of Tourism and Culture up, and there were a number of questions that perhaps we could take a couple of minutes to follow up on, and then we can move on quickly to other departments this afternoon. I do know that we want to get to housing.

The minister said that there were several items. The reason why I am raising it is because the minister has said that

she didn't have certain pieces of information, and she would get back to me. I would have expected by now to have a legislative return or a response to questions from the House, and I didn't get them. When we were speaking about Dawson City, we were talking about the old sawmill project and the minister said there was going to be an expression of interest. She said that was going to be coming out but she didn't know when. I am just trying to find the exact quote, but if she could just follow up with telling us that. She didn't have the exact numbers.

We also had a significant level of discussion about the flatlining of contributions to cultural services organizations — everything from the Yukon Historical and Museums Association to the touring artist fund. All of them flatlined for the last three years, or some of them are lower than they were two or three years ago. The minister sort of indicated that well, you know, they are focusing on health NGOs this year. Is the minister anticipating reviewing and looking at providing some assurances, because it's one thing to talk about how important that first encounter with tourism operators is, but if the government is not investing in them — so you have tourism organizations, including museums and the various tourism sites across this territory that are being expected to operate on the same as — and if you look at the cost of inflation — less money than they had previously.

We had a conversation where we were talking about the roundhouse on the waterfront here, but there has been a rumour afloat that the Waterfront Trolley has been killed. Could the minister provide some information as to what the current status is of the Waterfront Trolley? Again, it's an iconic tourism bit that has been in place for many years along the waterfront.

It is our understanding that it had been operated by the MacBride Museum, which is funded by the Yukon government. Could the minister provide an update to this House?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: There was a lot in that. In fact, I just want to be clear about my budget speech that I continued on where I got to the last time. If the member opposite has heard me say these words before, that is great. I am happy that folks are hearing the good work of this department and what it means to Yukoners, but I did continue on where I ended on the last debate.

There were, I think, three or four things within that series of questions. I did answer about the sawmill the last time — the Dawson City sawmill; I did do that. I had indicated at the beginning of the debate, Mr. Chair, that I didn't have all the information and that we were able to pull some of it out. If there is anything that is missing, I will be happy to bring it back in a legislative return.

The Historic Sites unit has been doing rehabilitation work, off and on, on the Yukon Sawmill office building since the late 1980s. Since 2014, efforts have been underway to complete the work in a phased approach. The project has not been tendered as one large project, but it has been planned in phases to enable local contractors to bid on components of the work. To date, all of the work has been done by Dawson or

Whitehorse contractors and building professionals. A call for interest for potential use of the building opened on February 16, 2018, and closed on April 6, 2018. Open houses were held in Dawson City and Whitehorse. A tenant has not been confirmed at this time; however, indications of interest were received from the call.

The next projects will be to upgrade the structural components of the first floor. This is to be tendered in June or July, and the upgrade to the electrical is to be tendered before the end of May. The expected completion of all of this work is 2020-21.

I believe that is all for the sawmill. If there is further information that the member opposite requires, please identify that, and I will either give you the answer now or will return it in a legislative return.

In terms of NGO funding, we had, I thought, a good discussion about that when we last had a chance to debate this department. I had indicated at that time that we fund in the range of 58 organizations — from tourism stakeholders, First Nations through to historic sites, archives, arts, museums and cultural centres. We have 19 agreements right now in place around museums and cultural centres.

I know that we did have a discussion about the health NGO review that is going on. What I indicated at the time was that, out of the financial review, it was identified for that to be our first priority. That is what we are doing as a government. We will then identify further departments to move forward on — looking at funding agreements for other NGOs.

I know that, at the time when we debated, I talked about the importance of culture and it being at the heart of well-being for our communities. It gives people meaningful things to do.

I was in Dawson just recently for the Dawson City International Short Film Festival, and it is a time of awakening for that community. It is a time for coming together.

I had good discussions with community members while I was there about the importance of those types of events happening and how they contribute to their mental health and their well-being. So I know that the work they do is absolutely essential in our Yukon communities, especially those that are very rural. Our government remains committed and will be committed to supporting them in the good work that they do.

I am happy to have more discussions about that, but we have not identified next departments to move forward on reviewing; we are focusing right now on Health and Social Services.

Mr. Chair, there were further questions. I am not sure, but maybe the member opposite can clarify — there were two different things I think that were being asked. One was about the roundhouse and one is about the trolley. Those are entirely different things. Perhaps the member can stand and clarify the question for me.

Ms. Hanson: The question was simply that on April 15, we talked about the roundhouse and the work being done there. I said that my question today was with respect to concerns being expressed in the community that — and I use

the language advisedly — the Whitehorse trolley is dead. So if the Whitehorse trolley is not operating, I would be curious as to what the Minister of Tourism and Culture's views are on that — whether she is aware of it, or if in fact that is not a rumour that has any fact base and if we should dispel it.

I don't have any information. I am asking the minister — as the Minister responsible for Tourism and Culture — about a tourism activity that quite a few tourists and Yukoners seem to enjoy.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you for the question. The Waterfront Trolley has in fact been supported financially by Highways and Public Works. The Government of Yukon financially supported the Whitehorse Waterfront Trolley for 18 years. Given our current fiscal framework and the numerous fiscal pressures, the Government of Yukon has made the decision to no longer fund the trolley.

We are proud supporters of the MacBride Museum and the role it plays in illustrating and preserving Yukon's history. That is why we contributed funding toward the museum's expansion project and provided \$182,000 each year toward the museum's operations. We recognize the importance of tourism and we are of course working with stakeholders to implement the *Yukon Tourism Development Strategy*.

We will continue to work in partnership with the tourism industry to sustainably grow the sector. This includes supporting — I'm going to go through. I know that the member had her chance to stand and ask the question, so I am not sure if the member opposite is not liking the answers that I'm giving, but I am sure the member opposite will have another opportunity — on-mic — to speak.

Some of the areas that we are continuing to support include: the Adäka Cultural Festival — we have funded just over \$10,000; the Yukon air festival, \$11,000; summer Yukon music nights, just over \$9,000; and annual contributions of \$130,000 to the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. We are also proud supporters of culturally significant public art including a monument to commemorate the Whitehorse Indian Mission School, the healing totem, and the BC centennial totem, which is expected to be raised this summer of 2019.

This government absolutely believes in evidence-based decision-making that balances the needs of our society with financial responsibility. We are certainly committed to economic diversification and creating good jobs for Yukoners.

I already went through some of this. Highways and Public Works funded it since 2000, with the intent of the trolley to become self-sufficient. This has not happened. Beyond the core funding, significant infrastructure upgrades are required to keep the trolley running safely. That's not happening. With the ongoing development of the waterfront area, we do not feel that it is financially responsible to continue investing millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades required to keep the trolley running safely through an area that has not been fully developed yet.

This government is committed to enhancing Yukon tourism. I know that we have gone to great lengths here to really move tourism forward to the next level, and we have done a tremendous amount of work developing a new *Yukon*

Tourism Development Strategy that has brought together partners from around the territory and we have done tremendous work to ensure that we get it right — that we absolutely get it right.

We are making huge investments by paving the Dawson City runway, for instance. We have made significant efforts around becoming a more competitive winter tourism destination.

I will just maybe go back a little bit to evidence-based decision-making, Mr. Chair. The ridership for the trolley averages at about 10,500 passengers per year since 2005, with the most recent single return fares costing \$3 to \$5. The average annual contribution by Yukon government translates to a subsidy of \$32 per rider. Out of the 10,500 passengers, we are subsidizing \$32 per rider. Again, I go back to the fact that the Government of Yukon has funded this trolley for over 18 years with the intent that it would become self-sufficient, and that has not happened.

We have really tough decisions to make in our territory, and these are based on evidence. I am happy to continue to have the conversation with the member opposite and with Yukoners as we go forward and make decisions that, we hope, always follow the values that have been set out for us, particularly in the new *Yukon Tourism Development Strategy*.

Ms. Hanson: I guess that we will have to wait and see. It will be interesting to see if the Department of Highways and Public Works will then be removing all of the brand new ties piled up on the waterfront that are intended for the work that was being done. It will also be interesting to know how much notice the Department of Highways and Public Works gave the MacBride Museum with respect to stopping funding for this Whitehorse trolley.

I guess it leads to the whole question: If things are not viable and if these organizations can't make a go of it in terms of a market-based approach, then is the Government of Yukon planning to take over the MacBride Museum? They have made it clear that they can't make it on a market-based approach, so will the Government of Yukon take over this cultural tourism icon?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Maybe the member opposite can be clear about what the question is. I am not sure if this is in reference to the recent stories that have been in the media. Perhaps the member opposite can clarify that.

Ms. Hanson: The minister had made the comments that one of the reasons why the Government of Yukon ceased funding the operation of this 18-year-old investment in the Waterfront Trolley was that it wasn't financially viable and that it cost too much money, in their assessment. So therefore, I was asking the question — based on a market approach — a viability approach, then — the museum has made it clear that they can't make it. Is the Government of Yukon then planning to take that over or have it shut down?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I am just going to clarify about the Waterfront Trolley. From 2009-2010 to 2018-19 — approximately 10 years only — the investment that was made into the Whitehorse Waterfront Trolley, again, was Yukon

taxpayer dollars, and it was \$2,179,342. I just want to be clear about that.

In terms of MacBride Museum — MacBride Museum is a very important part of Yukon's community of 19 museums and cultural centres. Our government is pleased to provide financial support, collections assistance, and advice to all 19 facilities. The Department of Tourism and Culture has certainly been monitoring MacBride's discussions with the City of Whitehorse on some of the taxation issues and the potential impact on MacBride's operations. We are aware of a resolution that they passed recently at their AGM and we are continuing to monitor the situation. I have had some discussions early on with the board. They have made us aware of what the issues are. We will continue working with our partners around this.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Chair, I just raised it because in fact, as the minister observed, the media had commented on it and CBC had quoted a Yukon government spokesperson as saying that they are going to require some consideration, and we looked forward to discussing it further. The MacBride Museum had made it clear that they can't make it on what the resources are now. If the same model applies as it does to determining whether or not you invest in a trolley — which is another tourism venture that doesn't seem to meet the standard of making money — is the government then planning to take it over? That was my question.

Seeing as we're really getting nowhere, I would move, Mr. Chair, that pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 10 cleared or carried.

Chair: I will ask first: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I really value the opportunity today to debate the Department of Tourism and Culture. I think that the member opposite — there is a difference. We do subsidize all of our museums and cultural centres throughout this territory and we value everything that they do, what they provide to our Yukon citizens, and the story that they continue to tell on our behalf. None of our cultural institutions, except maybe the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, make enough money to pay their full expenses, so we subsidize that; we do that.

The value is the culture — it's for our citizens first of course, and then it helps us to tell our story as Yukoners. This is one of the most important things that came out of our tourism development strategy — that Yukoners want to tell the story; they do. They want it to be told in a way that's authentic and these centres absolutely contribute to that story being told in a historic way and a culturally sensitive way.

I want to just thank the department for all of the hard work that they've done. We continue to look forward to working with all of our partners. We continue to look forward to having discussions with them as we go forward and make decisions together for the betterment of all Yukoners.

I thank my official, Valerie Royle, for joining us today for this part of the debate.

Ms. Hanson: I just want to point out that walking the talk would be useful; flatlining the organizations that you say are so valuable is not helpful.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Vote 54, Tourism and Culture?

Seeing there is no further general debate, we will proceed to line-by-line debate.

Ms. Hanson: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried

Chair: Ms. Hanson has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 54, Department of Tourism and Culture, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$28,493,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$3,161,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$31,654,000 agreed to

Department of Tourism and Culture agreed to

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

Do members wish to take a five-minute recess?

Some Hon. Members: Disagreed.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Committee of the Whole will not recess.

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

Is there any further general debate?

Women's Directorate — continued

Ms. McLeod: When we left off debate in the Women's Directorate some days ago, I had some additional questions that I was going to pursue to discuss the SART program, but I think in the essence of time today, I am going to submit my questions to the ministers — and there are three of them — by letter, and perhaps I will get some good responses in that way.

At this time, I'm going to stand down in favour of my colleague.

Ms. White: I just wanted to know what happened with the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Perhaps the member opposite could be clearer. I am not sure what she means by “what happened with the Yukon Advisory Council on Women’s Issues”.

Ms. White: The Yukon Advisory Council on Women’s Issues has not been active since this Liberal government took power and partially it was because, at the time, there were discussions happening that the Women’s Directorate was going to be dissolved and that a new department would be created — something, for example, like the “department of inclusion”. I just wanted to know — the Yukon Advisory Council on Women’s Issues — their role, in my understanding, was an advisory role and that they were not supposed to be told by government what to do or how to think.

I just wanted to know where the Yukon Advisory Council on Women’s Issues stands today.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you to the member opposite for clarifying her line of questioning to us today.

The last meeting of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women’s Issues was November 2018. We tabled an annual report and, currently, we are working on some internal matters with the committee. I would be happy to get back to the House with more information when I have it.

Ms. White: I do look forward to that. Just another question then: Was there a thought or discussion, after the last election in 2016, to dissolve the Women’s Directorate and to revamp it as something else?

Hon. Ms. Dendys: The Women’s Directorate absolutely plays a critical role within government to advance gender equality by supporting government employees to integrate the needs and experiences of diverse Yukoners at all stages of policy, programming, and legislative decision-making.

In 2017, I discussed the mandate of the directorate with partners who expressed concerns about the pace of change, funding, and focus of the directorate. We remain committed to funding the important work of gender-equality-seeking organizations across Yukon communities and have improved access to operational funding for indigenous women’s organizations — committed to strengthening the Women’s Directorate and advancing gender equality in ways that make a meaningful difference to people’s lives.

Some of the work that the Women’s Directorate has been doing on behalf of Yukoners is leading the LGBTQ2S+ engagement and the work around that. When we had those discussions back in 2017, we talked about that. We talked about many different emerging matters and certainly had some really robust discussions about the entire territory and what the Women’s Directorate could do.

In terms of some of the changes that we have seen nationally, we have recently seen the federal status of women department become the Department for Women and Gender Equality. So there are some significant changes happening within Canada. They are certainly food for thought for us in Yukon. That’s, I think, what I have to offer right now on this matter.

Chair: Is there further general debate on Vote 11?

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

Ms. White: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 11, Women’s Directorate, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 11, Women’s Directorate, cleared or carried

Chair: Ms. White has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 11, Women’s Directorate, cleared or carried, as required.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$2,358,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$10,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$2,368,000 agreed to

Women’s Directorate agreed to

Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to take a five-minute recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 18, Yukon Housing Corporation, in Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Is there any further general debate?

Yukon Housing Corporation — *continued*

Ms. Van Bibber: First of all, I would like to welcome the officials to the House, and begin asking a few questions. When we last left off debate, under the heading “community partnering and lending”, were questions on the First Nation housing partnership program. The minister stated that this was a first for the Government of Yukon. Just a refresher for those who are listening in — this is a new line item. In 2018-19, there was a budget for \$1.5 million and this year again for \$1.5 million.

Perhaps it’s a first because it has always been under federal responsibility to ensure that First Nation houses are built and cared for on First Nation land. Will the government be assuming more responsibility for First Nation housing,

other than the \$1.5-million housing partnership program that began last year and which now totals \$3 million?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The member opposite raised the question about the indigenous housing initiative — so the strategy around the indigenous housing is really working with the federal government, as we did last year, to identify current pressures that we were seeing within our indigenous communities.

In addressing indigenous housing needs, the development of distinct-based indigenous housing strategies specific to the First Nation housing initiative approach — what we did last year was host many sessions with our communities to really hone in and identify where the needs lie, recognizing that this was an area that was never, ever appreciated in the sense that it was not funded. The communities were accessing resources from CMHC only for two units a year on land previously set aside, which the majority of them have maxed out.

Last year, we used federal funding put in the budget to support the efforts of the First Nation housing initiative. This is the first time that it is actually funded by the Government of the Yukon. Last year, we relied on some resources and really tried to address the specific housing needs of Yukon's First Nations within the obligations of the self-government agreements. We continue our partnership with our First Nations by extending the partnership program another year, and we will continue to do that and work with our federal colleagues in addressing the potential for further indigenous housing strategies and funding that will hopefully become available this year.

Ms. Van Bibber: So with this funding, I have a question about the structure of the program. If the Government of Yukon builds a home on First Nation land, who is the owner of that asset? As we know, Yukon Housing has a list of assets. Is the cost of the building just handed over, with no follow through and no cost recovery?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to take a moment to explain perhaps a little bit of the history because it's not 100 percent an effort by the Government of the Yukon. When we talk about partnerships, it is very much similar to what we are doing for non-indigenous communities. The \$50,000 per door to address modernization and upgrades of housing units is really an incentive and an opportunity for homeowners to bring their housing standards and stocks up to the national standard.

We also have many, many other efforts that we have taken under the Yukon Housing Corporation — the municipal matching grant is another one that the housing partnership initiative — really to try to look at transparency and removing the barriers that have been put up historically. That means that we want to be able to provide opportunities for all sectors of our society to access the public resources that are available and do it in a way that is transparent, fair, and equitable.

We clearly strongly believe in adequate and sustainable resources in housing. I think that's adequately described as a human right. The federal government addresses indigenous housing through various developments. There are three distinct categories described under the housing strategy —

First Nations, Inuit and Métis — which will separate out under the national housing strategy. We have had some major challenges historically in defining what that is, and we have seen that there are some 658 non-settled First Nations across the country that have had direct access to the resources.

The establishment of the housing committee under the Assembly of First Nations and the representation of Yukon — to directly access the resources under the federal funding envelopes — is to try to look at our commitment to partnering with our First Nation partners. I am happy to say that we recently signed off on a bilateral agreement with Canada, and a part of that discussion is: What can we do to better align for service needs of all Yukoners no matter where they reside?

The ownership, as the member opposite describes clearly — the self-government agreement under land and land ownership is not one that the Yukon Housing Corporation has any control over. Lands are owned by the First Nations. They are not owned by individuals; they are owned by the First Nation governments. We can never acquire it unless we do some form of transfer through a land transfer process. It is very difficult to acquire given that we require three levels of government, so it's not something that I believe we are interested in doing, but we are interested certainly in working with our communities in partnership with the municipalities.

Ms. Van Bibber: Having been around Yukon First Nation areas and communities, I am very well aware of some of the issues around housing that happen with our people.

I had asked previously — I thought the \$50,000 was under First Nation Residential Energy Retrofits, which is another \$1.5 million where you could acquire \$50,000. That brings the question of being a First Nation resident or any First Nation resident living off of First Nation land — you own your own cabin, house or trailer. If they want to apply for any of this funding, I was told that no, they can't and that there are other programs within Yukon Housing Corporation to get the \$50,000. My question is: Why the differential treatment? A First Nation person sometimes doesn't want to live on First Nation land. You'll fund a block of houses on First Nation land, but if you do not want to live there, you have to fill out paperwork and go through a whole different process to access any funding.

Hon. Ms. Frost: The question really is not to create a racial divide or create any sort of discrimination in terms of access to funding that is made available. I think this new initiative that was put forward a year ago was really an opportunity to allow the First Nation governments an opportunity to modernize and upgrade their housing units that they've acquired through their fiscal transfer process. We hear this quite often that we have indigenous communities that are marginalized — perhaps that have not met — we have overcrowding, we have mould issues, and we have a lot of concerns being brought forward. The intent of the First Nation partnership program was really to bridge that gap with the First Nation governments. We put in place the \$1.5 million to allow the First Nations to partner with us.

I want to just use an example where we have one self-governing First Nation community that applied for — I think

it was just over \$400,000 to do a retrofit. The overall budget exceeded \$1 million. So they took the money and they leveraged it at \$50,000 per door to expand and deliver services to their citizens who would not have acquired resources otherwise.

The Yukon Housing loans program is open to all Yukoners — no matter where you reside, no matter who you are. It's an opportunity for homeowners to access repair funding, and that program is allocated at \$50,000 per door. That means that each unit — each application — can access \$50,000 to do energy retrofits and modernization of their respective homes.

Ms. Van Bibber: Is the minister saying that these homes that are being retrofitted on First Nation land — they're part of the loan — their loan?

Hon. Ms. Frost: No, it's a grant program through the First Nation partnership initiative.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you for clarifying that, minister.

Now that cannabis is legal, can the minister tell us what the Yukon Housing Corporation policy is for cannabis? I think I do know the answer, but have there been any issues within Yukon Housing Corporation buildings since legalization?

Hon. Ms. Frost: My understanding is that there have been no issues with cannabis in any of our units. The rules apply in the same way for cannabis as they do for smoking cigarettes. There is no smoking allowed in any of the Yukon Housing Corporation units.

Ms. Van Bibber: I thought that was the answer. As soon as it came out of my mouth, I knew the answer.

I have a few more questions on the government's new housing project on Jeckell Street. For this mixed-income or mixed-use housing project, why is the government including market rental units that will put the government in direct competition with the private sector?

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Kent: While the minister is waiting to answer, I would just like to introduce two individuals who have come in: my lovely wife, Amanda Leslie, and my son, Eli Kent. Thank you for joining us here today.

Applause

Hon. Ms. Frost: The question around being in competition with the private sector — that's not the objective at all. The objective of the project on 4th Avenue and Jeckell Street is to provide for mixed income — with the intention of providing opportunities for a diversity of individuals. That would be capturing the vulnerable people — looking at seniors, families. It would ensure that we have different levels of supports for these individuals who access the facility as it is being built.

Right now, we have to keep in mind that the proposed 4th Avenue and Jeckell Street development will increase affordable housing options in Whitehorse, inclusive of social

housing which will house individuals, seniors, and families on the Yukon Housing Corporation's social housing wait-list.

There have been two terms used to describe this new project which have been used interchangeably in this Legislative Assembly: mixed use and mixed income. These terms are used to capture a variety of housing models in Canada. We are in the process of developing the model that will work in Yukon's unique context. The concept of mixed use and mixed income complements our ongoing work in transforming our social housing program to address current and emerging housing needs in the context of a growing and aging population across the Yukon.

For example, the growing and aging population may be flexible in that we are looking at the demographics of the tenants in our buildings. This way we can provide more opportunities for seniors housing as well as emergence of family groupings within the same facility. That is clearly what we have been hearing from our aging adults as we have gone across the Yukon through our aging-in-place summits. I am really happy about that. We will continue to have that engaging dialogue with our stakeholders, including the City of Whitehorse, and reaching out to residents in the area, as well as working with the First Nation community here in the city.

Ms. Van Bibber: The Liberals in their platform committed to "... implement a community-based housing retrofit program to upgrade existing housing stock, improve energy efficiency, and stimulate local Yukon businesses..."

Can the minister give us an update on this program? How much has been invested? Has it been implemented?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The initiative that the member opposite references is under the purview and responsibility of Energy, Mines and Resources and Community Services. With respect to Yukon Housing — we continue to look at the energy efficiencies within our own units that we currently own throughout the Yukon and the incentive and the opportunities to work with our partnerships as we look at the home initiatives or the new initiatives that we partnered on — always with the vision and the objective of ensuring that they meet the highest standard possible for energy efficiency to avoid further greenhouse gas emissions and provide opportunities for partners to come forward.

We have some really innovative projects happening right now in the Yukon, and I am really quite excited about that. We have learned a lot about impacts, effects and cumulative effects of climate change and what it's doing to our housing stocks. We have relied quite heavily on the University of Alaska. They have some really great initiatives there. Of course, we have expertise within Yukon Housing Corporation as well — and always reaching out to work with our partners.

The low economy fund — or the fund that is made available on the retrofit program through Yukon Housing Corporation is really the objective of that as well.

Ms. Van Bibber: Can the minister tell us how many units have been upgraded to date? Are they proving to be more energy efficient?

Hon. Ms. Frost: With the low carbon economy fund — given that is a new initiative just coming out this year, we

would be happy to track that into the future so that we can better align with the results that we are looking for.

With regard to our units currently owned by Yukon Housing Corporation — there are 800 units. Of course, historically we have not had the resources with which to modernize and upgrade those facilities, and we are now doing that as well. The partnership initiatives last year with the First Nations really helped to address some of the pressures as well as some of the concerns.

I don't have specific results, as we speak today, about decreasing greenhouse gas emissions or the gap. We can certainly track that in future. We have no other than our very own Minister Streicker, who is an expert in this particular area, who will help guide us as well as other partners in the Yukon — and of course, through the Yukon College, the Northern Research Institute. We will continue to seek partnerships and of course start tracking the data. Being that it is new, we don't really have any specific results to speak of right now — but always with the objective and that vision in mind.

Ms. Van Bibber: We will look forward to seeing the results.

The Liberals also promised Yukoners that they would — and I quote: "... modernize the Government's approach to the provision of staff in social housing and collaborate with the private sector to develop strategies for program delivery which support community economic growth..."

Can the minister tell us the status of this work and if there are any results to share?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The Housing Corporation is currently working with the Public Service Commission on the staff housing policy, recognizing that the housing policy is somewhat antiquated. It is very old — it is over 20 years old.

The approach historically used for staff housing was to look at exploring an option for recruitment — retention — and it was part of the long-term strategy. What we're seeing right now and what we've heard from Yukoners is about the inconsistencies and concerns around social housing and staff housing, and the private sector — and the inequities there. That is pretty evident.

We're exploring ways to increase economic development in the private sector investments and housing within the community to increase the overall availability of housing including housing for Yukon government staff. Historically, we have had some challenges of course in some of our communities with lack of housing. I am happy to note that we have now quite a significant advancement in that area. Yukoners are clearly engaged in that effort with our partners as well — the municipalities and various funding partners — so steps to maintain and improve current staff housing across the territory and ensuring that we have transparency and equity.

It has been, I would say, a major undertaking — looking at ensuring that we provide staff housing in rural Yukon to still help with recruitment and retention in some particular communities where it's very difficult to keep staff — but recognizing also that, in some communities, we don't have

sufficient housing for staff; so therefore, we rent off of the First Nation communities or the governments. It poses a bit of a problem for us. We still need to be creative and try to address the longer term — be responsive in the longer term to the needs of the recruitment and retention initiative. But the process of updating this policy requires further consultation on the proposed changes and involves discussions with the Yukon Teachers' Association and Yukon Employees' Union. That's the responsibility of the Public Service Commission.

Our job — in terms of aligning with the social section in Yukon Housing's responsibilities — is ensuring that we provide more resources and more houses and make that readily available so as to not create pressures inadvertently in our communities — so really, fully considering all of our final recommendations and options on a revised policy, and the final decision of course has to go through the formal or the normal review process within government before we make some final recommendations.

Ms. Van Bibber: Perhaps the minister could provide this next bit by legislative return because there are multiple questions that involve the community. I was wondering if we could be provided with the communities that have private sector or market housing options for staff and which ones do not.

How many staff housing units are currently in the system — maybe a breakdown by community and by department?

Hon. Ms. Frost: What I can share is the total number of staff units within all of our communities. Currently, we have 198 staff units across the Yukon, with three in Beaver Creek, four in Carcross, 16 in Carmacks, 40 in Dawson City, two in Destruction Bay, 14 in Faro, six in Haines Junction, seven in Old Crow, 10 in Pelly Crossing, 19 in Ross River, 13 in Teslin, 39 in Watson Lake, and seven in Whitehorse.

With respect to what's happening with the private sector — I don't know what those numbers are, but what we are attempting to do is work with our partners so that, as we look at the wait-lists in the Yukon Housing Corporation application process, we work with our partners to try to hit the potential for further builds or the market that's required within those respective communities. If we see a higher demand in one particular community, we look at the partnership initiative to address the housing shortages in some of the respective communities. That is what we have right now to put on the record.

Ms. Van Bibber: I understand that in some Yukon Housing Corporation buildings, there are units that sit empty. It is perhaps for repairs or a variety of other reasons. I have been told that it can sometimes be months where they are empty. Speaking of that long wait-list, can the minister explain how this could happen where units could sit empty for months on end?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to thank the member opposite for the question. Clearly, it is a complex question in that the individuals who occupy the Yukon Housing units sometimes vacate the premises without notification or may have damaged the facility, so it requires the department to go

in and do major retrofits. We have estate issues that come into play as well. So units may sit empty for quite some time.

In a recent case in Watson Lake, we kept some units empty for a bit of time because we knew that there was an eviction notice on the Lakeview Apartments. So we had to keep a number of our units vacant so that we could provide opportunities for the members who were looking for accommodations — we knew that.

So we have also looked at some of the units that are aging out of the system that are not repairable. We put in significant resources in recent years to modernize and upgrade our units. Keep in mind that some of the units are in excess of 30 years old and are no longer, I guess, livable. We want to put the resources into that.

There are a number of reasons that some of the units sit empty. In an ideal situation, we try to ensure that we provide, as quickly as we can, an opportunity for someone to move into these facilities as they become vacant. Periodically, that requires a bit of time — some lag time — for that to happen.

Ms. Van Bibber: We have heard that some government departments or Crown corporations reserve staff housing units by paying rent even if they are left empty so that staff are guaranteed housing. Can the minister confirm if this is happening? Which departments or Crown corporations are currently doing this?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The question that the member asked with respect to Crown corporations holding on to units — that is clearly an arrangement that is long-standing with the government, and it is something that, as we look at modernization of our staff housing and social housing units, is being reviewed as well.

The Yukon Housing Corporation has 172 units in its staff housing portfolio, which is only 20 percent of the 900 staff who are employed across the Yukon. So it is not that every staff person occupies the facilities; it is only 20 percent. We recognize that it is clearly something that has to be addressed, and it is part of the modernization in the discussions that are currently taking place.

Ms. Van Bibber: We have an update on the staff housing units, which I hear is at 198. Could the minister also update the numbers on the social housing units and the rent supplement units?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The number of social units within our communities — 691 social housing units — the majority of course are in Whitehorse, at 473. The next largest one is in Dawson City — we have 57. The other one that is high is Watson Lake, at 46. We have 17 in Teslin; Ross River is 19; Pelly Crossing, Old Crow, Destruction Bay, and Beaver Creek all have zero. However, there is a need, and it is something that we are working on. We will work with our communities to address those. Mayo has 16 units; Haines Junction has 22; Faro has 10; Carmacks has 25; and Carcross has six.

The question around rent supplements — it is estimated that we have 93 clients in Whitehorse and six in the communities, and the total cost of the budget allocated is \$1,408,000 for 2018-19.

Ms. Van Bibber: The 2017-18 annual report refers to the victims of violence program. It states that the corporation provided rental assistance funding to Yukon organizations to help victims of family violence gain and maintain affordable housing.

Can the minister provide a breakdown of which organizations are receiving money under the victims of violence program in this budget and how much they are receiving? How does this funding compare to last year?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The federal project that funded the victims of violence ended last year.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you for that answer.

Just going to the corporation's annual operating plan for 2018-19 — goal 1.3 is called: "Modernize the Corporation's leadership role with the Housing Action Plan for Yukon by facilitating the implementation for the Plan in partnership with stakeholders, and embracing and leveraging local and federal housing opportunities, initiatives and investments." The action item identified under this goal is a three-year action plan, and it is to leverage federal funding opportunities.

Can the minister provide us an update on the development of this three-year action plan, and would she be able to provide us with a copy?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The three-year action plan is defined under the national partnership arrangement, and we just signed off on the three-year agreement with CMHC. Once that is approved, it will become a public document, so it will be accessible to those who are interested in accessing it and finding out more about that program.

Ms. Van Bibber: Another action plan under this goal was to evaluate the lending and grant programs and undertake program modifications to reflect the results. Can the minister provide us with an update on the evaluations of these lending and grant programs? It comes down to when the review is being conducted, who is conducting it, how much the review costs and if this will be part of the copy that we will see.

Hon. Ms. Frost: The loan program review was conducted by Malatest and Associates out of Victoria, BC for \$64,800. An additional \$15,000 was used to conduct a client survey, which was done by an RFP process, so the contract was based on a public procurement process. The scope of the review was to assess Yukon's housing needs and the impact of the loans programs and to explore opportunities to modify the programs in terms of new targets and the potential for new programs. The review found that the programs are not having the desired impact on the Yukon housing market and that there has been a declining uptake in the programs and a high level of non-performing loans in the portfolio.

There were 10 recommendations aimed at targeting different client groups and increasing program uptake. The review contemplated new federal programs that would now include CMHC's new down payment assistance program as an additional consideration.

With regard to the recommendations — the number one recommendation on the loan program promotion was that the Yukon Housing Corporation may wish to review the loan program promotional material and information on their

website to ensure that it is clear and easy to locate in order to improve the general public's awareness that the Yukon Housing Corporation is more than just a social housing organization. The public should be aware of what loans are offered, how the loans can help them, and how they can apply. The objective really was to provide some really solid recommendations so that we could seek to make improvements with regard to policy initiatives, ensuring that we were reaching the target audiences that we are there to do.

It further recommends that we clarify the level of risk Yukon Housing Corporation is willing to take. The Yukon Housing Corporation has accepted a higher level of risk than traditional lenders because they target low- and moderate-income households in Yukon. In order to reach a larger number of Yukoners, Yukon Housing Corporation may wish to take on a greater level of risk — or not — by adjusting loan eligibility criteria.

Those were just a couple of recommendations. There were a number of recommendations that are clearly being considered. All of these are really great in terms of adjusting the loan initiatives, the application processes, and revisiting how we communicate.

Ms. Van Bibber: Very interesting. Does this review recommend that any other funding for any of the programs be cut, other than the victims of violence program?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to correct the record. The victim of violence program wasn't cut. It was a federal initiative and that federal initiative ended. That's it. We have other alternatives and other initiatives that we have currently in Yukon Housing Corporation to provide opportunities to access supported funding for all citizens of Yukon.

Ms. Van Bibber: I just understood that it was from the same annual report. That is it for me on questions, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the minister and the officials for being here today.

Ms. White: I thank my colleague from Porter Creek North and of course welcome the officials back. I am excited to see you today for longer than the time I had previously.

I have questions to start about the Housing First building. I wanted to know what the opening timeline was for that.

Hon. Ms. Frost: The Housing First project — the approach is to address housing for vulnerable people, and I am really quite proud of the work that we've done. We broke ground at the end of July 2018 and we are on track to complete the building in late summer of 2019. The housing project was awarded to a local construction company. As noted, it did come in above the original estimate. Higher-than-anticipated construction costs are clearly a positive sign of the economy, and we are looking at having the project operational by fall 2019. We are working with our partners to establish supports for people who we will be providing housing to.

We are working on an operational model, and we are looking forward to providing an update in the near future.

Ms. White: What is the final cost estimate for the construction of that building?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The Housing First project, located at 5th Avenue and Wood Street, construction contract was

awarded to a local company for \$3.9 million. This exceeded the original budget amount of \$2.7 million and funds from within the federal funding were utilized for a \$1.2-million difference.

The housing project operation and the program funding is being approved for 2019-20 for approximately \$300,000. Part of the funding came out of the federal envelope.

Ms. White: When the building becomes operational and when an NGO or a group is decided on for running it, will the building be going through Yukon Housing Corporation or Health and Social Services?

Hon. Ms. Frost: That is a great question. As we look at new projects like this that take on a different magnitude of services that we have not seen historically, what we want to do is work with our partners, and that means working with Health and Social Services. Yukon Housing Corporation of course — our Safe at Home action group — is looking at working with our community stakeholder groups as well. It is not a responsibility solely of Yukon Housing Corporation. We want to ensure that we take a proactive approach to ensure that it is successful and that it provides opportunities for the vulnerable citizens who will be housed in this facility. The objective clearly is to ensure that we have wraparound services and supports for the clients who come into the facility. That means that we will have to work with Health and Social Services and the intake support team and design a case management plan around the individuals who hopefully successfully enter into this facility.

Ms. White: Will the contract be awarded and be managed through Yukon Housing Corporation or through Health and Social Services?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I don't believe I said anything about a contract. I said that we would look at working with Health and Social Services and working with our communities and look at an option and a plan going forward. What that looks like, I don't know yet — but the conversation and the dialogue continue.

Ms. White: Does that mean that the Yukon government will be running the Housing First project once it is complete?

Hon. Ms. Frost: What I will say is that the Yukon Housing Corporation builds the facility. Yukon Housing Corporation will ensure that the operation and maintenance is done accordingly. They will work in partnership with Health and Social Services to ensure that the clients who occupy the facility are supported.

Ms. White: Again for clarification purposes — will it be the Yukon government running the Housing First initiative?

Hon. Ms. Frost: What I can say is that we are working with our partners, and the objective is to make sure that we bring into the facility the resources that are needed. What does that mean? We work with our NGO partners, we work with perhaps other community members — for example, Kwanlin Dün — or the Safe at Home community groups. I think we have to keep our options open rather than prescribe that the Yukon government will be running and managing the facility. We really want to embrace the opportunities that are there and

ensure that all community members and organizations that are interested and wanting to participate in a program of this magnitude are given the opportunity and are extended the opportunity.

I think it's a great initiative, and we're really looking forward to the results and looking forward to having that open dialogue. Clearly it's something we will have to facilitate and manage well to ensure its success, and that's our objective.

Ms. White: Just so the minister is aware, I asked about Housing First for the first five years of my political career. I don't disagree at all; I'm just trying to figure out what it will look like when it's open. I thought I had read in an article or a press release that the plan was to have a partnership with NGOs or community groups to run the building, and that's just the clarification I'm looking for.

In the most recent answers, I'm not sure — it sounded to me like what the minister was saying is it would be run by government if something else couldn't be found. So that was the clarification I was looking for.

The question I'm trying to find out about right now is — for example, has government approached a group or has there been a request for proposal or has a bid gone out? Has there been any communication with the community about running the Housing First building once it's open, or once it's nearing being open? Or is a combination between the Yukon Housing Corporation and Health and Social Services looking at running that facility?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I respect the member opposite has been at this for five years and has raised it numerous times. I recollect that the discussion came up last year with regard to: Do I understand what Housing First is? Do I understand the philosophy of Housing First? That's the conversation we have been having in our community — to really look at the initiatives and look at what will make this a success for our community. What will make this a successful project for the recipients? My understanding is that Health and Social Services has gone out to speak with members of the community and the NGO groups to look at building an effective program. Does that mean that Health and Social Services will operate and manage and run this facility? That may very well be the case.

At the moment, our vision is to have an organization manage it, but the objective is — we did put out an RFP and we are seeking partners. We're in that early stage, but the objective is to have a 24/7 assisted program experience looking at a cross-jurisdictional scan and looking at other jurisdictions that have shown success in this particular area. The project — as we look at addressing the gap in the housing continuum and looking at this Housing First initiative we are really wanting to ensure that we provide the right services at the right time for the individuals who are there, to ensure that they are successful.

Ms. White: Was that RFP released through Health and Social Services or Yukon Housing Corporation?

Hon. Ms. Frost: That was Health and Social Services.

Ms. White: On April 11, in response to a question about the Blood Ties Four Directions tiny houses, the minister

said — and I quote: “We just recently partnered with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations for 10 tiny units in Haines Junction.”

What I wanted to know is when these houses will be available for residents in Haines Junction. What was the cost per unit? How much funding did Yukon Housing Corporation put toward them?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The project is being managed by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and so I don't really know the timeline there. The partnership was a grant initiative, working with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to provide housing units to their citizens. Really, it's an innovative and creative approach. Why is that? It's because the members who are actually building the facilities will occupy the facility once it's completed.

We signed a transfer agreement to provide \$500,000 under the housing initiative fund with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to build 10 tiny houses in Haines Junction, one of which is an accessible unit. They are going to be rented out as low-end market rentals for single individuals and elders who need some support in their homes. It really looks at incorporating a training opportunity for Champagne and Aishihik citizens; I like the model. I think it's a great one. I think it provides a multifaceted approach to addressing capacity, building up the socio-economics of the community and opportunities for putting more houses on the market in Haines Junction.

Ms. White: Just to signal the minister — I am going to go back to that same question, but I just have a follow-up question about the RFP for the Housing First initiative.

Can the minister tell me when that was released and when that RFP process will close?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I don't know when it will close. I certainly would be happy to get back to the member opposite with that. I just don't have it in front of me. I do know that we've gone out, but I will get back to her.

Ms. White: I apologize to the minister. My enthusiasm got the best of me. I really would've liked to have had Health and Social Services here as well today, and that was a question for her other portfolio, so I do apologize.

I think the housing initiative in Haines Junction with the Champagne and Aishihik is really exciting. As a tradesperson myself, it is important when we talk about learning — hands-on learning is key for some of us. I have no issue with the \$50,000 per door. I have no issue with that project happening. What I would like to see is that it be mirrored in other communities.

Have conversations happened between the Yukon Housing Corporation and other First Nation communities or even other non-indigenous communities about the opportunity of building similar tiny houses in their communities or even in Whitehorse?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I absolutely agree — I think it's a made-in-Yukon solution. Clearly, what the Housing Corporation is doing and has done over the course of the last two years is hold community housing forums and share best practices. We have a changing demographic and we also have

a changing landscape. With the changing landscape, it is essential that we share best practices and the housing initiative project is intended to do that. As we go ahead and have conversations with other communities, we look at this as a best practice — as a means perhaps to look at a similar project elsewhere in the Yukon. We are always open to recommendations and always open to discussions with each one of our communities.

We have the Association of Yukon Communities coming up, and I am sure we will have some really great discussions around housing needs and some of these really creative initiatives that are happening. This is one that I'm happy to say is in Haines Junction, and maybe we could spend some time just looking at the project and extending the invitation to other communities to have a look at that project.

Ms. White: Also on April 11, the minister says — and I quote: "... we don't have a huge wait-list for non-seniors within our communities."

I was wondering if the minister could give me the total number of people on the social housing wait-list who are non-seniors.

Hon. Ms. Frost: What I have in front of me right now is the social housing wait-list, and I am just looking for the most recently updated list — the seniors units. As of the end of March, in the communities, we had 46 individuals on the wait-list and in Whitehorse we had 240.

As of March 19, we have on the seniors wait-list: five in Dawson City, one in Faro, two in Haines Junction, one in Ross River, one in Watson Lake, and 94 in Whitehorse. The vacant units we currently have available — there are 18 units for seniors and 35 for non-seniors. Once we fill all of those vacancies, it will obviously bring the numbers down. As we have vacancies come available, they will be filled of course by priority. The priority is defined as those who are fleeing violence or who require medical relocation from one of the communities.

A lot of what we're seeing in terms of some of the trends is that seniors are coming in from some of the communities that don't have supportive living or they need closer access to medical facilities and they are put on the higher priority list.

Ms. White: Could I just get the non-senior numbers? That was what I was looking for, so not the seniors wait-list but just the social housing wait-list numbers.

Hon. Ms. Frost: For the non-seniors on the wait-list, we have: one in Carcross, 12 in Dawson City, five in Haines Junction, zero in Carmacks, zero in Faro, zero in Mayo, 11 in Ross River, zero in Teslin, seven in Watson Lake, and 146 in Whitehorse.

Ms. White: The reason I am asking is — those numbers have changed a bit since April 11, which is good, because they have come down in most cases. The reason I am asking for those numbers again is that the minister said that we don't have a huge wait-list for non-seniors in our communities. I would consider 146 in Whitehorse or even one in Carcross or 12 in Dawson or 11 in Ross River — for those individuals, it feels pretty dire. I understand that it is not 25 individuals in Ross River, but for the population of the

community, 11 is quite high. I would say that, having worked with lots of folks who are in this count of 146 in Whitehorse, it feels pretty dire.

One of the things I wanted to know is: What is the Yukon Housing Corporation doing to address those numbers and making sure that people are safely and adequately housed?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I appreciate the comments about the units — those who are on the wait-list. Imagine the residents in the Lakeview Manor, for example, who were given two weeks of notice to vacate the premises, and the stresses that they were under and the stresses that our department was under trying to work with the community. It didn't just happen overnight. For example, we knew that the municipality was going to close the facility down, so we had to mobilize and quickly try to reach out to the tenants, although they were not clients of the Yukon Housing Corporation nor of Health and Social Services — to some extent, some were not. But it was our obligation to reach out to those members in the units there.

I can totally appreciate the need to ensure that we provide appropriate housing across the Yukon.

There are a number of projects that we have endeavoured to undertake. That is to ensure that we provide as many doors as possible and as many homes as possible in our communities.

The supports through the conversions through Yukon Housing Corporation to provide more units — from single family to multi-family, or dual facilities — looking at subsidy programs. We are also looking at our building initiatives. The \$3.6 million that was allocated last year — in partnership, I believe we had something in excess of \$26 million of projects on the market, and we had a number of units that were made available over the course of the last 18 months.

The investment toward housing programs and commitments to housing development supported over 400 homes by either direct rental subsidy, home rental repairs, new building units, supporting home ownership or creating supported housing units. Under the 2018 housing initiative, we have a commitment for the construction of 110 new housing units with 10 different partners. That was in 2018.

We just recently concluded our project for 2019. In that effort, we were able to leverage in excess of, I believe, 110,000 units. The agreements that we had in place under 2018 for the housing initiative fund — which does not include the Challenge Cornerstone project — we have 45358 Yukon Inc. The total project cost there was \$2,120,376. Our contribution for all of this equated to \$3.835 million.

As of January 17, we had 10 units available through the 45358 Yukon Inc., and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation had four units made available — new units. The Carcross/Tagish First Nation have four units available; Selkirk First Nation, four units; and the project with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations that we spoke about earlier — there are 10 units there.

KBC Developments — there's 50 units; and then Ramza Development, there are 18 units; 360 Design Build is another 11; Teslin Tlingit Council, there are eight; and Habitat for

Humanity — there are four. This list that describes what we did last year with our partners mirrors the list for this year in terms of what is made available for housing partnership builds.

We have Narrow Gauge Construction — the project funding for 2019 will see 10 units on the market in Whitehorse. 42125 Yukon Inc. will see seven units on the market; Habitat for Humanity is building one unit; Soulspace Design Build Inc., there are 12 units; Barry and Susan Drury in Watson Lake have seven units they were bringing on the market there; and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations has an additional eight units; Canyon Construction, 10 units; Chu Níkwān Ltd. has eight units; and Klondike Visitors Association has another eight units in Dawson City; and Carmacks has an additional four. That's just an indication of the uptake. We are quite excited about that, because that will result in 75 new homes in the Yukon this year, included with the 110 from last year — so clearly putting a dent in the housing pressures and wait-lists, and that would not happen without the partnerships and without the initiatives from Yukon Housing Corporation.

Ms. White: Just to clarify, I thought the minister said 110,000 units, but I think that was just a mistake. It was probably just 110 units, because boy, we would be in good shape if we had built 110,000 units last year.

In the April 11 debate with my colleague for Porter Creek North, we were talking about the median rent. As the officials know — and anyone who has any time — I just like the term “median rent” because I have yet to find very many places that would fall under what would be considered the median rent.

In that conversation that was happening on April 11, the Member for Porter Creek North highlighted that she was looking and couldn't find anything — so the median rent for a one-bedroom unit is \$950. The question was asked if the minister would consider raising the median rent to be comparable to what is on the market. The minister's answer was — and I quote: “That is certainly something that we will take under advisement as we look at our policies within the Housing Corporation.”

So my next question is: Is the Yukon Housing Corporation reviewing their policies, especially around affordability?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I apologize if I misspoke earlier. It's 110, not 110,000.

We are looking, and we will continue to look at that and have our discussions with our partners. It is a vision and desire to look at ensuring that we provide equity and transparency in all of our work.

Ms. White: Is Yukon Housing currently reviewing their policies? If they are reviewing policies, are there specific policies that they are currently reviewing?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Yes, we are looking at modernization and transformation of our social housing policy, and we spoke about the staff housing policies earlier. So we are looking at that.

Ms. White: The staff policy states that it is \$650 per month in rent, so I am glad that one is being reviewed, but are there other policies? Are we looking at the costs?

For example, median rent is stated right now by the Bureau of Statistics to be \$950 for a one-bedroom unit. What gets brought to the floor on a regular basis is that it is a struggle to find a one-bedroom unit for \$950. I just wanted to know what other policies — if they were being reviewed and in what kind of fashion. The minister talks about working with their partners. I guess I would like to know more information about who those partners are and then maybe timelines as to when those reviews will be completed.

Hon. Ms. Frost: When we talk about the Housing Corporation partnerships and looking at, I guess, shelter from the outside — looking at organizations and really just trying to nurture our diversity as we go forward, ensuring that we have appropriate composition, quality and affordable housing stocks available to Yukoners. Clearly, we need to look at our partnerships as well with various levels of government and addressing, as the member opposite notes, that median rent — the cost of staff and social housing and market rent is one that we clearly have to take into consideration. That conversation and dialogue continues with the Bureau of Statistics and our CMHC partners.

It is something that our department is always looking at and will continue to advance.

Ms. White: The reason I highlight this is that it is my understanding that a person cannot qualify for the housing subsidy if it is over what is stated as the “median rent”. That is the reason for asking for that.

I did have a question — on April 11, the minister said that housing needed to meet the Yukon Housing Corporation's definition of “modest”, as defined in their policy. I was wondering if the minister could tell me what “modest” means, as far as the Yukon Housing Corporation's policy definition.

Hon. Ms. Frost: My understanding is that it is on the website, so if members would like to find that, they can find it on the Yukon Housing website.

Ms. White: The Yukon Housing Corporation website now takes me to yukon.ca, and I can't find any information anymore actually. I Google “Yukon Housing Corporation” and it takes me to a page that talks about — let me just go back — homeowner's grants, rural property taxes, find land use designation maps, apply for a building permit, et cetera. I really liked the Yukon Housing Corporation's website before, where I could find information.

Again, as people who work with the public — and we need to read through policies — those policies often are — I'm not sure what the secret code is to find them online, but I have yet to figure it out. I will maybe just ask the minister to do a legislative return about what “modest” means.

On April 11, I asked about the radon remediation towers that were built at 600 College Drive and I asked if they had been built in yet. I was there at a meeting at the college and on April 11, I was told that it had not happened yet, but it would. So I wanted to know: Have the radon towers in the basement of 600 College Drive, in the common area, been enclosed?

Hon. Ms. Frost: As I think I responded previously — clearly I spend a lot of time at College Drive as well and hear a lot of the same comments from the seniors in that residence. The piece of the frame, or the casing, was ordered and I don't know where it is at right now, but it has been ordered and it has been caseworked. It is in the plans to have that done.

With the previous question around modest design guidelines, I have it in front of me now — I imagine that I can respond to that question. “Homes purchased or built with support from applicable funding programs from the Yukon Housing Corporation must meet these modern design guidelines.” Floor areas — the maximum floor area must not exceed the following: bachelor or one-bedroom — 750 square feet; two bedrooms — 1,100 square feet; 3 bedrooms — 1,650 square feet; and four bedrooms — 2,300 square feet.

“Designs must be modest and approved by the Yukon Housing Corporation.

“Your home must include materials and construction techniques that are simple, efficient and durable, easy to build and maintain, and minimal in cost without sacrificing some architectural expression, performance of building or comfort of residents.

“We encourage energy efficient construction and sustainable design principles.”

That is the interpretation on the Yukon Housing Corporation website.

Ms. White: I believe that is the definition for the construction. On April 11, on page 4409 in Hansard, I was asking questions about median rent. I was using the \$950 amount, and I was talking about how if you don't qualify for subsidies and you're paying what is considered affordable, which is more than 30 percent of what you earn — this is exactly what I said; I'm quoting myself: “How is someone supposed to deal with that in the community? We are talking about modest accommodation.” \$950 is not living large. “How would the minister tell someone to go about looking for an affordable place to live when they don't qualify for the subsidy program?”

This is from the minister — and I quote: “Really, I would like to talk really broadly — as I generally do in the House — around meeting the needs of Yukoners where they are and where they reside. When I say ‘modest’ — that is what is available and that is what is defined in the policy.”

The minister I believe just read the definition of “modest” when we were talking about accessing the building loan programs. It was within that definition of “modest”, but the definition I was looking for was in reference to trying to access rental subsidies. I wasn't referencing a \$2,000 apartment. I was referencing what would be considered median rent and what goes just beyond that.

Mr. Chair, just to confirm — because I did not want to misspeak in case I had just typed in Yukon Housing and didn't pursue it — so I did go back to the old Yukon government website that exists. I did go into the departments, and it does say that the Yukon Housing Corporation pages are now on yukon.ca, which now means I can't ever find what I used to know very well, so that was the struggle for me.

We were talking on April 11 as well — I really do appreciate it when the minister and her colleagues supported our motion that called for security in seniors complexes, especially the ones that were identified. On April 11, we were having the conversation about what buildings had been chosen. It was my understanding that both Front Street. and Alexander Street. were the ones that were getting 24-hour security.

Again, this is a quote from the minister: “Yukon Housing Corporation increased security staff at two of the facilities, and so right now, we have 24-hour security at Front Street. and Alexander Street. apartments. The 24-hour check is for two weeks, and at that point, we will then evaluate and assess what we should do for the long term.”

This conversation was on April 11. My understanding is that, if two weeks was to be from April 11, it would be April 25. So I just want to know where we stand. What assessments have been made and what are the next steps as far as security in downtown seniors complexes?

Hon. Ms. Frost: That is correct — as a result of some of the concerns that were brought forward from some of the seniors at 1190 Front Street and 207 Alexander Street.

These two particular buildings were experiencing issues, and so we provided some security. The objective was to ensure that we continue to have dialogue with the tenants and the seniors in these two facilities — receiving feedback on some of the current concerns that they have had. The Leader of the Third Party made some recommendations in her submissions in this Legislative Assembly around the potential for cameras or having a superintendent of sorts within each of the units. Those are the discussions that we continue to have with the seniors.

Rounding that out, where we are right now is that we continue to provide security in these facilities. It is no longer 24 hours a day, but we are ensuring that security is provided. The objective is really to try to deter those who are accessing the facility and to help to educate the seniors as well — not to open the doors for someone who rings the doorbell if they don't know who the individual is. We are looking at the potential for putting in security cameras.

Some of the current options that are available to us and are under consideration — we will certainly have some further discussions on them — include the security camera and other technologies. Clearly an option and greatly favoured by many of our residents is working with a security technology firm to determine the most appropriate system for the current circumstances. Right now, the buzzer systems do not seem to be working so well because someone rings and rings a buzzer, and lo and behold, they get let in because it becomes quite irritating. Seniors are sometimes in a vulnerable position as well. We want to ensure that we provide them with the supports they need so that they are not feeling unsafe.

The other initiative was potentially looking at a facilitator of sorts. We are exploring models in partnership with the NGOs to establish a resource that could assist the tenants, supporting a separate landlord role that we could play with our partners. As well, more security controls and complaint

procedures and just trying to bridge that gap with seniors in helping them to better align and work together — potentially have someone on-site who could give that type of support. Not a security firm — because that is really not a long-term solution. We have to look at some innovative options.

Ms. White: I appreciate that answer. On April 11, when the minister said that after two weeks of 24-hour security, there would be an assessment and then we would decide the next steps — and now she said that it is not 24-hour security. What I am looking for is what the assessment was. If the decision has been made, that is fine, and I appreciate that we are going to work with the tenants as they move forward. The other question that I have now is: If it is not 24-hour security now, what is happening now?

The next part to that would be that there have been grave concerns raised around 22 Waterfront Place as far as security of tenants, and again with Greenwood Manor. On April 11, I highlighted that Greenwood Manor had their postal boxes vandalized and furniture slashed, but those weren't two that were chosen. Front Street and Alexander Street were chosen, which is great, because there were issues at Alexander Street.

I want to know, if it's not 24-hour security now, what is happening now? What is happening with 22 Waterfront and Greenwood Manor? They both had security issues.

Hon. Ms. Frost: The work that is happening at each one of these units and the dialogue that is happening — it wasn't a choice of deciding which got security support and which didn't. It was really the priorities that came forward, as these were the two units that were more imminent, and the seniors were feeling that they needed support.

We have a number of units in the city, but we also have a number of units across the Yukon. As we look at modernizing our policies, we want to ensure that we are consistent in terms of our practices of how we manage our facilities and the tenants who occupy the facilities as well. They rent the units. We provide them the facility, and we want to ensure that all members who occupy the facilities are safe. If we have members of the public entering the facility and vandalizing, then that becomes a criminal matter, and it becomes a matter of safety. Certainly, it is a key priority for us to eliminate that.

The ongoing discussion and dialogue that is happening with the tenant meetings — we continue to have meetings with the seniors in all of our facilities, and they have an opportunity also to express their concerns via different methods — be it through our tenant relations office or through supports through the Housing Corporation reaching out to the seniors. We have had ongoing meetings in these facilities.

At Greenwood Place, we met with the tenants there on February 14; Alexander Street on March 22; College Drive on April 1; Waterfront Place on April 16; and at 1190 Front Street, April 29; and then on Closeleigh Manor, there is another meeting coming up there as well. Since the fall, we have had numerous tenant meetings and gone door to door during annual inspections, really reaching out to track complaints and concerns to ensure that all issues that are brought forward are addressed in a timely fashion. Some of the concerns resulted in safety, but a lot of it resulted in

accessibility or air quality. Those are things that are clearly considered as we look at the feedback from all residents through the engagement sessions.

Ms. White: Just to go back to what my previous question was — those two buildings for two weeks were going to have 24-hour security. The minister said that it's not 24-hour security anymore, so I just want to know what it is now.

Hon. Ms. Frost: During the feedback from those two facilities and engagement with the seniors, they felt that during the day, it was perfectly fine. It was evenings that they were concerned about, so that is kind of how things shifted around and changed a bit with regard to the security support. That is provided in the evenings and no longer during the day at the recommendation of the seniors.

Ms. White: That makes perfect sense. Scary things don't typically happen in the daylight. Are we talking eight-hour shifts or 12-hour shifts — so from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. or midnight to 8:00 a.m.? What nighttime security are we talking about?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I don't have that very specific detail. I can just say that supports are provided in the evenings. I don't have the specific time when they arrive and when they leave but I would be happy to get that information for the member opposite.

Ms. White: I look forward to that specific information.

Closeleigh Manor is a building that is near and dear to me. I have raised multiple times over the years concerns over the air quality. I am just going to put a pitch out right now for both the Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources or the Energy Solutions Centre or the one-government approach. Closeleigh Manor was built as the first R-2000 building north of the 60th parallel. I believe it opened in the 1980s. At the time, it was built with multiple boiler systems and it uses thermal, so it uses diesel as its heating energy.

One of the things that I think would be phenomenal in Closeleigh Manor is the opportunity to retrofit that building and put in electric baseboards. The reason why I bring that forward is that there have been concerns about the air quality within that facility for a great number of years.

Mr. Chair, I will leave it there. Wouldn't it be great if Closeleigh Manor got renovated and each unit had individual electric baseboards and we didn't have to worry — and I didn't have to worry about the seniors within that complex? I won't talk about the elevator. I won't talk about lift access. I won't talk about those things — just the pitch that if we are looking at renovating Yukon government buildings, that would be a great one to look at doing that energy retrofit.

Maybe the minister would like to respond to that.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I will say, ironically enough, a few short years ago — I know a lot about Yukon Housing and all of their units. "Why is that?" someone might ask. We happened — as a business owner-partner — to manage all of the facilities on a contract basis, so I know intimately all of the units, where they are located, the concerns that have been brought forward, how they are built, and I have been in all of

those facilities. I have made tea for the elders when the power went out and gone out to all the facilities and sat with the seniors in lot of the facilities we have had. So I clearly understand and appreciate the concerns that are brought forward because we want to ensure that our aging population — our seniors — are given the best support possible no matter the circumstances. We certainly don't want to jeopardize them in any way in addressing their needs.

With regard to Closeleigh Manor, significant work has gone into that facility over time, knowing that it is one of our older facilities and recognizing that it clearly needs to be modernized and updated, as do a number of our facilities.

So it will find its way in terms of looking at the options we have available and trying to prioritize where we put our energy and where we put our limited resources. I appreciate the comments and I appreciate the questions from the member opposite — something that we will take under consideration as we look at Closeleigh Manor.

Ms. White: Prior to moving to the Taylor House, the Commissioner's Office was in residence in a ground-floor unit of Closeleigh Manor. Is that currently occupied?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I don't have that information in front of me, but I will endeavour to get back to the member opposite.

Ms. White: I believe the answer is no. The last time I walked past, it looked like it was vacant. One of the reasons I bring that up right now is, when we were raising a lot of issues around the concern about the air quality of that building, it was shortly thereafter that the Commissioner moved to the Taylor House, but it has never been occupied by another government office, as far as I know, or another government department. So it seems to me it would be prime location: downtown, ground floor — it hasn't been renovated to be another unit, and if it is unoccupied — as I think it is — that begs the question: Why?

Maybe that's something the minister could look into.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Ms. Frost: With respect to the last set of comments from the member opposite — clearly, as we look at all of our units and modernization — we talked a lot today about policy and policy adjustments to better reflect client needs and modernization of our units.

We're undertaking a lot of initiatives and endeavours across the Yukon to better reflect client service needs. The question around spaces and perhaps some open spaces that are available — through the Yukon Housing Corporation, we are putting into our budget this year resources to effectively change some of our facilities from single-family dwellings to multi-family dwellings — so basically looking at duplexes and turning single-family units into duplexes — and looking at, say, the facility in Watson Lake, Wye Lake Manor, and creating more space there as well — always open to feedback and recommendations, and we're doing that very openly with the residents of all of our facilities and clearly getting feedback from our communities on what we can do to modernize our facilities to better align with client service needs.

We have talked a bit today about housing pressures, but we have also talked about some of the really great incentives and some of the great initiatives that are happening in the Yukon with our housing initiative and partnership build programs. Last year, we had 110 units; this year we have something like 75 more units — and that's just one project.

There are other initiatives that we are endeavouring to undertake as well, and that is through the home incentive programs — the retrofit programs — and through our partners, through Energy, Mines and Resources and Community Services — modernization of facilities to better address the concerns that have been brought to our attention around air quality and, perhaps, a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a better use of energy efficiencies. Those are some of the great things that we are endeavouring to undertake through the Yukon Housing Corporation. It would not happen without the support of the staff at Yukon Housing Corporation, the support of our communities, the support of our partners and the many dialogues that we have had in all our communities with the municipalities, with our First Nation partners, and the private sector. We have also had some really great feedback from our seniors and our communities through our aging-in-place summits and, of course, one-on-one dialogue.

As I noted earlier, the many units that we have here in the city — we have much work to do in the Yukon and we have much work to do in rural Yukon communities. That is something that I am really looking forward to — to have more dialogue, more opportunities to engage with Yukoners so that we can better reflect their needs in the modernization of our policies and the modernization of the Yukon Housing Corporation as we look at housing pressures — but eliminating that as well. We have seen the reduction in the wait-lists; we have seen a reduction in the wait times. We are really hoping that we can better — thank you for the opportunity to speak on the Housing Corporation today, Mr. Chair.

Chair: Order, please.

Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)

Chair: The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 30th Sitting day of the 2019 Spring Sitting.

Standing Order 76(1) states: "On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, if the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole at the time, shall interrupt proceedings at 5:00 p.m. and, with respect to each Government Bill before Committee that the Government House Leader directs to be called, shall:

"(a) put the question on any amendment then before the Committee;

"(b) put the question, without debate or amendment, on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill, including all clauses, schedules, title and preamble, be deemed to be read and carried;

“(c) put the question on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill be reported to the Assembly; and

“(d) when all bills have been dealt with, recall the Speaker to the Chair to report on the proceedings of the Committee.”

It is the duty of the Chair to now conduct the business of Committee of the Whole in the manner directed by Standing Order 76(1). The Chair will now ask the Government House Leader to indicate which government bills now before Committee of the Whole should be called.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: The government directs that Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, and Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, be called at this time.

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

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

The Chair will now recognize Mr. Pillai for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses, schedules, and the title of Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pillai that all clauses, schedules, and the title of Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,216,169 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$287,976 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,504,145 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedules A and B agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pillai that the Chair report Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 33: Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act — continued

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*.

The Chair will now recognize Mr. Pillai, as the sponsor of Bill No. 33, for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses, schedules, and the title of Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pillai that all clauses, schedules, and the title of Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Clauses 1 to 28 agreed to

Schedules 1 and 2 agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Pillai that the Chair report Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Chair: As all government bills identified by the Government House Leader have now been decided upon, it is my duty to rise and report to the House.

Speaker resumes the Chair

Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(2)

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. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

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.

Standing Order 76(2)(d) states: “On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Speaker of the Assembly, when recalled to the Chair after the House has been in the Committee of the Whole, shall:

“(d) with respect to each Government Bill standing on the Order Paper for Third Reading and designated to be called by the Government House Leader;

“(i) receive a motion for Third Reading and passage of the bill, and

“(ii) put the question, without debate or amendment, on that motion.”

I shall, therefore, ask the Government House Leader to indicate which government bills now standing on the Order Paper for third reading should be called.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: The government directs that Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, and Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, be called for third reading at this time.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of the House to stipulate that divisions taken today at third reading shall be taken after a maximum of three minutes for Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, and Bill No. 33, *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*.

Unanimous consent re time limit on division

Speaker: The Government House Leader has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of the House to stipulate that divisions taken today at third reading shall be taken after a maximum of three minutes for Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, and Bill No. 33, *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

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

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 210, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Deputy Premier that Bill No. 210, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2019-20*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Agree.

Mr. Gallina: Agree.

Mr. Adel: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Mr. Hutton: Agree.

Mr. Kent: Disagree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Disagree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Disagree.

Ms. Hanson: Disagree.

Ms. White: Disagree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are nine yea, seven nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried. *Motion for third reading of Bill No. 210 agreed to*

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 210 has passed this House.

Bill No. 33: *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 33, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Deputy Premier that Bill No. 33, entitled *Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Agree.

Mr. Gallina: Agree.

Mr. Adel: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Mr. Hutton: Agree.

Mr. Kent: Disagree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Disagree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Disagree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 11 yeas, five nays.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.
Motion for third reading of Bill No. 33 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 33 has passed this House.

We are now prepared to receive the Commissioner of Yukon, in her capacity as Lieutenant Governor, to grant assent to bills which have passed this House.

Commissioner Bernard enters the Chamber announced by her Aide-de-Camp

ASSENT TO BILLS

Commissioner: Please be seated.

Speaker: Madam Commissioner, the Assembly has, at its present session, passed certain bills to which, in the name and on behalf of the Assembly, I respectfully request your assent.

Clerk: *Act to Amend the Education Labour Relations Act, Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, Act to Amend the Securities Act, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2019, First Appropriation Act 2019-20, Yukon Government Carbon Price Rebate Implementation Act.*

Commissioner: I hereby assent to the bills as enumerated by the Clerk.

Merci à Floyd McCormick pour son appui et pour avoir toujours pris le temps de répondre à nos questions et de réviser le processus parlementaire avec moi et mes aides-de-camp.

On behalf of myself and previous Commissioners, thank you to Floyd McCormick for his support of the Office of the Commissioner of Yukon over the years. I hope that you enjoy a well-deserved time off.

I will see some of you at the Commissioner's Klondike tea and ball on June 1 in Dawson. You will soon receive an invitation to visit Taylor House's second-floor exhibit on James Smith and the evolution of the role of the Commissioner in Yukon. We are putting the final touches to this wonderful exhibition for which the main draw is the desk and chairs that James Smith used in the old federal building during his term as Commissioner of Yukon.

In closing, as it has been my tradition, I will leave you with a quote — this time, an Irish proverb: "A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything." I hope you can get a lot of both.

Thank you, and enjoy your summer.

Commissioner leaves the Chamber

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of the House to pay tribute to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. Floyd McCormick, prior to the adjournment of the 2019 Spring Sitting.

Unanimous consent re tribute to Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly

Speaker: The Government House Leader has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of the House to pay tribute to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Dr. Floyd McCormick, prior to the adjournment of the 2019 Spring Sitting.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been enthusiastically granted.

In recognition of Floyd McCormick, Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly

Speaker: It is my pleasure to welcome several visitors to the Legislative Assembly for this tribute. I apologize in advance if I miss anyone. I would welcome my colleagues to bat cleanup if I do miss anyone.

The Hon. Angélique Bernard, Commissioner of the Yukon, has been invited for this special occasion. She is joined by her Aide-de-camps, Cpl. Cam Long.

From the Legislative Assembly Office, we have Helen Fitzsimmons, Director of Administration, Finance and Systems; Brenda McCain-Armour, our operations manager; Lyndsey Amundson, finance and operations clerk; from Elections Yukon, we have Max Harvey, the chief electoral officer, as well as David Wilkie, the assistant chief electoral officer.

If some people aren't here, I know that you're here in spirit. The following House officers are joining us: Annette King, the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate, and Diane McLeod-McKay, our Ombudsman and Information and Privacy Commissioner and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner.

From the party caucuses, we have a number of people — I have Janet Moodie and Jason Cunning from the Liberal Party caucus; Ted Laking, Robin Balmforth and Madison Pearson from the Yukon Party caucus; and Jan Stick and Noah MacFadgen from the NDP caucus.

From the Hansard office, we have Deana Lemke, Matt Lemke, Nadea Knodel, Peg Travis, Jane Haydock, Jody Cox, Cindy Harper, Geri Dugas, Rebecca Davis, and Isaiah Ploegman.

Our cameraman, Chris Rodgers, from the Legislative Assembly video productions, is in action right now. At the Clerk's Table, we have our Clerks: Dan Cable, the new Clerk of the Assembly; Linda Kolody, Deputy Clerk; Allison Lloyd, our Clerk of Committees; and some other guy who is sitting there.

Several of Mr. McCormick's former colleagues are here: Patrick Michael, the former Clerk of the Assembly; Missy Folwell, former Deputy Clerk; Jo-Ann Waugh, former Chief Electoral Officer; Rudy Couture, former Sergeant-at-Arms; and Sarah Edwards, our former finance clerk. We are also joined by Joanne Lewis, Steve Smyth — and I have Kirk Cameron, although I'm not sure Kirk is here.

Welcome, and thank you for being here as we pay tribute to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Clerks-at-the-Table as well as the entire Legislative Assembly Office staff for providing me with a great deal of background material and anecdotes about Dr. McCormick, which you are about to hear. This may take a little while, but I promise, there is some good stuff.

Floyd William McCormick was born in Montreal. It might have been a dark and stormy night — we do not know. Contemporaneous meteorological forecasts could not be independently verified.

In 1976, at the age of 15, he moved to Sarnia with his family when his father, who worked for Union Carbide, started work at the new plant in neighbouring Mooretown. You can't tell Floyd's story without mentioning his late wife, Sheila Dianne Rose, who was born and raised in Petrolia and who, by 1980, had already been named a member of the Order of Canada.

In 1986, Sheila moved to the University of Connecticut to finish her PhD while Floyd was attending the University of Western Ontario pursuing his bachelor's degree. Their long-distance relationship continued while Sheila moved to the Yukon to become the director of curriculum in the Department of Education in 1989 and Floyd worked on his master's at Western.

After completing his master of political science in 1990, Floyd moved to Edmonton to pursue his PhD at the University of Alberta. In 1995, Floyd — now Dr. McCormick — followed Sheila north and the two made their home together in Whitehorse.

After 22 years together, they were married and enjoyed a wonderful additional nine and a half years of wedded bliss. Through his marriage to Sheila, Floyd became stepfather to Roy Rose and Liz Welsh. He is a beloved grandfather and, incredibly, a great-grandfather to seven great-grandchildren — whoa.

From 1997 to 2001, Floyd worked as a political commentator for CBC Yukon radio and television and a columnist for the *Yukon News*. As evidence of the “it's a small world” in the Yukon, at the time, Floyd was a scribe for the *Yukon News*; the current Minister of Highways and Public Works was, I'm sure, excited to be his boss and very pleased to be his boss.

During those years, Floyd could often be spotted just outside of this Chamber, observing the proceedings from a vantage point up in the press gallery. During that same period of time, Dr. McCormick also served as a political science instructor at Yukon College, teaching a course on Yukon First Nation land claims and self-government.

Floyd's career at the Legislative Assembly officially began on August 15, 2001, when he started his tenure in the role of Deputy Clerk. Dr. McCormick attained the position of Clerk of the Assembly on March 31, 2007, upon the retirement of his predecessor, Patrick Michael — a role Mr. Michael had assumed in 1978.

Not only does Floyd possess a formidable intellect and razor-sharp wit — they made me write that and say it — it is evident that he truly cares about this place — the Legislative Assembly and the people who work here.

Floyd has the universal respect and admiration of Members of the Legislative Assembly, both past and present. Some of those former members and former Speakers have been introduced and are here in the gallery today in honour of Floyd's final day in the Chamber as Clerk.

On behalf of myself and the other Presiding Officers, as well as on behalf of all Members of this House, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Floyd for his wisdom and clerkly counsel over the past two and a half years.

But wait — there is more.

Mr. Clerk enjoys the admiration and unreserved respect of his Table Clerks, of the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office, Hansard, and the Officers of the Assembly — both past and present — many of who have gathered in the gallery in appreciation of him and his service to the Chamber.

Dr. McCormick is also held in high esteem by his peers across Canada and throughout the Commonwealth. Floyd has held every role on the executive committee of the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada, known as “CATS”. He has served as the society's secretary-treasurer, vice-president and president. Representing the society in 2009 and 2010, Dr. McCormick attended the Australia and New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table's professional development conference, known by the snappy acronym “ANZACATT”. This fostered a special relationship which has continued with his colleagues Down Under who continue to value Floyd's perspective and his invaluable contributions to the profession.

Generous with his time and assistance, in contrast, Floyd is frugal when it comes to himself. Eschewing for years the suggestion that the time may have come to replace some of the more threadbare components of his traditional Clerk's uniform, Floyd has been observed whimsically wielding a black Sharpie to colour in the frayed corners of the waistcoat that forms part of the clerkly garb — very prudent, very prudent.

Hansard, who hold Floyd in great affection, have helpfully suggested post-Yukon Legislative Assembly occupations for Mr. McCormick — most notably, maître d' or perhaps a skilled sommelier, which would permit him to continue to use the fancy uniform that he has taken such great care to preserve.

On the subject of uniforms, while noting that the past tradition of Yukon Speakers sporting a tricorne as part of their presiding officer's uniform had ended some decades ago, Dr. McCormick offered that this formal and historic three-cornered hat could potentially enjoy a renaissance in Yukon were it modified to suit the northern climate and sensibilities by featuring Red Greenesque thermal earflaps.

As many of you know, on many winter evenings, Floyd trades in his clerkly white tabs and black robes for a hockey uniform. He has for many years geared up and has stacked the pads in both the Whitehorse rec and Whitehorse old-timers'

hockey leagues. Floyd is equally fierce defending the role of the Assembly as he is in his current hockey team, the Yukon Inn. During one game some years ago, a rogue puck broke Floyd's finger. In consequence of this mishap, Floyd wore a splint for some time. The now-Premier — Mr. "Shall not be named" — on noting the conspicuous addition to Floyd's robes of the splint, inquired how Floyd had come by that injury, and upon being briefed on the occurrence, remarked that Yukon's Clerk had sustained the most Canadian of all possible injuries. The splint period is also discernible in the official records of the House, forming a noticeable interruption in the normally impressive and meticulous handwriting with which Floyd signs official documents — and presumably all documents. For a time, these signatures arguably came to resemble the stereotypically illegible prescriptions of a physician, but, as Floyd has often remarked, he is "not that kind of doctor." Despite the splint, Floyd dutifully and painstakingly continued to sign the required documents, which after a period of time, once again came to feature Floyd's characteristic calligraphy.

Floyd is committed to the ideals of parliamentary democracy. He has observed that a Clerk's role is to safeguard the institution of parliament for the members. He has further wryly observed that, in theory, a Clerk's role could conceivably, on occasion, entail safeguarding the institution from the members. I think we can agree that Floyd's devotion to parliamentary democracy and to the institution and his non-partisanship have served the Assembly and its members exceedingly well.

We're almost there — so much to say.

Floyd's poker face is inscrutable — at times, disconcertingly so. For example, once, when the electronic division bells summoning members back to the House for a vote were not functioning, Floyd, in characteristic deadpan, offered to run throughout the administration building with bear bells strapped across his body to alert the members to the upcoming vote. It's a good image.

I was interested to learn that it was only after considerable deliberation and soul-searching that Floyd, recognizing the heavy responsibility that falls on the Clerk's shoulders, applied for the Clerk's job. In fact, Floyd waited until — I am advised — quite literally the final hour before submitting his application. Apparently, Floyd had discussed with Sheila his considerable reservations about applying for the role. He decided against it, and then of course, did what Sheila strongly advised.

Floyd was always one to appreciate the adage — I don't love this adage but: "Happy wife, happy life." While Floyd noted that he would have accepted with equanimity whatever the results had been of that competition, I believe that I speak for members and staff, past and present, that it was an auspicious day for the Assembly when Floyd was named Clerk.

On being asked what Floyd would do for fun in the near future, post-retirement, he offered a few things — first, that he will be travelling to Vancouver in June to attend — wait for it — the annual notoriously bacchanalian cabal of the Canadian

Political Science Association. I am sure there are a few political scientists in the Chamber who could potentially join Dr. McCormick.

When pressed for details of further travels — enjoyable ones — he brightly offered that he may also find himself in the nation's capital this year in later summer at coincidentally — or not — the same time as the annual professional development seminar featuring a veritable "who's who" of a rogue's gallery at the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. Floyd is also contemplating a visit this summer to see his stepson Roy in the town of Middleton, Nova Scotia.

Between his service as Deputy Clerk and as Clerk, Dr. McCormick's tenure has now spanned 977 sitting days, starting on October 18, 2001, and including today's proceedings. This is a remarkable achievement, and one from which Floyd has largely emerged with both his wits and his wit intact.

We thank Floyd for his friendship, for his service to the Assembly, and wish him nothing but amazing future adventures. Thank you.

Applause

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I am pleased to rise this afternoon on behalf of the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to Dr. Floyd McCormick. Simply put, Floyd has served this House for the past 18 years in an extraordinary manner, initially as Deputy Clerk and since 2007, as our Clerk. It is fitting that we legislators take the time to acknowledge and sincerely thank Clerk McCormick for his many contributions to this fine place.

As one of the newer members of this Assembly, I am grateful for the assistance that Floyd has given me, as I learn the procedural ropes. I know that I speak for others in this House on this topic. I also want to say how grateful I am for his guidance with respect to my responsibilities as Government House Leader. You see, one of the perks of this job is that I meet each morning during the Sitting with Mr. Clerk and have all of my questions answered, and I have lots of them. I know that I can absolutely count on his professionalism and his extensive understanding of parliamentary procedures and the traditions of this House. Equally important, Mr. Speaker — I know that I can rely on the fact that his advice is fair, well-researched, and thoroughly considered. As they say, Mr. Speaker, Clerk McCormick has stellar corporate knowledge. He can provide insight on not only how we do things here, but why we do them in a particular way.

These qualities, I think, are the key to Floyd's long and successful career. He leaves public service with a well-earned reputation for guiding the Legislative Assembly and providing expert advice on parliamentary procedures. He is leaving big shoes to fill. His wealth of knowledge in all matters regarding the Legislative Assembly is astonishing, and we are sad to say goodbye.

Mr. Speaker, his staff reports that Floyd has been a very good mentor — always encouraging, level-headed, calm, supportive, and remarkably intelligent. I don't know why it's

“remarkable”, but remarkably intelligent. “Surprisingly” — maybe that is what the word should have been.

They say he has a precise memory — a trait that may be more of a burden in a position like his. All these qualities have, no doubt, served Floyd well in his alternate vocation as a goalie. Perhaps in retirement, Mr. Speaker, Floyd will have some more time to indulge his hockey career. I know him to be steadfast in his dedication to the game, and — like being our Clerk — it is certainly a role that he carries out in an even-handed, thoughtful, and skilled manner.

We also know that Floyd takes his love of history — and in particular, Yukon political history — with him into retirement. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, with more time to reflect, he may write a book on his insights — or not.

Throughout his career, Floyd has conducted himself with extraordinary professionalism, while gaining the trust and the respect of colleagues, elected members, and the broader community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our caucus, I want to pay sincere thanks to Floyd for his dedicated service over many years. We wish him exciting new challenges, adventurous travels, and endless shutouts in the next chapter.

I also didn't know about the seven great-grandchildren. I am pretty hopeful that he spends some time there as well. They will no doubt want to see his outfit as well — grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, his retirement is very well-deserved and hard-earned, and we trust it will be truly enjoyed.

Congratulations.

Applause

Mr. Kent: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party caucus to pay tribute to Dr. Floyd McCormick — or Dr. Floyd, as we have come to call him over the years — for his service here as first Deputy Clerk and later as Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

I had the unique pleasure of having been here in October 2001 for Floyd's first day in this Assembly — when I was the MLA for Riverside and the Minister of Economic Development — and now of course here to share today in his final day, before his new adventures begin.

Looking back to Hansard of that first day, we in the Assembly talked about a few things. It was the first sitting day after the tragic events of 9/11, so there was a brief tribute and a moment of silence. Question Period that day featured questions on a school bus contract that involved the Speaker, CT scanners, private health care, and how poor our driver's licences used to be. This all was followed by the tabling of the fall capital budget.

From that day forward, Floyd has served Yukoners and members of this House who represent them very well. He has sat through hundreds of days of Question Periods, many budget speeches, debates, and far more Wednesdays than I'm sure he would have liked to.

Mr. Speaker, one of my early memories of Floyd was when Patrick Michael, former Clerk of the Assembly and Floyd's previous boss, used to call him “Grasshopper”, in

some reference, I'm sure, to the 1984 movie *Karate Kid*. I don't know if Floyd saw the humour in it, but I can assure him that others did, as we thought of him waxing Patrick's car or painting his fence that summer. It is too bad, Mr. Speaker, that he hasn't been afforded that same opportunity with the incoming Clerk, Dan Cable, for all of those chores around the house. Perhaps you can negotiate that as part of your severance.

Many others had comments that they wanted me to share here today as well, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Canadian Armed Forces veteran and former Speaker David Laxton, who is here today, recalls that Floyd is what one would call a “military buff” and, in the day, having been a tank driver and a gunner, that they had some very interesting conversations. He said that several times over the years, when Floyd would travel or attend conferences and there was a military museum close by, he would make a point of visiting that museum.

Former Speaker Ted Staffen, who is here with us today as well, had this to say — and I quote: “As Speaker, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. McCormick over nine-plus years while he was both Deputy Clerk and then Clerk. His advice was always based on reason before passion, which is occasionally hard to do in a House full of passionate people. However, the quite calm fellow you see before you changes when he gets a guitar in his hands. He is a great entertainer with interesting stories. I would like to add my congratulations to all the others, and enjoy your retirement, Floyd. Sing on.” Again, that is from Speaker Staffen.

This, Mr. Speaker, from long-time former Government House Leader and current MLA for Lake Laberge — I quote again: “Thanks, Floyd, for all of your help and advice during my 16-plus years that we have worked together in this Legislature.”

So, Mr. Speaker, a big thank you to Floyd for his guidance and advice. Although I personally admit — and I am sure there are others who would admit — that it wasn't always followed. I know that I speak on behalf of many current and former MLAs when I thank Floyd for his service and wish him well in his retirement from this place. We hope that he enjoys this next phase of his life, that he does not listen to the proceedings of this House on the radio for the foreseeable future, and that he can one day celebrate another Stanley Cup win for his beloved Montreal Canadiens — however, not until after the Toronto Maple Leafs get one first.

Applause

Ms. Hanson: The Yukon New Democratic Party joins all of our colleagues in this House, in the Legislative Assembly Office, and in the caucus offices of all three parties in recognizing Dr. Floyd McCormick for his contributions to the democratic process in Yukon.

As MLAs, each of us over the years has turned to Floyd for advice on that brilliant motion that you wanted to bring forward but just weren't sure if it was okay, only to have him look at you with a look that says — with no words necessary: “Really?” and followed by “Well, you could do that, but — ”

— and then he would subtly lead you to the correct turn of phrase.

Forever occupying that corner office, Floyd has served as an advisor, an encyclopedia on matters parliamentary, and a sounding board for so many of us.

It is not only MLAs who have benefitted from Floyd's mentorship. Caucus staff over the years have leaned on Floyd for his direction and for his advice, and they always remark that he has never treated them like they were in over their heads — although at all times, they knew that they were.

Mr. Speaker, one of our caucus staff even had the honour of driving off in Floyd's old Mustang. I'm told that he purchased it; I'm not positive about that. I believe it's somewhere in Alberta or Quebec or someplace.

As an MLA, I have to say there have been times when the antics in this august Chamber resemble more the theatre of the absurd than solemn and thoughtful debate — and still, the inscrutable Mr. McCormick sits there, rarely registering a reaction to our antics. How does one sit in here listening to both the on- and off-mic remarks day in and day out, and not lose it? Is there a secret inner mantra for Clerks of the Assembly? We'll have to find that out at the Edgewater.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Floyd many years ago in a previous life when he was doing his work on his PhD on inherent aboriginal rights and the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. Years later, after countless hours of often ill-informed debate on matters related to his chosen field of expertise, it will be fascinating to see if, in his memoirs, he finally lets loose on what he was really thinking as he sat Buddha-like, only rising to advise the Speaker on those rare occasions when our rhetoric reached unparliamentary lows.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of time, there is a strange and hard-to-define bond that develops among those linked to the work that we all do in this Assembly: from Hansard staff, to pages, to Sergeants-at-Arms, to Legislative Assembly office staff, to our Deputy Clerks, and to our Clerk. Over time, we have shared sad times, pausing occasionally to celebrate the lives of those who have touched us. So too we shared in the grief when Sheila — the love of Floyd's life and an inspiration to so many throughout Yukon and Canada — passed.

You know, Mr. Speaker, some might question whether Floyd is hanging up his Clerk's skates too soon. The contrary view — and one we would subscribe to — is that Floyd is doing so at just the right time for him. Ultimately, that bodes well for all of us. By choosing when to move on to the next phase of his life, rather than being required to, we know that Floyd will continue to contribute to our community in many ways. We look forward to the tell-all memoir, to seeing him on faculty at, say, the new Yukon university, or — who knows? We might even see him return to this hallowed Chamber as an elected member. Whichever path you choose, Floyd, we wish you well.

Applause

Speaker: If all members and the gallery could stand, please.

Midnight Sun Pipe Band piper enters the Chamber and performs in honour of Floyd McCormick, retiring Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly

Speaker: Please be seated.

That would get your attention on a Wednesday, I think. It's very resonant.

Before I adjourn the Spring Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, I have a few brief comments. I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole, and on behalf of all MLAs to the retiring Clerk Floyd McCormick, the incoming Clerk Dan Cable, Deputy Clerk Linda Kolody, Clerk of Committees Allison Lloyd, Director of Administration, Finance and Systems Helen Fitzsimmons, Operations Manager Brenda McCain-Armour, Finance and Operations Clerk Lyndsey Amundson, as well as Sergeant-at-Arms Karina Watson and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Harris Cox, who all provide invaluable support to all MLAs and their staff in order for all of us to continue to do the important work that we are sent here to do on behalf of all Yukoners.

As well, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled team at Hansard for their timely and accurate service, the pages for their efforts to keep us hydrated, and all the other background staff and contractors who keep this operation going.

I wish Members of the Legislative Assembly all the best for the summer. Safe travels as you recharge your batteries and return to your respective ridings to connect with your loved ones, extended family and friends, and with your constituents. Thank you very much.

As the House has reached the maximum number of sitting days permitted for this Spring Sitting and the House has completed consideration of the designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms leads Midnight Sun Pipe Band piper, the Speaker, the retiring Clerk and the Clerks-at-the-Table from the Chamber.

The following sessional papers were tabled April 30, 2019:

34-2-101

Yukon state of the environment interim report 2019 — A report on environmental indicators (Frost)

34-2-102

Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board 2018 Annual Report — Footsteps into the future (Dendys)

The following legislative returns were tabled April 30, 2019:

34-2-214
Response to oral question from Ms. Hanson re: government staffing (Mostyn)

34-2-215
Response to oral question from Ms. White re: government employment of tradespeople (Mostyn)

34-2-216
Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Cathers related to general debate on Vote 10, Public Service Commission, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — managers from outside of Yukon (Mostyn)

34-2-217
Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Cathers related to general debate on Vote 10, Public Service Commission, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — deputy minister appointments (Mostyn)

34-2-218
Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. Hanson related to general debate on Vote 11, Women's Directorate, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — non-aboriginal minorities (Dendys)

34-2-219
Response to oral question from Ms. White re: Yukon nominee program (Pillai)

34-2-220
Response to oral question from Mr. Kent re: mining within municipal boundaries (Pillai)

34-2-221
Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. Hanson related to general debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — management of type 2 mine sites (Pillai)

34-2-222
Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Cathers related to general debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — winter ticks (Pillai)

34-2-223
Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Istchenko related to general debate on Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, in Bill No. 210, *First Appropriation Act 2019-20* — funding for the regional economic development fund, the community development fund and the enterprise trade fund (Pillai)

The following documents were filed April 30, 2019:

34-2-71
Internal health review tiger team recommendations, letter re (dated April 30, 2019) from Patti McLeod, Member for Watson Lake, to Hon. Pauline Frost, Minister of Health and Social Services (McLeod)

34-2-72
Additional names on petition regarding Grizzly Valley zoning, letter re (dated April 30, 2019) from Brad Cathers, Member for Lake Laberge, to Hon. Ranj Pillai, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Cathers)

34-2-73
Policing Priorities, letter re (dated April 29, 2019) from Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Justice, to Brad Cathers, Member for Lake Laberge (Cathers)