



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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34th Legislature

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## HANSARD

Thursday, October 5, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2017 Fall Sitting

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

### CABINET MINISTERS

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

### GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

#### Yukon Liberal Party

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

### OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

#### Yukon Party

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

### THIRD PARTY

#### New Democratic Party

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

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Thursday, October 5, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

## DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

## TRIBUTES

### In recognition of Startup Canada Awards North

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to rise today on behalf of all parties to pay tribute to the recent winners of the Startup Canada Awards North held here in Whitehorse.

Startup Canada is a non-profit organization with a thriving network of entrepreneurial hubs spread across Canada. Founded in May 2012, Startup Canada is an active entrepreneurship organization that has mentored more than 20,000 Canadians and represents more than 80,000 entrepreneurs.

Startup Canada comprises 25 communities and is gaining recognition for entrepreneurship, support and educating leaders around the world. Startup Whitehorse is powered by Startup Canada, and through the efforts of our very own YuKonstruct, was established in 2016 as the first Startup community in the north. Startup Whitehorse connects, motivates and supports entrepreneurial-minded Yukoners to help grow their network, resources, ideas and businesses while promoting our Startup community nationally. The significance of Startup Whitehorse is huge. In a way, the fact that a community has been established up here where our population is just over 38,000 people speaks volumes about the individuals living and working in Yukon. We possess a wealth of talent, creativity and drive. Things are definitely happening here in Yukon and now we can benefit from being part of the broader community.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Startup Whitehorse, YuKonstruct and (co)space hosted the first Startup Canada Awards North. I would like to acknowledge Lauren Manekin-Beille who is here today with us, the (co)space director who was central to organizing the awards ceremony held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre.

Mr. Speaker. The awards ceremony was about more than simply networking. It recognized and celebrated those who demonstrate excellence in the entrepreneurial and innovation community — those entrepreneurs, businesses and support organizations that lay the foundation for businesses to launch and grow — inspiring others to follow their example and be leaders in building our economy.

I would like to congratulate our Yukon winners from the Start Up Canada Awards North. Robert — Bob — Sharp,

founder of the Yukon Greenhouse Design, won the Senior Entrepreneur Award. Bob has lived in Yukon for about 50 years — many of us know Bob well — and has acquired a wealth of knowledge and experience while experimenting with various greenhouse designs. Now we can all roll up our sleeves and enjoy the fruits of our labour with his six-piece greenhouse kits, which I'm sure he has probably talked to everybody in here about, which is fantastic — great marketer. He's in Ethiopia at this point so he's not here with us today.

Mike Russo, founder of Firebean Coffee Roasters, took home the Young Entrepreneur Award. If anyone can make a seamless link between coffee and bicycles, Mike is your man. Who else would have thought of using a stationary bicycle to rotate a drum containing coffee beans over a wood fire? Thanks to his fair trade beans and unique roasting process, Yukoners can enjoy a socially responsible caffeine fix.

Heather Dickson who is here with us today, founder of Dickson Designs, won the Woman Entrepreneur Award. Heather is a young entrepreneur and community builder. Her one-of-a-kind beaded granny hanky headbands are a great example of mixing traditional and artistic skills to create something innovative and beautiful. I told her I would embarrass her here today, but I apologize — I see Tina and Darius, her mom and dad, here today.

A quick story — I remember when she first started this business, her uncle asked me to go and have lunch with her because she was very upset. She was so upset about this new business and would I come and sit with her and talk to her a bit about her business plan. I can remember walking in to see her and she was in tears and I said: "What is wrong? I think you had gone to Watson Lake for a trip around that time, and you rolled into town and everything was sold out, so what is the problem?" You said: "I have too many orders." You had a list of orders, and that is the first time that I have ever heard of that problem from an entrepreneur — the best problem. "I have thousands and thousands of dollars of orders, and I don't know what to do." You figured it out. You have been moving in the right way since then and everybody is so proud of you on your entrepreneurial path.

The Innovation Award went to Proskida, a hardware start-up led by Alastair Smith that has developed a ski pole grip to measure power and efficiency. This data can be analyzed and used for cross-country ski training to improve performance. This is the result of teamwork with organizations across Canada. I think we have just had some national teams that we have had a chance to talk to in the last while — globally — that have signed on to this. It's another amazing story.

The YuKonstruct Makerspace Society, which runs a community-operated workshop here in Whitehorse, is the first co-working space north of 60 and took the Entrepreneur Support Award. Under Executor Director Jaret Slipp, who is here with us today, YuKonstruct helps entrepreneurs and hobbyists bring their ideas to life by providing tool space, advice and expertise.

Chris Lane, who many of us know as a very successful entrepreneur, co-founder of Make IT Solutions and Northmark Ventures won the Entrepreneur of the Year Award. These

companies employ Yukoners and deliver products across Canada and into US cities. Chris has over 30 years of experience as a senior technologist and has made significant contributions to building Yukon's start-up community. Chris is president of TechYukon, an organization that promotes the growth of the tech industry in Yukon and advisory board member for Yukon Research Centre.

The event also had a really unique culinary component to it. Yukon catering companies set up tables for sampling their food. The attendees were given the opportunity to pick their favourite foodiepreneur. Congratulations to the winners. The winners were Antoinette's, Shadhala Food Services and the Wandering Bison. I think we have the owner of the Wandering Bison here today as well, so in one second, I'll introduce the members to the gallery.

Congratulations to all for that particular part of the competition. Yukoners know good food and you clearly left your mark.

As Minister of Economic Development, I believe in the work of our local businesses in creating momentum and a strong culture of entrepreneurship here in the north. I look forward with great anticipation to see how these businesses grow and prosper.

Congratulations to all for being recognized as innovators and leaders within the entrepreneurial community, and I wish you the best of luck at the Startup Canada Awards Grand Finale in Ottawa on October 19.

I would just like to recognize and have a hand for our attendees today — Jaret Slipp, executive director of (co)space and YuKonstruct is here today; Lauren Manekin-Beille, (co)space and coworking director; Logan Sherk, Makerspace director; Julie Nielson, director of programming and communications; Alastair Smith, Proskida; Mike Russo from Firebean Coffee Roasters; Heather Dickson from Dickson Designs; Luke Legault from Wandering Bison, and I think you might also have a family member there with you as well — good to see you again.

In the Entrepreneur of the Year category, we'll have a hand for Chris and also for Bob Sharp, who is in Ethiopia — big hand for entrepreneurs.

*Applause*

### **In recognition of Women's History Month**

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** October in Canada is Women's History Month. Every year, the Government of Yukon honours the achievements and contributions of women and girls by celebrating Women's History Month. Celebrations this month remind us all to consider how women's and girl's equality makes a difference in all our lives and to be vigilant in protecting the advancements we have made.

Across Canada and the north, we celebrate a number of special events, such as the International Day of the Girl Child, October 11 — and we'll be recognizing that in a tribute next week — and Persons Day, October 18, to publicly acknowledge the diversity of women's and girls' contributions.

Yesterday, I shared in the vigil "Sisters in Spirit", for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in the Yukon. Sadly, this is part of our history too, and one we're working diligently to change.

We continue to learn from the women and girls who inspire and challenge us to be more inclusive within all spheres of Yukon society. We are pleased to be partnering with the MacBride Museum to host "A Speakers' Series" in celebration of Women's History Month this year. This speaker series will showcase diversity within Yukon, celebrating the impact leaders from various communities have had on our shared history, as well as acknowledging the important roles that resistance and resilience have played in the histories of these groups.

The four-week-long series of panel discussions and presentations will focus on women's history from perspectives of leaders of indigenous, francophone, Filipino and LGBTQ2S communities.

I want to thank the MacBride Museum for partnering with us to help create a space for these stories to be shared. I would also like to especially thank Patricia Cunning, the museum's executive director, who has played a big supportive role in this project in the onset, along with Jane Robinson-Boivin, who is one of our STEP students this summer at the Women's Directorate and who got the ball rolling on this project and reached out to many of the fantastic presenters who will be sharing their stories this month.

There are so many important stories that we rarely hear when discussing our Yukon history, and I'm excited that this initiative helps to carve out a space for the people who have lived those stories and can tell us about them. I'm looking forward to hearing the different perspectives of our shared Yukon history over the next four Mondays in October. As an indigenous woman, I appreciate the opportunity to see history through another's eyes, which helps me understand realities that are different from my own. I think that it's time that we start telling our stories from our own lens, which is what we did the other night.

I was really grateful to introduce the first speakers on Monday who were speaking to a fairly sizable crowd at MacBride Museum about indigenous women's history. All of these sessions are live-streamed, so if you're not able to attend, you can link in online. Ann Maje Raider, a respected activist in her community of Watson Lake and the executive director of Liard Aboriginal Women's Society spoke about justice and the response to violence, and it was amazing. Young Teagyn Vallevand, a Kwanlin Dün youth, business-owner and activist, spoke about lateral violence and the colonial history and how she is working with different communities to understand this history. We had Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé, a traditional and contemporary Upper Tanana visual artist and member of the White River First Nation of Beaver Creek, Yukon and Alaska, who spoke about disenfranchisement of indigenous women, and her presentation was absolutely fantastic.

I want to thank these speakers again for sharing their stories with us and for providing their perspective on the

shared history. I encourage all Yukoners to attend these events. They provide a wonderful opportunity to challenge and reconsider the history. They are taking place each Monday this October, except for Thanksgiving. The times are from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the MacBride Museum. The next topic will focus on the francophone women's history on October 16, and I hope to see this event continue in future years as it is an opportunity to highlight contributions of different groups and to provide a forum to hear some of the lesser known perspectives of our shared history.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party caucus to pay tribute to Women's History Month in Canada. Our country is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and, along the way, women have played an integral part in shaping its history.

In the Yukon, the achievements of girls and women are as legendary as the men who live here. Our foremothers have blazed a trail that have made it easier for our generations to follow and create our own stories by their efforts in showing their girl children they could accomplish whatever they envisioned. Many of these accomplishments have been written down and can be read in books or are simply retold through generation by generation by way of oral traditional history.

Yukon women are strong, resilient and creative. We dream and we make dreams happen for our communities, for our families and for ourselves. Community leaders, activists, advocates, entrepreneurs, academics and more make up the network of women to have made critical contributions to our history.

During the month of October, we celebrate special events across Canada — as was mentioned, the International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated on October 11, and Persons Day on October 18. In the Yukon, each of these days recognizes the contribution of women and girls across the territory, inspiring all generations to embrace inclusivity. We still have much work to accomplish, including gender pay equity, empowerment, eliminating sexism and gender discrimination. Barriers that stop us have to be spoken about and broken down on a continuous basis.

We have made great progress through the decades, but there is always more that could be done to help girls and women realize their full potential. As Canadians and Yukoners, I would like to encourage everyone to acknowledge the importance of Women's History Month during October, take part in activities, immerse yourself in stories of the notable feats of Yukon women, and encourage and celebrate future generations of female leaders.

**Ms. White:** I stand on behalf of the Yukon NDP to celebrate the trailblazers, the dreamers and the out-of-the-box thinkers as we honour Yukon Women's History Month. It's important that we have this month because, for far too long, the contributions of women have been overlooked in history and, to be perfectly honest, it continues to happen more often than you might think.

Women helped shape the Yukon as we know it. Yukon women were clan leaders, chiefs and community healers. Yukon women discovered gold fields and established communities. Yukon women were and still are storytellers, the keepers of history and languages. Yukon women have sat in Parliament, even as the second-ever woman to be elected to the Canadian Parliament. Yukon women sat at the tables of Yukon land claim negotiations. Yukon women have led national political parties, sat as senators and as Yukon commissioners, as Premier and territorial political leaders. Yukon women have created the Women's Directorate and brought forward the importance of kinship rights.

We thank our trailblazers for their strength, foresight and resilience — Angela Sidney, Doris McLean, Audrey McLaughlin, Martha Louise Black, Kate Carmack, Flo Whyard, Eleanor Millard, Pat Duncan and Ione Christensen, just to name a few. The accomplishments of Yukon women don't lie only in the past, Mr. Speaker. We have many young women who are taking up the trailblazing torch, current and future leaders who are taking up the challenge of making Yukon the best place it can be. They are lawyers, teachers, miners, politicians, activists, athletes, scientists and everyday game changers. I know that every person in this House can think of at least two women who will leave their mark on the Yukon, and we have some sitting in the gallery.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank not only those women who were such a vital part of our history, but to acknowledge and thank those who are helping to shape our future.

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I would like all of us here in the House to welcome the executive director of the Association of Yukon Communities, Bev Buckway, who is also a past mayor of the City of Whitehorse and, I'm sure, could have been on the list.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** If I can, as well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to please welcome two members of the Community Services team. They are community advisors, Ms. Sarah Russo and Ms. Sam Crosby.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** A couple of other individuals here today — Joe Binger, a long-time co-worker of mine at Yukon College and hunting guide of Darius Elias — a hand for Joe here today visiting with us.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Also, Sarah Russo and, I think, Landon were there. Stella is at school, so we didn't get a chance today — also a hand for Stella.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I would like to ask all of my colleagues here in the Legislative Assembly to help me in welcoming back to the Legislative Assembly Mr. Darius Elias.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** It's really exciting to know that someone's hard work has paid off, as he received an award, but Alastair Smith — if you ever get a chance to talk about innovation and you get to talk about technology and how we're going to produce products in the Yukon, he's your man. I have had a lot of really exciting conversations with him and he's going to change the face of manufacturing in the Yukon, because he's determined that we try to do it here.

Alastair, congratulations on getting the recognition from your peers, and it's exciting that your product is continuing on. Thank you so much for being here.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** I would like to acknowledge my good friend Tina Elias for coming here today — a lifelong friend. Welcome to the House today.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Any further introduction of visitors?  
Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

#### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the *Government of Yukon 2017-18 Interim Fiscal and Economic Update*.

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I have for tabling, pursuant to section 22 of the *Yukon Development Corporation Act*, the 2016 annual report for the Yukon Development Corporation. Also, I have for tabling a copy of the 2016 annual report for the Yukon Energy Corporation.

**Speaker:** Are there any reports of committees?  
Are there any petitions?  
Are there any bills to be introduced?

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### **Bill No. 203: *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18* — Introduction and First Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 203 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there any further bills for introduction?

##### **Bill No. 202: *Third Appropriation Act, 2016-17* — Introduction and First Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 202, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 202, entitled *Third Appropriation Act, 2016-17*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 202 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there any further bills for introduction?

##### **Bill No. 10: *Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (2017)* — Introduction and First Reading**

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I move that Bill No. 10, entitled *Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (2017)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 10, entitled *Act to Amend the Income Tax Act (2017)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 10 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there any further bills for introduction?  
Notices of motions.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to practice sound financial management by:

(1) recognizing that over the past 10 years, Yukon government revenue growth of 1.7 percent per year has not kept pace with spending growth of 2.5 percent per year and that this has caused the territory's financial position to deteriorate;

(2) recognizing the importance of including full future O&M costs when making new capital investments;

(3) engaging with Yukoners to ensure that they have a say in deciding how to address current and future budget shortfalls;

(4) reporting regularly to Yukoners on the financial health of the territory by way of economic outlooks and public accounts;

(5) integrating fiscal forecasting with budget planning to improve the accuracy of O&M and capital budgets; and

(6) developing a predictable five-year capital plan.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to recognize the importance of the aviation sector by keeping community aerodromes open and properly maintained, and abandoning the idea of shutting down five aerodromes.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that the continuum of health care, including those for seniors, is maintained in the public sector.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to support inter-community transit options for Yukoners by:

(1) lobbying Greyhound Canada and the British Columbia Transport Board to maintain the current level of services offered by Greyhound Canada; and

(2) developing an affordable inter-community public transit service in collaboration with First Nation governments, municipalities and relevant businesses.

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

This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Community emergency medical services

**Ms. McLeod:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, currently there are two full-time positions and one supervisor position in EMS based in Watson Lake. There are reports that the government is planning to relocate the supervisor position from Watson Lake to Whitehorse. Not only does this take a valued job out of the community of Watson Lake, but it also takes an essential emergency services position out of the community.

Can the minister confirm whether or not they are planning to take this position out of Watson Lake? What is the timing on it?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I thank the Member for Watson Lake for her question. I have no plan; we don't have a plan at work on this issue, but I will take her question and go back to the department and investigate to try to provide some further response for her about it. To speak directly to her question, there is currently no plan that I am aware of to move supervisors.

We recognize that our communities are important — Watson Lake and all the communities across the territory. We recognize that the role of our EMS is critical to the health and well-being of our communities. If we can just put a shout-out to all our EMS volunteers and employees — it's a lot of work and we really appreciate the work that they do. We know they help keep our communities safe.

I concur with the member opposite that the work of those people needs to be within the communities themselves.

**Ms. McLeod:** There has been much discussion with the department over the last year about rescheduling these paid positions because they all work from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and the balance of the time is covered by volunteers. The volunteers are short-staffed and they're burning out. There is a great concern from the public about the times when there is no coverage at all. It should be noted that

less than 40 percent of the calls occur during the Monday to Friday daytime schedule. This issue has been raised with the government by the public and by the Chamber of Commerce on numerous occasions. Taking positions out of Watson Lake and relocating them to Whitehorse will lead to further pressure on the emergency services available in the community.

Should the minister determine that there is a plan afoot to remove that position from Watson Lake this October, will he commit to cancelling that plan?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I thank the member opposite for her question. I will continue to commit that I will speak with the department and find out further information. I would encourage the Member for Watson Lake, if she has specific questions, to feel free to reach me. I do my best to be available at all times. It sounds like there's some specific information that she has and I would be happy to address it as I'm able to.

There are always challenges with our volunteers. For example, we have tabled legislation on post-traumatic stress around our first responders. We recognize that there are challenges to these positions. It's hard work, so I thank all of us here in this Legislature when we stand up and acknowledge that work. It doesn't matter whether that work is done by volunteers or by paid staff.

It's also true that the times at which emergencies happen are often in the wee hours, in the evenings, and during times when the rest of us are off work. There are challenges; I acknowledge those challenges.

We're working hard to support our EMS volunteers and to make sure that this is sustainable across all our communities, including Watson Lake. I appreciate the comments and I will do my best to get some more information for the member opposite.

**Ms. McLeod:** I thank the minister for his response. The existing model of deployment is not sustainable and the loss of a supervisor position, or any other, will be felt and it will hurt the community of Watson Lake.

In reality the communities of Watson Lake and Dawson City probably need more positions. The lack of sufficient resources is causing strains on local fire department volunteers and the RCMP who are being called in to assist EMS workers who are in fact underresourced.

Will the minister commit to developing a plan and implementing that plan to ensure that EMS is properly resourced in all communities?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** We have 17 ambulance stations across the territory; 15 of them are in rural communities. I will go back and check, but it is my understanding that this year the budget for EMS across the territory is higher than it has been in past years.

I appreciate that the member opposite is suggesting that we put more resources there, and I think that is a great suggestion. I will take it under advisement and we will try to balance it with all of the costs that are out there.

I do agree that we need to ensure that our EMS — our first responders — are well-supported, whether that is our paid staff, our volunteers or through programming like we are

bringing forward this session under post-traumatic stress and addressing it in a presumptive fashion and looking to deal with it preventatively. I think that these are all important issues.

Yes, I am completely committed to working on these issues. I am not sure if there is something specific that the member opposite is looking for, but we do look to ensure that the system is sustainable. We recognize that there are some pressures and we are working with our staff and volunteers.

**Question re: Budget estimates and spending**

**Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Education confirmed that what we had been hearing reports of is true — that two large Education capital projects from this year's budget are behind schedule. The minister told the House that the \$2.5-million F.H. Collins track and field project will not even be completed during this government's term in office. She also told us that the \$8 million in the budget for the new francophone school will not be spent this year due to delays. The two capital projects total \$10.5 million that was included in this year's budget, but most of the money will not be spent this year.

Can the minister confirm that the total money going unspent on these two capital projects is over \$10 million?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I am a bit puzzled by the question because I have been quoted to say that the F.H. Collins track project would not be completed in the government's mandate. I take that to mean sometime between now and the early to mid-2020s, and that is not in fact the case.

Besides that, I undertook yesterday, in response to a question that I was asked at that time, to provide information to the Member for Kluane, and I will do that. I will provide the information in response to that question and in response to today's question, but I do not have those numbers here with me today.

It is in fact the case that, because of the answer I gave yesterday, the land — the remediation that was required on that site — has delayed the project to a certain extent. As a result, the tenders for the work that the Member for Lake Laberge notes in his question were not actually issued this year.

**Mr. Cathers:** Perhaps the minister misspoke yesterday because her exact words in the Blues were: "... no one was more disappointed than I was that the track won't be finished in this term...", which I assume to mean the government's term, since that was what she was referring to.

The Premier told Yukoners the reason he waited longer than anyone in Yukon's history to call the first full Sitting of the Legislative Assembly was because they were improving how government did its budget. In the spring, he and several ministers made grand statements claiming they had improved how government developed its capital budget and O&M budget. We have learned now they have not delivered on those grand promises. A number of capital projects are behind schedule, leaving millions of dollars unspent this construction season.

Can the Minister of Education tell us how much money in capital she will be lapsing this year due to the Liberal government's ability talk a good line but failure to actually deliver?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** No, I can't tell you that today, but I will tell you — and I will get the information that you've asked for. I will take a moment to say that projects of this size require proper planning, require proper accounting and require proper negotiation.

It won't be lost on the Member for Lake Laberge that the school he is speaking about is being built as a result of a lawsuit that involved the former government and the CSFY, and that a lot of information came as a result of that lawsuit and that negotiations are ongoing with respect to resolving all of the issues that came through that ultimate determination by the Supreme Court of Canada. As a result, negotiations are ongoing with respect to the outstanding settlement terms of that particular court case as well as other projects that are going to go forward with respect to that school.

I guess the short answer is no. He has asked me twice. I can't do that, but I will.

**Mr. Cathers:** In the Department of Education alone, at least two capital projects totalling \$10.5 million are behind schedule. The minister told this House that she couldn't tell us how many millions of dollars in capital she would be lapsing. Some would think it is her job to actually know that information.

The Liberal's spin cycle has been at full speed lately as the Premier again tries to blame his own inability to manage finances on someone else. This week, he issued a press release touting Standard & Poor's AA credit rating but seems not to have read the fine print on his own press release, which acknowledges — and I quote: "Yukon has maintained a 'AA' credit rating for eight consecutive years." The press release the Premier issued says it's because of good financial management.

Can the Premier tell this House how many millions of dollars allocated for capital projects are expected to go unspent this year? If he doesn't know the answer, who is he going to try to blame that on this time?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I daresay there is barely a question in that statement, but I think it is about capital projects. I will go back to the first two questions with respect to the F.H. Collins property as well as the new CSFY school and, as a result, I will, as I have undertaken yesterday and undertaken again today, provide that information with respect to those two projects.

**Question re: Post-traumatic stress disorder support**

**Ms. Hanson:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday this government tabled presumptive PTSD legislation for first responders. Presumptive legislation is critical for people suffering from post-traumatic stress injury caused by work. It allows them to access the services they need when they need it, and it reduces the stigma associate with the injury.



While first responders are obviously among the workers most likely to be exposed to traumatic events, the fact is that no worker and no workplace is immune to post-traumatic stress injury. Nurses, youth workers supporting suicidal individuals, or a store attendant robbed at gunpoint are just a few examples. None of these workers benefit from the presumptive legislation tabled by this government.

Why did the government table a bill that will protect the paramedic who assists a victim in a traumatic situation but not the nurse who deals with similar trauma in the emergency room?

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Thank you, Leader of the Third Party, for your question. The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board launched an awareness campaign last month to remind Yukon workers that, if they suffer from a psychological injury at work, including PTSD, they can apply for compensation benefits. In fact, we have many claims currently within workers' compensation right now that we are covering.

All Yukon workers covered by the *Workers' Compensation Act* have always been eligible for psychological injury coverage, including benefits, treatment and return-to-work support, regardless of their occupation. The campaign aims to reduce the stigma around psychological injuries and encourages injured workers to seek the care and compensation they are entitled to.

We will have a chance to debate this act later in the month. I can assure you that nurses who are responding directly in the field and in the community will be covered under this act.

**Ms. Hanson:** It's precisely because of the difficulties associated with actually getting through the existing process and policy that, last spring, this government, pressured by workers' advocates and the Yukon NDP, agreed to consider expanding its presumptive legislation to all workers, just as Manitoba did last year. We know that no workplace is immune from traumatic events that can cause post-traumatic stress injury. Reducing stigma and getting workers the support they need as soon as possible will help them get back on their feet and will reduce costs for WCB in the long run. That's exactly what presumptive legislation does.

Every worker deserves this protection, Mr. Speaker, yet this government decided to restrict this presumptive legislation to first responders. Nurses, social workers, corrections officers and many more will still face a time-consuming process. Was there ever any intention by this government to consider expanding its presumptive legislation to all workers —

**Speaker:** Order, please.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again for the follow-up question. Maybe what I'll do is talk about the value of presumption coverage. I hear your question and we have considered it.

We are fulfilling the campaign commitment that we made. This is something that we campaigned on, and we are committing to presumption for emergency workers. Psychological illness carries a stigma. As a result, many

emergency response workers who are so focused on helping others may not seek help for themselves, and they suffer from PTSD in silence.

I listened to a presentation last night from a person who suffers from PTSD and talked about the damaging effects that it has had on his life. Presumption will get them to the door so that the workers' compensation system can help them to seek the treatment, restore their health and return to work. Evidence in recent reports from the Canadian journal of psychology show that these —

**Speaker:** Order, please.

**Ms. Hanson:** I think Yukoners are tired of hearing that, "just because it was in our platform, that is the only thing we will do." This government also campaigned on a promise to listen to Yukoners, but it looks like they are not going to hear them. They have been pushing out survey after survey over the last few months, yet the results of the consultation on this bill is being completely ignored. Their survey, although it was flawed in the first place, asked what professions should be added in the future, essentially indicating that the government had already made up its mind who would be covered in this bill, yet Yukoners overwhelmingly indicated that they want more workers to be covered under this presumptive legislation. In fact, only three out of over 200 respondents wanted presumptive legislation restricted to first responders.

Will the minister admit that expanding presumptive legislation beyond first responders was never on this government's agenda, no matter what Yukoners said in the consultation?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I do want to commend the Leader of the Third Party for her advocacy over the last five years in pushing this territorial government to do something on presumptive legislation. I echo her concerns as far as looking at other jurisdictions and hearing from Yukoners, and I do agree with her when we speak about Manitoba being an industry standard in dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

With all of that being said, we have done more with this legislation than the previous government had in five years, and we are going to take a look at how this works for it on the economic perspective as well. The biggest thing that we need to figure out too is — we are not the Manitoba system, but the legislation that has been in is very similar. The devil is in the details as far as how we implement the current legislation, past the post-traumatic disorder for the initial responders.

We would not be doing our due diligence if we did not move forward with this piece of legislation first and foremost, like we promised during the election campaign. We will then analyze what effects this change has made, and we will also take a look at the secondary piece of the legislation, which is also the upfront cost and working with the initial responders to build the special management teams to make sure that post-traumatic stress does not become a disorder. We are committed to looking forward. On this legislation, we are very proud —

**Speaker:** Order, please.

**Question re: Mental health services**

**Ms. White:** During the Spring Sitting, we heard from the Minister of Health and Social Services that this government recognized the need for mental health workers in rural communities. A commitment was made by the minister to provide a mental health nurse in Dawson City, Haines Junction, Carmacks and Watson Lake. These mental health professionals were to provide services to those communities as well as travelling to other communities to provide mental health services.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell this House if there are mental health nurses living and working in each of those four communities?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** With respect to a specific answer, I don't have that right now, but I will be sure to provide that as quickly as I can.

**Ms. White:** It is our understanding that the answer is no. There is not a mental health professional living in each of those communities. Mr. Speaker, individuals and families in crisis cannot wait for a scheduled appointment to receive the support that they need now. People who are released from a hospital shouldn't have to return to their home community without the supports they need in place.

In his budget speech last spring, the Premier committed to hire — and I quote: "... 11 new full-time addictions and mental wellness workers in eight communities outside of Whitehorse." Full-time workers — not workers who visit a community on a pre-determined schedule.

Mr. Speaker, how many of the 11 promised full-time addiction and mental wellness workers have been hired, and which communities now have them?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question, we have committed — yes. We have a mental wellness strategy that looks at health services for all communities in the Yukon, and we are looking and working with our partners to determine the best suited — actually through the recruitment process, the communities will drive that process. They will determine what is required in their communities. We are reaching out into the communities. We have taken a one-government approach to look at needs of communities and are most definitely looking at a holistic approach to wellness in our communities and we have identified 11 new positions. I do believe I provided that note to the member opposite. If you have not received it, I will be sure to provide it to you again with the specific details of those positions.

**Ms. White:** In that note, it says, "We haven't hired 11 full-time workers in communities."

I'm sure that the mental health strategy is a reassurance to communities in crisis. We heard yesterday from the minister that there have been four recent suicides, and that is horrendous. It's devastating for families, friends, co-workers and communities. Unfortunately, there have been more suicides throughout the Yukon. Every community has felt this pain, but right now, if a person is in crisis or has suicidal ideation, we know that this person might have to wait up to 14 days to receive the help that they need. There is a real need for

more mental health services in Yukon. This government must provide immediate support to individuals in crisis who cannot wait up to 14 days.

Given the current health crisis, what is this government waiting for to fulfill its commitment to hire 11 new addiction mental health workers in Yukon communities?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** What do we intend to do? What I can say is we intend to fill those positions as quickly as possible, and we're doing it in collaboration with the communities to address the needs of the communities so that it is responsive to the communities' direction and the communities' needs. At this point in time, we have taken advanced steps. We have looked at the strategies. We have a mental wellness strategy that really looks at services in the communities. We are doing everything we possibly can to meet the needs.

We have all of the social work positions in the communities that have been recently vacant now filled. We will now push to ensure that the mental wellness positions are filled and responsive to community needs. The communities will drive that process and they will define, shape and mould their community's plan.

**Question re: Financial Advisory Panel**

**Mr. Cathers:** I know it has been a tough week for the Premier, who returned from his 16<sup>th</sup> trip to Ottawa in 10 months and came home empty-handed again. We've heard today about unplanned capital and O&M lapses. Regarding the Financial Advisory Panel recommendations a couple weeks ago the Premier said everything is on the table. Yesterday, after being pushed by the Official Opposition, the Premier did take placer royalties off the table — which is good news — but the Premier dodged some other questions and left options apparently on the table.

I will ask again: Will the Premier listen to Yukoners and Yukon small businesses that are opposed to the idea of a new Liberal sales tax and commit that there will not be a territorial sales tax?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I guess we will have to get used to the new normal of the Member for Lake Laberge basically using any numbers that he feels are on his desk that day. He keeps on saying that I've been to Ottawa 16 times. Mr. Speaker, I have been to Ottawa six times in a year. This year, I have been there four times — I was there for Yukon Days in February, I was there in March for the water ceremony and meetings with Minister McKenna, I was there in June for a federal ministers meeting and I was also there in October for the First Ministers' Conference. If I wasn't at these meetings, the member opposite would be the very first person to say, "You're not representing the concerns of Yukoners to Ottawa".

On that piece, the member opposite is quite simply wrong and keeps on saying these things in the Legislative Assembly knowing full well that he's wrong.

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

**Point of order**

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

**Mr. Cathers:** Accusing a member, in this case me, of saying something and knowing full well that it's wrong certainly seems to be in contravention of section 19(h) of our Standing Orders, charging a member with uttering a deliberate falsehood. I would ask you to have the Premier retract that.

**Speaker:** The Hon. Premier, on the point of order.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** On the point of order, we are allowed in this Legislative Assembly to call into question when somebody is wrong. In this case, the Member for Lake Laberge is wrong.

**Speaker's ruling**

**Speaker:** My recollection — and I will review Hansard — but unfortunately, Mr. Premier, I think you added some verbiage after the “he is wrong” which came close to contravening section 19(h) of the Standing Orders — something to the effect of, “and he knows it”. Like I said, I will look at Hansard. I would ask that you retract those comments.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I will retract the “and he knows it” part.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Where are we at? Are you answering a question? Mr. Clerk, where are we at?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker — again, a great opportunity to clear the air. Yesterday in the Legislative Assembly, I reiterated what we said during the last election campaign.

This government has never come out — the Yukon Liberal Party has never had a comment on HST, yet the member opposite again is wrong on that. He believes that somehow this is our recommendation and it's not. It's the Financial Advisory Panel and the Financial Advisory Panel has put out all of the options on the table and we will wait to hear from Yukoners before we comment on those.

**Mr. Cathers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the number of times the Premier has been to Ottawa, we were in fact relying on an article by Dan Davidson in the *Whitehorse Star*, reflecting what the Premier had apparently said to his constituents. The Premier may wish to raise that with Mr. Davidson if those numbers are incorrect.

Mr. Speaker, again, the Premier seems to find this funny, but Yukoners are genuinely concerned about the options that are being floated by the Premier's hand-picked financial panel that he set the terms of reference for. At the end of the day, it will be the Premier's decision on whether or not to bring in a sales tax. He can answer the question and rule it out today. Yukon families, placer miners and businesses are all worried about the potential of a sales tax.

Will the Premier commit today not to bring in a territorial sales tax or harmonized sales tax?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** It's interesting. This gentleman, the Member for Lake Laberge, being one of the senior MLAs in this Legislative Assembly and he's doing his investigative

reporting through investigative reporters. All of this information is available on the Government of Yukon website, so I would urge him to take a look at those returns.

Mr. Speaker, again, I've been to Ottawa six times. It's a good thing we've cleared the air because the member opposite is wrong and keeps on telling everybody that I've been there 16 times. That's great to clear that up.

As far as the Financial Advisory Panel goes — and we've said this a few times already — we're going to wait until the Financial Advisory Panel has finished its consultation process with Yukoners. Once they do that, all of these options that have been put on the table we will then respond to. That's what we have committed to here on this side of the Legislative Assembly. We believe that they have done a fantastic job. The Financial Advisory Panel has done a fantastic job doing two things right up front: firstly, by identifying that, over the last 10 years, the growth in government spending has exceeded the growth in revenues and we find that this is the reason for our current financial situation; and secondly, because we are moving to address this fiscal imbalance early, the corrections that we need to do don't need to be drastic. So, Mr. Speaker, we are going to wait to hear back from the Financial Advisory Panel.

**Speaker:** Order, please. Thank you.

**Mr. Cathers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, as the Premier knows full well, the government has not actually posted all of their travel expenses. So if we were incorrect in assuming that the media had that number right in that particular story, we will certainly accept the Premier's assertion that he has in fact come back six times from Ottawa empty-handed and not 16 times.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has been giving mixed messages on the issue of a number of things including whether public service cuts are on the table. Earlier this year, he indicated they were not; however, in responding to the panel's recommendations in September, the Premier said everything is on the table. I didn't get an answer yesterday, but Yukoners deserve an answer on this, Mr. Speaker. They received one from the Official Opposition and the NDP who oppose the idea of public service layoffs.

Will the Premier tell us which statement of his is accurate? Is everything on the table or will he assure Yukon public servants that the government is not considering layoffs?

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I'll take this opportunity to again speak about the independence of the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel. I don't think the opposition has that completely figured out yet. They have completed their research into the Yukon's government financial situation and have developed a series of options and considerations to returning ourselves to a healthy financial position because we desperately need to return ourselves to that healthy financial position.

I would like to commend the panel members for all of their hard work and thank all Yukoners who have taken time to provide their thoughtful responses during the first phase of the panel's public engagement. I would like to thank everybody in the Legislative Assembly who has actively tried

to be part of this process, who actually bought into this, because we have had members of the public come to us and say that MLAs from this Legislative Assembly have been urging their constituents to be heard on this particular initiative.

This morning, I was very pleased to hear a very positive interview on CBC on the Yukon Financial Advisory Panel with members from the panel. I believe Trevor Tombe stated — and I quote: “I’ve been involved in other types of consultation work with government but it tends to be where the report is written and then provided to the government, and it goes into the black hole and they do what they do with it, so that it is quite unique in that the panel is set up and is fully independent of government.”

**Speaker:** Member for Copperbelt South.

**Mr. Kent:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate the opportunity to ask my first question during the Fall Sitting here today.

**Speaker:** I did advise that Question Period had now elapsed — did I not? Sorry.

**Mr. Kent:** You recognized me and didn’t say Question Period has elapsed. I’m sorry, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Sorry. Question Period has elapsed — I’m sorry.

**Mr. Kent:** I’ll ask my first question next week then.

**Speaker:** I apologize to the Member for Copperbelt South. We’re fairly substantially over the allotted time for Question Period.

### Speaker’s statement

**Speaker:** Just a gentle reminder before we move into Committee Reports for both the new and seasoned MLAs in the Legislative Assembly, we are all members “for” a riding, so remember that. We’re members “for” Riverdale North or whatever riding. I’ve heard “from” a number of times from both new MLAs and seasoned MLAs — just a gentle reminder on that point.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Speaker:** We have government designated business, motions respecting committee reports.

### MOTIONS RESPECTING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Motion No. 127

#### (Motion respecting Committee Report No. 1)

**Clerk:** Motion No. 127, standing in the name of Mr. Gallina.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Member for Porter Creek Centre:

THAT the *First Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges*, presented to the House on October 3, 2017, be concurred in; and

THAT the amendments to Standing Orders 11 and 75 recommended by the committee be adopted.

**Mr. Gallina:** As the chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges — SCREP — I’m very pleased to speak to this motion on concurrence in the recent report of this committee tabled here in the House on Tuesday, October 3.

The purpose of the debate around this motion today is to reach acceptance of this committee report and act on its two recommendations. I would like to begin by acknowledging the hard work done by SCREP members over the last 11 months. SCREP is charged with reviewing parliamentary procedure and practice in the Legislative Assembly. SCREP may also deal with questions surrounding the parliamentary privileges of the Legislative Assembly and its members.

The committee is represented by all parties. During our time together over the last 11 months, the committee has met three times and discussed many items, including the opportunity for the House to further recognize First Nation culture, time management and efficiencies, fixed sitting dates, tributes, electronic petitions, private members’ days and, I’m proud to say, the list goes on.

SCREP’s work has not been brought forward to change the Standing Orders in a very long time. In 2006, one member referred to the committee as “SCRAP”, referring to contention among members to move this committee ahead. I will acknowledge that Standing Orders have been amended over the years, but this has been done through government business. In my view, standing committees have the opportunity to actively participate in addressing the operations of this House.

My goal, as the chair of this committee, was and is: to organize the committee to meet regularly, to provide all members with an opportunity to voice their concerns and their ideas, to establish a work plan based on all-party priorities, and, within the scope of the committee, to action those items. The report of the committee recommends fixing the annual sitting dates of the Yukon Legislative Assembly and placing a new 20-minute time limit on daily tributes. This side of the House supports both of those changes.

Fixed dates — I will speak to section 75 on fixed sitting dates first. This change will bring predictability and certainty to members of this House, the community at large, and the public service. The Parliament of Canada has long had a fixed schedule for Sittings and we are finally set to join them. This is an important initiative of our government and one we included in our platform commitments. I am pleased that we are moving toward this pledge.

The amended Standing Orders will see the legislators sit at fixed times of the year and will not be moved at the whim of the party in power. In the fall, the legislative Sitting would begin in the first week of October, and in the spring, the legislative Sitting would begin during the first week of March. There is also an allowance built into the changes being proposed today to ensure there is the ability for the government to adjust the starting dates in any year in which a general election takes place or in the event of extraordinary circumstances. The idea of having a fixed calendar makes sense on so many levels and eliminates the situation we have

seen over the last number of years where political considerations often dictated when the Chamber would meet.

Tributes — with respect to section 11 of the Standing Orders regarding tributes, the change today would cap the amount of time at 20 minutes per day. This will provide added certainty to our Orders of the Day, while still taking an appropriate amount of time to recognize members of our community, pay our respects and highlight community initiatives.

I want to thank all members of SCREP for their work on the tabled report and the work that has been done to date. I'm pleased with where we have landed and I look forward to our continued time together.

**Mr. Kent:** As one of the Official Opposition members on SCREP, along with the Member for Lake Laberge, I would like to extend my thanks to the Member for Porter Creek Centre, his government colleagues who are on the SCREP committee, as well as the Leader of the Third Party for the work that we have put into SCREP so far. I can assure members that the Official Opposition will continue to engage, as we have, building the work plan. I think we put together a very manageable work plan for the next couple of years. Again, I thank the Member for Porter Creek Centre for his leadership as chair of the committee.

He did mention in his remarks some of the changes that SCREP has made and perhaps some of the challenges in 2006, but I will go back to my initial foray in this Legislative Assembly between 2000 and 2002. I was the chair of SCREP at that time.

One of the things that we brought in was ending night sittings. The Legislature used to sit from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. a couple of nights a week, which was always exciting, as some members would go away for dinner and perhaps a little bit of libation and come back and perhaps get into it a little bit, I think, with some of the members, no matter which side of the House they were on.

Not only did we end night sittings, we also set the number of days, so the fact that we sit to a maximum of 60 days was brought forward during that Legislative Assembly. During my time on SCREP, we changed the time of the Sitting each day to start at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, but, I believe in 2006, members of the Assembly rolled that back to 5:30 p.m. based on a recommendation of the women's caucus that was in the House at the time. The guillotine clause — one that I know has been the subject of much debate in the House since that time and perhaps will emerge at SCREP again during this Sitting — those were some pretty tough discussions that we had, and the debate on the floor of the House, I can assure you, was less congenial than it will be today with the changes that we are making to tributes and the fixed Sitting. But again, we are here to support the chair of SCREP and the rest of the members and participate.

With respect to the two changes that we have brought forward, I will speak a little bit on the tributes. I know it is going to be tough for many of us in the House to get used to

unofficially timing today the tributes. I think we were 15 minutes before the government members were finished their tributes leaving — I think we did finish within the 20-minute time allotment. Something that I think we are going to have to ensure is recognized in the Standing Order is that the tributes are up to six minutes per party per day, and that is what we agreed to at SCREP. Obviously you don't necessarily have to take that maximum amount of time. That leaves two minutes for some sort of leeway so that the Speaker is not cutting off individuals during their tributes, hopefully. Although it is going to take some time to get used to, we will start next week and it will certainly be interesting.

During tributes, I know that often members will introduce individuals in the gallery during the tribute, which I still feel is appropriate, given the Order Paper and the order that we have for the Daily Routine. It was something that we talked about yesterday at House Leaders' with the Government House Leader as well as the MLA for Takhini-Kopper King and me — recommending to SCREP that perhaps we swap in the daily routine the introduction of visitors and the tributes so that visitors are introduced ahead of time, and then the Speaker would not have to be rigid if individuals were introducing visitors during tributes, as they often do now — so we can separate those.

This morning, with the Leader of the Third Party at House Leaders', we had a further discussion — that, often, introducing visitors or guests is a normal thing on the agenda for meetings as we meet here on a daily basis. Hopefully we can just — perhaps through a quick e-mail to SCREP members — make that minor change, which I think will make it easier for you to enforce the Standing Orders as we change them.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all members of SCREP, all members of the House and we'll certainly be supporting the report and we look forward to continuing work on adjusting the Standing Orders to make this House more efficient, effective and engaging for members of the public.

**Ms. Hanson:** I would like to both thank and congratulate the chair of the SCREP committee. As a government member, I think he had to address the fact that there was some scepticism coming from some parts of the membership of the committee. I respect and I'm appreciative of the comments made by the House Leader for the Official Opposition because he describes what one would hope and expect to see in a Legislative Assembly where we have a committee that talks to how we can improve and make adjustments or move along with the times with respect to the conduct of the business in this Assembly to better reflect what people expect of us in this Legislative Assembly.

I had expressed my scepticism quite openly to the chair of the committee at the very outset because we want this committee to work and we had really strongly encouraged the use of a work plan. I'll tell you why I expressed my scepticism, Mr. Speaker. As members of the New Democratic Party, our experience was, in the previous governments — so for many years — there wasn't an active SCREP, and so we

were excited when we were asked and solicited the last time to put ideas forward, and we did. We had one meeting and it turned out the government of the day only wanted one item on the agenda and that was the use of electronic devices. They got it — Bob's your uncle — and no more meetings.

The test for the new chair of SCREP was to ensure that there was a second meeting, and there was and there has been. We made progress, Mr. Chair. I think that there are — from the canvassing of the members of the committee — many ideas about how we can improve how we do the work in this Legislative Assembly to mirror some of the better practices from elsewhere, from what we've learned from the past, and also to make our being here more effective and, quite frankly, more enjoyable because you don't enjoy things, life in this bubble, when it's not productive.

As the vice-chair of the committee has pointed out, there are going to be some mechanics that we're going to have to work out. I do appreciate the discussions that have gone on over the last two days about how to perhaps change up how we welcome and honour the people who come to bear witness in this gallery as visitors, and perhaps we should be recognizing them at the outset as opposed to being immersed or caught up in notes about who might be at this part of a tribute.

We welcome people into our homes before we invite them to dinner or to sit down around the table, so maybe we should invite them or welcome them when they come to bear witness to the events or to what transpires in here at the outset. That's a subject that we can certainly discuss more.

Our party has long felt that establishing fixed Sitting dates is one of the pieces of democratic reform that makes our work more effective in terms of us being able to work with all sectors of the community, and particularly for government with the public service sector to ensure that there is timely and appropriate approval, particularly in the budget cycle, of budgets in advance in the beginning of the fiscal year, so we do appreciate that work that has been done.

We look forward to actually having SCREP meet on a regular basis and make progress on the work plan that we've set out for ourselves for the next two years.

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I'm very pleased to rise and to speak in support of this motion this afternoon. I do want to thank all of the members of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges for their work on changing the Standing Orders of this Assembly.

I'm going to focus my comments this afternoon on changes that propose to fix the start of both the Spring and the Fall Sittings of the Legislative Assembly. As a member of the opposition in the House during the last Legislature, I was often perplexed as to why the Standing Orders provided for such a limited period of notice for the legislative Sittings. It seemed to me that two weeks' notice was insufficient — I mean, you could pretty much guess within a month or so, sometimes two months or so — for all the members of the Assembly, for the staff and contractors who support the operations and deliberations of the House, including Hansard

— the amazing people in Hansard — and indeed for Yukon citizens who take an interest in the debates as well.

Rules that set the start of the Spring Sitting during the first week of March and in the first week of October for the Fall Sitting — they're going to provide predictability and certainty for members and also for people who support our work and, basically, the people we serve. For this reason, we on this side of the House committed to fixed Sitting dates during last year's election campaign. I'm very pleased to see the standing committee's recommendations on this matter coming forth for debate here today.

I will note that most provincial and territorial jurisdictions in our country provide for much more certainty about the time of the legislative Sittings than has been the practice in this House.

The proposed changes today are a change for the better. We will all know when we will be undertaking the work of this Assembly each year. An early March Sitting will provide sufficient time to introduce and pass an interim supply bill, for example, and also thus avoid the broad use of special warrants.

Again, I would like to thank the members of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges, and I too agree with the comments about having our Introduction of Visitors up front. We even saw it today — people who come to the gallery to hear the tributes, whether it's because of an NGO they work for or some kind of family connection. These are busy Yukoners. They have a lot to do and it's during the workweek and they can't spend the whole day in the Legislative Assembly. It's an honour to have them here and we see that they'll have to leave, and sometimes people will leave before the opportunity comes, because there are a lot of tributes to get recognized, and that's often a shame.

Given the support from all parties at the community level, I hope to approve this motion today. Thank you for your time; thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** If the member who moved the motion now speaks, he will close debate. Does any other member wish to be heard?

**Mr. Gallina:** It appears there is support from all parties on this motion. It's encouraging. Who knew holding a second meeting could be so rewarding?

I agree that adjusting the Standing Orders to make this House more effective — and there is an opportunity to better reflect what people expect of us, as the member opposite had conveyed. I will agree that there are still some subjects that we need to discuss and details that need to be amended.

I look forward to the question.

*Motion No. 127 (Motion respecting Committee Report No. 1) agreed to*

**Speaker:** Government bills.

**GOVERNMENT BILLS****Bill No. 13: *Missing Persons Act* — Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 13, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. McPhee.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I move that Bill No. 13, entitled *Missing Persons Act*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 13, entitled *Missing Persons Act*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Today I move that the *Missing Persons Act* be now read a second time. This legislation will address current limitations in the RCMP's ability to investigate missing persons cases in the Yukon. I need to emphasize that the legislation is about tools to help locate missing persons.

Missing persons legislation was initiated by the Yukon government in 2015 as a direct response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action. This bill will also help us respond to the ongoing issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

Similar legislation has been passed in other jurisdictions across Canada. When a loved one is missing, time is of the essence. In many cases, the safety of the missing person may be at risk. It is crucially important that the RCMP have the ability to conduct timely, robust investigations to locate the missing person as quickly as possible.

Under the Yukon's current laws, RCMP investigators are limited in their ability to investigate a missing persons case. This is especially true if there is no direct evidence of criminal activity. For example, without evidence of criminal activity, the RCMP is not able to obtain a search warrant or to obtain records that may help them locate a missing person.

The vast majority of missing persons cases do not involve criminal or foul play. Most missing persons are missing for other reasons. These include outdoor adventure accidents, health problems, perhaps mental health issues, perhaps the intention to commit suicide or possibly having run away from home. Other people disappear intentionally and do not want to be found. While this act would make it easier for the RCMP to find people who may be in danger, it is also important to respect the wishes of those who disappear by choice and there are provisions of this act that do that.

In making this legislation, we have been dedicated to striking a balance between enabling more effective investigations and protecting the privacy of those who are missing by choice and do not wish to be found. The act defines a missing person. The definition is someone who has not been in contact with those persons with whom they would normally be in contact or whose safety or welfare are feared for, considering their age, physical or mental capabilities or the circumstances surrounding their absence.

When someone is identified as a missing person according to these criteria, the act will allow the RCMP to make requests for records that could help them locate that missing person. These records include things like cellphone records, employment information, personal health information

or records from a school or university as a few examples. Such records can prove essential in locating someone quickly. But currently, the RCMP can only access these types of records if there is evidence of a criminal activity. If the RCMP wants to request these records as part of a missing persons investigation, under this act, they will need to apply to a judge for a court order to do so in a process similar to one that currently exists if they're looking for a search warrant in a criminal investigation — so it's an application to the court.

The act will also provide additional protections to missing persons who are minors or vulnerable persons. If a minor or vulnerable person is missing and the RCMP investigators have reasonable grounds to suspect that a missing person may be in the presence of a third party, there is a provision in this new legislation whereby the police will be able to request orders for similar records of a third person who may help locate that party — for instance, phone records of someone they might be with or suspected to be with.

If the RCMP has reason to suspect that the safety of a vulnerable person may be at risk, the act will allow the RCMP to request a search order to search a property to try to locate that missing person. Any orders to access records of a third party or search property require judicial approval.

In defining "vulnerable person", the act draws upon the *Decision Making, Support and Protection to Adults Act* of the Yukon. Anyone who has been assigned a representative or a guardian under that act can be considered to be a vulnerable person. However, the fact is there are many vulnerable persons who do not fit the definition set out in the *Decision Making, Support and Protection to Adults Act*. They may not fit the specific parameters outlined in that act or they may not have a guardian who takes care of them, but by someone who has not been recognized as an official through the government office or through that definition of that other piece of legislation. Even if they have not formally been recognized by the government in the past, all vulnerable persons deserve the same protections, especially if they go missing.

To ensure that all vulnerable people can receive the same protections, the act allows for a missing person to be deemed a person who is at an elevated risk of harm.

If that were the case, the legislation requires that they would be afforded the same special protections that exist for minors or vulnerable persons. The determination of whether a missing person is at an elevated risk will be done on a case-by-case basis, but can include considerations like mental health issues, their personal circumstances, or particular circumstances surrounding that person's disappearance.

A person can only be determined to be a person at elevated risk by a court. If the RCMP determines that they could use the additional fact-finding powers that come when investigating a person who is at an elevated risk, they will need to make an application and convince a judge that the person is, in fact, at an elevated risk. It will be up to the judge to decide whether, given the circumstances, the elevated risk means that it is appropriate to provide the RCMP with additional powers to help locate that missing person.

In addition, there are times when a missing person may be in immediate danger. Sometimes the situation is so urgent that there is no time to wait until a judge can provide a search order or an order for records. These urgent situations can occur when there is an immediate threat to a missing person's safety or understood to be one, or when there is a risk that the records that might be beneficial in finding that missing person will be destroyed. In those emergency situations, the act will allow the RCMP to demand records or conduct a search without first obtaining an order from the judge.

While it is important to let the RCMP, and allow them — in their investigation — to act quickly in emergencies, it is also equally as important to be transparent about any orders or searches that occur without prior judicial approval. To ensure transparency, the RCMP officers involved must immediately file a report about any action taken in an emergency situation. In addition, the RCMP will be required to publish a report each year about any circumstances where these emergency powers were used. This report must be posted publicly on the RCMP's website, ensuring that it can easily be reviewed by anyone.

In developing this legislation, we held extensive public consultations. We worked closely with the RCMP as well as community organizations that work with vulnerable persons. We sent letters to all First Nation governments throughout the territory, asking for their input and a public survey was available online from July 4 to September 11. The online survey received 58 responses.

We also consulted and received very helpful feedback from Yukon's Information and Privacy Commissioner. Most people told us that they supported the legislation and that they agreed that it is important for the RCMP to have the powers necessary to locate missing persons as quickly as possible. In the feedback, the primary concern that was expressed was about privacy. We have taken these concerns seriously and have included several provisions in the act that protect privacy.

Any information obtained through the powers granted under this act can only be used in the ways that are consistent with the objective of locating the missing persons. This is only about missing persons. For example, if the police find evidence that someone is missing due to criminal foul play, then the information they recover could be used when the case becomes a criminal investigation.

However, if searches conducted under this act, approved by a court, reveal evidence of unrelated criminal activities, then the police will not be able to use that evidence in a criminal investigation that's not related to the missing person. This legislation is a tool of investigation to help locate missing persons as its title says. It is not a tool for investigating unrelated criminal activity. Similarly, this legislation cannot be used by the police to locate someone in order to arrest them or press charges for unrelated activity or outstanding warrants or for any other reason. The act cannot be used to locate a missing person just so that the RCMP can arrest them for an unrelated matter or a warrant once they're found.

As has already been mentioned, we're also aware that some people may be deliberately missing and do not want to be found. It is not a crime to cut off contact with friends and family or to seek a new life and it is important that we respect people's right to do so and their right to personal privacy. We also recognize that some people may disappear in order to protect their own safety, as may be the case for someone fleeing an abusive partner or parent or another person.

To protect the privacy of those who are deliberately missing, the act states that when the RCMP locates a missing person, they are required to receive the consent of the missing person before they inform anyone — family or friends — that they have been found. If no consent is given, the RCMP will only be able to state either publicly or privately that the investigation has been concluded. These provisions help protect the privacy of citizens, even as we grant the RCMP the powers they need to conduct missing persons investigations as quickly as possible.

This legislation will also bring Yukon's policies more in line with other jurisdictions in Canada that already have similar legislation. They include British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. The Ontario government is also committed to introducing missing persons legislation in 2017. It is helpful when several jurisdictions have similar missing persons legislation, as this consistency helps the RCMP investigate more effectively across borders. With this legislation, Yukon will join much of the rest of Canada in recognizing the need to provide this tool for our police services to locate missing persons as quickly and efficiently as possible. While still effectively balancing the privacy rights, the legislation that we propose today will help to ensure that our missing loved ones return home as quickly as possible and their rights are protected.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Cathers:** As the Official Opposition critic for Justice, I rise on the missing persons bill to speak in support of it in principle. During the time we were in government, we did, in fact, receive this request, during my time as Justice minister, from the RCMP to bring forward legislation. At that time, the proposal that they had asked for was that we bring in missing persons legislation similar to that in place in Alberta and British Columbia. I understand the argument behind it and the value that it could play in the case of someone who is missing and potentially at risk for their life.

We will be asking some questions about it during Committee of the Whole regarding the feedback that government received, including that related to privacy concerns as well as the issue of the section of the act that allows RCMP members under certain circumstances to issue emergency orders without having to seek judicial approval.

I certainly do understand the value that this could play, but I am also very interested in what information was received from the RCMP, the Information and Privacy Commissioner or Yukoners about the merits and downsides of using that model versus using a model such as that in place within the *Child and Family Services Act*, for example, which allows for



the application of a telewarrant in matters that would normally require a judicial order. They are different matters, I should note, but noting that this has been included as an option in other pieces of Yukon legislation. On that, we are simply interested in information and what requests came from the RCMP, what advice has been provided by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and what information has been heard from Yukoners about including First Nation governments, municipalities and individual citizens.

With that, I will conclude my remarks and look forward to Committee of the Whole on this legislation.

**Ms. Hanson:** I rise to speak to Bill No. 13, the *Missing Persons Act*. I do so with some caution. I will say at the outset that the official opposition approaches this bill with the intention of agreement in principle with the legislation. My caution is not occasioned by any sense of fear or distrust of the motives behind this legislation, because I hear and I feel the anguish that may have given rise to this and to similar forms of this legislation across the country.

My caution comes from an overarching concern that we at times attempt to design new tools when existing ones exist that, if used correctly, would achieve the intended outcomes of the legislation before us.

In preparation for debate or discussion this afternoon, I have spent some time reading various commentaries on similar legislation across Canada and on the situation here in Yukon. I understand that, as the minister opposite referred to, Ontario is in the process of reviewing and making recommendations with respect to developing missing persons legislation to also ensure timely access to personal information to expedite missing persons legislation. They also are doing it pursuant to the Opal inquiry, the missing women's commission of inquiry, and a number of other inquiries that are specific to Ontario.

When a loved one is missing, we are naturally desperate to find them. At the same time, I am mindful that, in the Yukon, there are currently four privacy laws in effect. I think it would be useful and informative for this House to consider asking — well, actually, when I wrote this this afternoon, I was sitting here and it may not be the right place, but I do think it would be useful and informative for this House to consider asking the Yukon Information and Privacy Commissioner to appear before the Committee of the Whole when we get into more details to provide all members with her insights on the legislation now that it is before the House.

I note that the commissioner did post on her website the comments made during the public consultation, but it's my understanding from the briefing provided to members of the opposition by officials that neither the Information and Privacy Commissioner nor the Human Rights Commissioner were asked to comment on the legislation as it is before us today. Her note on the website says that she appreciates the opportunity to provide input during the public consultation process.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner, without having access to the legislation as drafted, made a number of

comments that I would like to place before the Legislative Assembly as we consider this legislation. Maybe these issues that she has addressed are already addressed in this legislation. I wasn't able to ascertain that during the briefing.

I do note that she said, in her response to the official at the Department of Justice — her response is from September 11 to the public consultation process. After going through in some detail the four privacy laws in effect in the Yukon, she notes that — and I'm quoting here: "... there is already a considerable amount of legislation that imposes rules on public bodies', custodians' and organizations' authority to collect, use and disclose..." personal or public health information. "Adding another set of rules that these bodies must decipher when faced with a request by the RCMP... may, in my respectful view, serve to counter the objectives of the proposed law and increase the likelihood of a privacy breach." The emphasis is mine.

"To avoid placing these bodies in the unenviable position of having to determine which law applies and is paramount when the RCMP asks for records containing..." private information, personal information or public health information "... to locate a missing person, I recommend the following" — and I'm quoting here:

"1. examine the existing privacy law landscape to determine where there are gaps..." — and that's what I was referring to at the outset when I said that we may have existing tools. I don't know. I'm not sure that every member in this Legislative Assembly does — "... examine the existing privacy law landscape to determine where there are gaps that may prevent the RCMP from accessing information where the circumstances are such that access is reasonably necessary to locate a missing person;

"2. craft the provisions of the missing persons legislation to fill those gaps; and

"3. prior to launching the legislation, develop and distribute outreach material to educate public bodies, custodians and organizations on the RCMP's authority to access..." this private information "... for the purpose of locating missing persons and offer regular training in support..."

She goes on to say: "Prior to analyzing the privacy law landscape and gaps, it is first necessary to determine the circumstances under which the RCMP may be authorized by the proposed missing persons legislation to access..." this private information.

It will be important, as we go through the details, to hear from the minister how this bill does and will — and the regulations pursuant to it does and will — address those issues raised by the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner went on to make a couple of more points that I would like to also make, because otherwise they are not on the public record. From the public consultation document — and this is a quote: "... it is clear that the primary reason the RCMP will be authorized to access..." this information "... to locate a missing person is to prevent the person from suffering harm. It is recognized that key to harm prevention is the ability to locate a missing

person in a timely manner. Access to information that provides clues as to the person's whereabouts must, therefore, also occur in a timely manner" — which is consistent with one of the objectives that the minister outlined.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner then went on in her submission to say: "Yukon's privacy laws currently permit public bodies to disclose PI or PHI where harm may come to an individual for the purposes of locating a missing person." Mr. Speaker, again, if we can do it now under existing legislation, what is the value added?

The Information and Privacy Commission identifies: "Subsection 16(n) of the ATIPP Act authorizes a public body to disclose..." this information "... on determining that 'compelling circumstances exist that affect anyone's health or safety'..." and she goes on to give the details of how section 36 — I'm not going to read the whole of that into the record Mr. Speaker. People can look that up.

Section 58(w) of HIPMA — the health privacy legislation — authorizes a custodian to disclose personal health information without consent if the individual is missing, or reasonably believed to be missing, to the police for the purpose of assistance in locating the individual.

We have legislation that deals with missing people already in our privacy legislation.

She goes on to say: "Based on the foregoing..." — the analysis that she set out in her submission and not having seen the legislation, which is why I think it would be helpful for all of us to have this officer of the Legislative Assembly give expert witness. This is the Information and Privacy Commissioner: "Based on the foregoing, the only gap, in my view, between the objects of the proposed missing persons legislation and the current privacy laws governing public bodies and custodians is that disclosure in the foregoing circumstances is discretionary. This means that a public body or custodian can decide not to disclose..." that information "... that is reasonably necessary to locate the missing person. Given this, the gap to fill with the missing persons legislation is a provision that requires the public body or custodian to disclose the..." personal health information to the RCMP and make sure that — "... after the RCMP meets the thresholds for disclosure under the ATIPP Act and HIPMA."

Rather than a whole new piece of legislation, I guess the questions I will be looking for an answer to from the minister is: Do we need new legislation or do we need amendment to the existing four pieces of legislation to give effect to that?

I raise that, Mr. Speaker, because I think, as we go through this in detail, it is important to not confuse the legislative field out there, and we have people who are going to be charged with responsibility for ensuring they comply with this. Now we have five pieces of legislation that may or may not have aspects of missing persons coverage. Certainly we want to ensure that we're not creating or responding with what we think is going to work simply because it has been done elsewhere.

I do respect the minister's comments regarding balance and that is why I raised the issues identified by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, but I am forced to say

that I have experienced in this Legislative Assembly past instances where legislation was proposed that appeared to address concerns that the RCMP, in particular, had raised and there were also — this goes to the balance issue that the minister had referred to — related to activities that were not directly related or attributable to a criminal activity and where the reasonable grounds provision was also used and consistency language. I am referring to the civil forfeiture legislation.

In that case, Yukon was quick to jump on the bandwagon that was going across Canada that said that if somebody thought there was a reasonable idea or notion that there might be benefits flowing to somebody from activities that were criminal, then there could be a civil forfeiture — a taking of their assets — and then you have to prove after the fact. We saw the consequences of that were that many innocent people were caught up in actions and in loss of real property that had nothing to do with criminal activity.

At the outset, I said I had some cautions. The minister and the Member for Lake Laberge noted that Alberta has had this legislation in place since 2011 or 2012. I am also of the understanding that Alberta has commenced a review of this legislation with respect to the human rights and the privacy issues that are associated with this. I do know that there have been issues raised in Nova Scotia and elsewhere with respect to some of the privacy and the far-reaching implications of the legislation.

I'm torn, and I think all of us as members are. We want to be able to ensure that the tools are there to find that vulnerable missing person.

I don't want to be part of a system that says to the RCMP that they have access beyond what is reasonable and necessary to achieve that job. If there are tools already, then I want this Legislative Assembly to take the time necessary to analyze those and see whether or not there are gaps.

**Hon. Ms. Dendys:** I rise today to speak in favour of Bill No. 13, *Missing Persons Act*. Thank you to the Minister of Justice and the members for Lake Laberge and Whitehorse Centre for their comments. Thank you to the Minister of Justice for bringing this forward.

Our country is in the midst of a long-overdue look at the systemic causes of the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Canada. I too want to acknowledge that this is a result of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action and how very important they are. I hear the comments from the Member for Whitehorse Centre, and I'm sure the Minister of Justice will address those.

I like the fact that we are going to have an act that is fully dedicated to the issue of missing persons, whether they're women or all genders. It's an important move on behalf of our government and our Minister of Justice will address the direct concerns that you have.

The fact that we now have a national inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and the stories we heard from our families this spring here in

Yukon have shown us that, more than anything, when an indigenous woman goes missing, we cannot delay; we cannot turn away; we cannot hesitate; we must act. There is a difference between missing and murdered. This is our opportunity to do all we can to ensure the former does not turn into the latter.

This legislation gives us important new tools to act, and to act quickly. Addressing limitations in the RCMP's ability to investigate cases of missing persons allows for earlier interventions for those who are at risk of violence. Obtaining a search warrant and seeking important records that might help find missing persons are important steps in locating vulnerable and at-risk persons more quickly. It also brings Yukon in line with other Canadian jurisdictions and helps investigate missing persons across provincial and territorial borders.

In my former work, I have faced many situations like this where there have been incredible limitations and frustration felt at the community level when we knew that someone was missing and we didn't have immediate action. When someone loses touch with those they have regular contact with, and when those people have good reason to believe that the safety and welfare of that person is at risk, time is of the essence.

We also know, particularly when it comes to women and girls who are survivors of violence, that there are those who go missing who do not want to be found. There are people who have a very good reason to leave situations where they are subjected to violence or abuse. These are missing people who do not want to be found and their rights must also be respected. For this reason, I'm glad the legislation has found balance in its approach to protect the privacy of those who most need it. Provisions in the act require consent from the missing person before the RCMP can inform others that they've been found. This is an approach that respects the individual's rights to their own privacy and self-determination.

Furthermore, the RCMP cannot share personal information for any reason unrelated to the search, nor can they use information gained during a search for any other reason than finding the missing person. It is important that neither families nor vulnerable people face unintended consequences of initiating a search. The important thing is ensuring safety.

As Minister for the Women's Directorate, and as a member of this community, I know the need we have for safety, for support and for attention to indigenous women, especially when their families and loved ones report them missing. Given all this, I proudly support the bill and the increased safety it offers by allowing immediate and proactive interventions to help locate those who are missing and those who are at risk. Again, I thank the Minister of Justice for bringing this forward and I look forward to further debate and to hearing the various opinions on both sides of this House. Thank you.

**Speaker:** If the member now speaks, she will close debate.

Does any other member wish to be heard on the debate on second reading?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate very much the comments from the Member for Lake Laberge and from the Leader of the Third Party. I hope I can address some of the concerns noted by the Leader of the Third Party today and I will certainly be able to address all of the important points she has raised here today during the debate that will take place. Some I can address today.

I too came to this piece of legislation — this bill — with a lot of questions. Certainly I have a privacy background as well, which made me question how we would come to this place and what the protections needed to be in order to have the bill be as balanced as possible.

I also come with a background of prosecuting criminal cases so I have some general and specific knowledge about the kinds of barriers that exist in investigating these kinds of cases and what the RCMP here in the territory is often up against.

I thank the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate for her poignant comments as well because they are related to real people and they are related to their real concerns on the ground when a person does go missing. I appreciate the caution from the Leader of the Third Party, and I do appreciate the comment with respect to the fact that there are already pieces of legislation that deal with privacy.

A side bar — a consequence, a necessary protection built into this piece of legislation is in fact privacy, but it's not about privacy protection. It is not another piece of privacy protection legislation. It is a tool to allow the RCMP to access certain kinds of information with court-sanctioned review and court-sanctioned oversight in order to carry out their jobs in certain circumstances. I will make sure that in the future debate with respect to this matter, we can address all of the Privacy Commissioner's concerns. It is my view, and I have said so earlier today, that they have been addressed, but we will be quite specific about that.

The difference between this piece of legislation and what is currently available — perhaps under HIPMA or under ATIPP, as noted by the Leader of the Third Party — is in fact that the RCMP will have oversight in these circumstances. They will have a court order that will permit them to access this kind of information. Prior to this piece of legislation being in place, there is the concept of the missing person's health information possibly being available under HIPMA. I have not been able to confirm, but I will, whether or not there is a definition of "missing persons" in the HIPMA, and there may well not be. Obviously it is critical in this situation that the definition of missing persons is adhered to.

The difficulty with HIPMA and ATIPP, which I can go into in more detail during later questions — for the information of this House, they are applicable to public bodies. Much of the information that the RCMP will be seeking in these kinds of cases will not be held by public bodies. It might be a telephone company, a bank or another

organization. When was my bank card or credit card last used? That is not information that is held in the custody of a public body, and ATIPP does not currently in the territory apply to those kinds of private businesses, just as an example. HIPMA of course only applies to health information or information that is held by health custodians, so that is specific to that. I appreciate the comments about it being effective for missing or reasonably believed to be missing individuals, but again, if the threshold of the definition of a missing person is not there — I will confirm.

I also note and appreciate the comment from the Privacy Commissioner about disclosure being discretionary under ATIPP. Again, it is narrowed by the fact that it is a public body only, for which it is effective, but disclosure being discretionary is not something we can deal with in the urgency of these kinds of situations. Under ATIPP, for the most part, and under HIPMA and other pieces of privacy legislation, there is not the safeguard of court oversight that is built into this particular piece of legislation.

The other pieces of legislation — again, I'm happy to come back and answer more fully — are about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information and about how a public body needs to protect your personal information. Certainly, there is a provision in ATIPP about access during a court matter or in an investigation by police, but it wouldn't be specific to the situation we're talking about here.

I guess one step back that might be helpful is to indicate that the piece about criminal activity or suspected criminal activity allows the RCMP to come in under the *Criminal Code* provisions for applications for search warrants or for information. In the absence of the concept of criminal activity or alleged criminal activity, there is no provision for the RCMP to go to a bank and say, "Can you tell me when this person's bank card was used last? Have they been using their credit card? Where has it been used?" or go to a phone company and see if there has been activity on a cellphone. There is simply no provision to do it.

So in closing, I'll just summarize by, I think, reiterating — and hopefully I've addressed some of the issues that were raised and will have an opportunity to do it more — but in this case, the person must be a missing person by definition of the act. The act is quite specific. They have to be missing from their normal routine. They have to be suspected missing. That's a threshold or a hurdle that the court is going to be looking at. Don't come here and just ask me to look for someone's records. Tell me how they are missing persons. Convince me that they're a missing person by definition of this piece of legislation and give me evidence to support that.

The RCMP must seek court approval to obtain the information that they think will help them locate that missing person. They can obtain only specifically authorized information. So if a court order is granted, they can go to the bank or go to the phone company — the two examples I have used — and obtain only what has specifically been authorized. They can use it — and this is important — only for the purpose of locating the missing person or — and it's said another way — they can use it only for the purpose of the

reason for which they are collecting it. That is completely consistent with privacy and access legislation across the country and across the world. You can't over-collect. You can't go on a fishing expedition. As I've said earlier, they can use it only for the purposes of locating that missing person.

The records and information can only be kept for the period of time that's necessary for the investigation. If the person remains missing, that might be some period of time, but if the person is located, there will be limits and that information will need to be properly destroyed.

I appreciate the opportunity to present that to you, Mr. Speaker, and to this House generally. I very much appreciate the comments that were brought forward. I am pleased to complete my remarks with respect to second reading on the *Missing Persons Act*.

*Motion for second reading of Bill No. 13 agreed to*

**Speaker:** Are there further government bills?

### **Bill No. 11: Act to Amend the Health Act (2017) — Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 11, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Frost.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, be now read a second time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I move that Bill No. 11 be read a second time. These amendments will serve the purpose of dissolving the Health and Social Services Council. The government recognizes and appreciates the efforts and contributions of current and past members of the Health and Social Services Council. As you know, the Health and Social Services Council was established nearly three decades ago to provide an open process for the review of health, social and justice issues. Since then, the council and its members have provided a valuable service to government in forming many departmental initiatives.

Today our government has ways and means to engage with Yukoners that did not exist when the council was established. The Internet and other new technologies enable input to be solicited directly from citizens using online surveys and social media. In addition to these technologies, our government has demonstrated an increased commitment to public consultation, regularly engaging with a diverse range of Yukoners through community visits and targeted consultations with First Nation governments and stakeholder groups.

The FASD inter-agency advisory committee is an example of an active group made up of government and non-government service providers, along with caregivers and individuals with FASD, working together toward the development of a strategic plan for FASD in Yukon.

The inter-related and complex nature of many health and social issues, such as FASD, require a one-government approach to ensure that our programs and services are delivered in a seamless manner to improve the lives of Yukoners. As for section 37 of the *Health Act*, the minister will still have the authority to establish issue-specific committees to act in an advisory, investigative or administrative capacity. One example of a committee established under this section of the act is the advisory committee on nursing, which is in the process of being reinvigorated to take a more strategic role.

As a government, we are committed to being open and transparent when making decisions, balancing the needs of society and serving the broad public interest. The decision to dissolve the council was made in the interest of respecting the resources of both the government and the public, while maintaining a firm commitment to be inclusive in our public responsibilities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate this government's commitment to maintaining a people-centred approach to involving Yukoners in the conversations that help shape government decision-making.

**Ms. McLeod:** I want to offer my thanks to the officials for the briefing on this *Health Act* amendment. I'm going to be very brief today, and I have only a few comments to make in regard to this amendment.

First, Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing is the dismantling of yet another territorial advisory board. Not so long ago, we saw the dismissal of the Yukon Housing Corporation board and yes, I know the minister thought that all the members' terms had expired, but that was not so.

This board — the Health and Social Services Council — is made up of Yukoners who are able to advise the government according to their mandate. If this board wasn't working for the government in the manner they desired, I wonder why the terms of reference were not the first matter looked at by this minister. The idea seems to be to get rid of the current board and then appoint a committee to deal with matters on an ad hoc basis. This doesn't seem very efficient and I believe it's unfair to those Yukoners who take the time to put their names forward and then put in the time to advise government. I, for one, absolutely appreciate the time and effort that rural Yukoners used to put in to these boards and committees, providing a rural Yukon perspective.

Now we're assured by the government that this government will appoint these new committees using the same selection process as any other board or committee, but it doesn't seem that these committees will come before the all-party committee on appointments to major boards and committees. Because these committees will not go through this process, I'm concerned that interested Yukoners will not have opportunities unless the minister hand-picks them, and this is a disservice to all Yukoners. So perhaps the minister in her closing comments can assure Yukoners that this will not be the case because quite frankly, soliciting opinions from Yukoners solely by use of the Internet is somewhat lacking.

**Ms. Hanson:** I rise to say how disappointed I am to see this one selective excising of an important aspect of Yukon's *Health Act* — excising the concept of the Health and Social Services Council. It's a continuation of the actions of the previous government, which, in reviewing the *Environment Act*, similarly chose to not — thank God — remove the establishment or the potential for the establishment of the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment. I note that the previous Governor General of Canada, David Johnston, when he came here and spoke to this Legislative Assembly, spoke to the fact of — as being part of the Canadian council on the economy and the environment — how impressed and how proud he was to have been at the inaugural meeting of that council in Haines Junction because Yukon was one of the leaders in establishing the idea that the economy and the environment develop together. The previous government chose not to take that advice — not to allow that council to have a voice — to not have the representative voices of Yukoners.

The Health and Social Services Council over the life of the previous government was effectively ignored. The ministers, rarely, if ever, met with it. It's a disappointment for many reasons. If ministers prior or ministers current had looked at previous reports — for example, the 2014-15 report of that council — the extensive amount of work that has taken place over the last year perhaps on recognizing and maybe potentially addressing mental health issues might have been accelerated because the dedicated work of that council identified and gave recommendations to government. They were ignored.

There were 11 objectives that were set out in the legislation and, yes, it was three decades ago and, yes, we're almost three decades on with land claims agreements too, but that doesn't mean you dismiss them or decide to change. Sometimes there is validity in having public consultation and public input that's not directed by government and is not selected.

One of the objectives of the Health and Social Services Council was to encourage the development of programs by communities, government and non-government agencies and aboriginal organizations to provide innovative, integrated and effective ways of addressing social needs. Yes, you can gather some of that information through the Internet by targeted surveys, by online social media means, but one of the key values of giving life and maintaining the life support system for the Health and Social Services Council was that these members — many of whom have backgrounds in the broad fields of health and social services and justice from communities across the Yukon — put their time and energy into studying and causing the study of these issues and often futilely making recommendations to a government that did not want to listen. They had independence though and that is their value.

Yukoners are an independent lot. Yukoners prefer, in my experience, to have independent voices heard, as opposed to being directed. Yes, it's important every once in awhile to

have specific committees set up. Nothing precludes the minister in the current legislation — as she pointed out — from using the provisions of section 37 to do so. But sometimes there is a value to having an overarching view of what's going on in the environment. It's called an environmental scan and if nothing else, that independent environmental scan should be considered by this minister as an asset — an asset to the work that she is trying to achieve on behalf of this government and that this government ostensibly is trying to achieve on behalf of the people of this territory.

We are disappointed that this is the beginning of the selected kinds of targets — pretty small potatoes in terms of financial savings for the territory — but a very big message in terms of not being really interested in listening to the ordinary voices of ordinary Yukoners across the territory who have something to offer. It's a sad commentary, but that appears to be the direction we're taking. I am disappointed.

**Ms. White:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. I am speaking today to the amendments to the *Health Act* and I am going to echo the voice of my colleague here in a lot of ways. There are so many things within the *Health Act* that could be addressed — for example, transgender polices — making sure that health is accessible for trans people. That would be a great thing to look at if we were going to open up the act and make some meaningful changes.

The Health and Social Services Council — it's interesting because we met with different members over the course of our previous mandate. My first introduction was probably closer to 2012. I think the phenomenal thing about this organization is that it had diverse representation. I think that the thing that was most important is that this wasn't directed by government — what the council did wasn't directed by the minister, it wasn't directed by a political mandate. It was actually chosen and directed by the people on this council.

The mission statement I think is of value so I'm just going to read the mission statement — everyone take a look online, it's not very long, so I shouldn't have to table it: “The Council will take an active role in assisting all people of the Yukon in their efforts to achieve individual and community well-being: by providing an open process for review of social policy and concerns in the areas of health, justice and social services; and by promoting cooperation and coordination between and among community groups and all levels of government.”

“The Council will function as an independent advisory group, making recommendations to the Minister. Members do not represent any specific group or agenda but are selected from throughout the Yukon to represent the voice of all Yukon residents.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the council, in the time since they were created in 1990, did some pretty phenomenal things. They did an overview of mental health services in the territory at one point. They looked at different departments or different programs and whether or not they were being effective, and they did make recommendations to ministers.

We reached out when this was tabled and we got the briefing. I think it's of value to say that the council reached out to the minister to have a conversation. They tried multiple times and the existing council never had that opportunity. To be informed in a letter that your services were no longer required with never having a conversation about what you felt your role was, the importance, whether or not you thought it could be replaced by electronic solicitation — I don't think that's really fair. There is one thing I really care about and that's actually fairness.

The other part that — I mean I felt like the briefing was a bit different from the Member for Watson Lake. I didn't get quite the same take on it. There is an importance which is that although the minister will have the ability to strike committees, that doesn't mean that there is a guarantee. That selection process hasn't been laid out and there was a conversation about that yesterday. The point being is that this was an organization that was there and they did good work. They did. If we look at what the record was between 1990 and the day before yesterday, the work was predominantly good. It's not to say, like any organization or any group of people, there weren't things to trip on along the way because there definitely was and they will tell you that. But what they will tell you is that their one intention was the people of the Yukon and how to make things better and how to make things more effective.

They had the ability to bridge different government departments. They had the ability to reach out NGOs and to other service providers to figure out if that was all working. To be perfectly honest, I'm not so sure that someone within the department will have that same ability and that same reach. NGOs are tied to funding and funding comes from government. How honest can you be when you get asked those questions if the answer you are going to give isn't the one that you know someone wants to hear.

There was a lot of opportunity, I think, when we decided to open up the *Health Act*. I feel like this was maybe not what any of us expected or any of us hoped to see. When we were sitting around trying to figure out what the *Health Act* — when we were told the *Health Act* was going to be opened up, I can tell you that this was not on our radar. We were looking hopefully to what grand statements the government could make because there were promises of health care in the platform. We were looking more in a hopeful fashion.

When this was tabled and we gave it a quick read and understood that it was the council that was going to be disbanded, to say that there was disappointment on our side is an understatement. We have since spoken to members of the council, and I think it is probably fair to say that they are not just disappointed, they are actually quite heartbroken. They felt that the work that they did had value, and when they reached out to the minister to have a conversation, it just never happened.

We have questions for Committee of the Whole. We have lots of questions. Like my colleague said, at least when the *Environment Act* was opened up by the previous government, we changed the language from “must” to “may”. That was

disappointing, but it wasn't entirely removed. This government has gone farther, because instead of changing the language that says "it must be in place" to "it may be in place", we have just gotten rid of it all together, and that is disappointing.

**Deputy Speaker:** If the member now speaks, she will close debate.

Does any other member wish to be heard?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I definitely appreciate the comments from the Official Opposition, from the Member for Takhini-Kopper King and from the Leader of the Third Party.

I want to clarify some of the comments with respect to the housing board. It has nothing to do with this process. The Yukon Party lined up all of the appointments to expire at the same time, and it is not our fault. It's not the Liberals' fault.

I will also mention that, with respect to the Yukon Medical Council, they resigned because of the previous party in 2013.

With regard to this current Health and Social Services Council, there are currently five of 13 seats filled. They have had a very difficult time filling and occupying those seats.

Some other notes there — there is certainly no doubt that the committee provided necessary, relevant and very important feedback to the government in the historical past, but we are 27 years into the future. In those 27 years, times have changed and dynamics have changed. We have settled First Nations, we have treaty agreements in the Yukon, and the reflection and the integration in terms of consultation and engagement is very much different today than it was 26 years ago.

The comments with respect to me not meeting with the board, I met with the chairperson. He came into my office and offered to resign his seat. I did sit down and speak with him, so I want that to be noted — that we did have a conversation.

Following through on the relevance of the Health and Social Services Council, the last time they did consultation and engagement was in 2014.

At this point in time, what we're looking at doing is not attempting to solicit, as expressed by the Member for Watson Lake, comments via Internet. That's not what we're intending to do. We're looking at open dialogue, consultation and engagement that are collaboration and cooperation with the necessary partners in our communities. Most certainly everyone has a voice in the health and well-being of our communities. We've demonstrated that through a lot of really good work already.

I provided many notes to the Member for Watson Lake, defining and expressing exactly what we're doing for the community, sitting down and having a town hall meeting for the first time, as I understand it, in many years to engage with community members. We had 100 people out at that meeting. They were very expressive with regard to what they would like to see.

We've gone out to other communities; we are reaching out far and wide to look at seeking public input, encouraging

participation in the development of programs and services. We are wanting to hear the voice of Yukoners, and designing and implementing the mental wellness strategy is one good component of that. It's one good demonstration that there's some implementation around. The housing action plan is another demonstration of looking at integration and cooperation with our partners.

The overview of the Health and Social Services Council over the course of the last five years has demonstrated that the results were not what was required or what was needed. We needed to take a broader look and a broader review to process health, social and justice issues in the Yukon.

With five members on the board, that's not sufficient. We need to go out beyond that. In closing, that's what I would like to conclude with — that the board has been in existence for 26 years and we've evolved in 26 years with modern technologies and different means and ways in which to engage with our communities.

*Motion for second reading of Bill No. 11 agreed to*

### **Bill No. 7: Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017) — Second Reading**

**Clerk:** Second reading, Bill No. 7, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Streicker.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I move that Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, be now read a second time.

**Deputy Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Community Services that Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, be now read a second time.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I'm pleased to introduce Bill No. 7, *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*.

I would like to take a few moments to address some of the history that has led to the tabling of this bill. For many years, the Yukon has had a very successful supplementary health program called the children's dental program. This service is targeted at ensuring that all Yukon children in all communities, wherever they live, have access to good, basic oral health care. The Yukon children's dental program has been in operation for over 40 years. It is available from kindergarten to grade 8 in Whitehorse and to children from kindergarten to grade 12 in rural Yukon. Every year this program provides an important service to over 3,000 children throughout the Yukon. Program staff visit each community at least once yearly, and twice when circumstances allow.

Historically, most of the dental care supplied under this program was delivered by dental therapists. These dental professionals are equipped to provide a broad range of services including — at the direction of a dentist — filling cavities and simple tooth extractions. Dental therapists can also, prior to examination by a dentist, clean and polish teeth, instruct on oral hygiene, conduct clinical examinations, take and interpret X-rays, and diagnose cavities and abscesses.

However, the only Canadian training facility for dental therapists closed in 2011, so the availability of these professionals is rapidly shrinking and the number employed

by the government has dropped from nine to two in recent years. We are fortunate in that dental hygienists are available here in the Yukon, appropriately trained and well able to perform many — although not all — procedures that were historically carried out by dental therapists in the children's dental program.

The challenge is that, under our existing legislation — *Dental Profession Act* — dental hygienists' scope of practice does not include providing any dental care to children — even cleaning and polishing — until the children are first examined by a dentist, who must authorize specific treatments. This is counter to the program of preventive and therapeutic care that has been historically provided by dental therapists.

It is an unreasonable restriction, given that dental hygienists are well-trained and qualified to provide significant care prior to examination by a dentist. While we identified this specific issue as requiring correction in the legislation, and it is the primary reason for this bill being tabled, we did reach out to Yukon's dental professionals and to the general public for their input on the proposed changes.

I am happy to report that the response to the consultation was positive, with the most common comment being that we should be looking at even more utilization of dental hygienists' skills. Indeed, the *Dental Profession Act*, like much of our legislation, would benefit from a comprehensive overhaul, but that initiative will have to be addressed at a later date. Our primary concern with this bill was to ensure the viability of the children's dental program. That said, we have taken the opportunity to update the recordkeeping provisions of the act.

These changes will ensure that we have a permanent record of the registration and licensing history of all dental professionals in the Yukon. Under the old legislation, a regulated professional was either registered or they were not. This very simple distinction meant that a person could be struck or removed from our register of dental professionals, meaning that the person's history with the profession, whether good or bad, would disappear. It would be unavailable, for example, if another jurisdiction in which the individual sought to be licensed made inquiries as to their status here.

With these amendments, once registered, the professional's record with the regulator will become permanent, regardless of whether the professional remains licensed or even remains in Yukon. This change is consistent with professional registers across the country and helps to ensure that Yukon is able to respond to inquiries regarding the history of a dental professional in a complete and timely fashion.

We have also done some reorganization of the act to make it easier for regulated professionals to use and we have modernized its language where appropriate.

Finally, these amendments have necessitated, for reasons of consistency of language, one small, consequential change to the *Denturists Act*. With the changes contained in this bill, along with further changes that will be made to regulations, dental hygienists will be able to provide specific services prior to a patient's examination by a dentist. These include: (1)

taking X-rays; (2) applying anti-cavity treatments; (3) cleaning, scaling and polishing patients' teeth; and (4) instructing and demonstrating oral hygiene techniques to patients. Additionally, after a dentist has examined a patient and created a treatment plan, and if they have the necessary endorsement, dental hygienists will be allowed to administer local anesthetic to a patient and carry out such procedures as set out in regulations.

This bill shows that our government continues to work hard to provide Yukoners, and especially our kids, with access to the best possible health care, in this case by ensuring that dental hygienists are able to fully utilize their professional training and qualifications. Their expanded scope of practice will be of potential benefit to all Yukoners, and particularly our kids who receive dental care from Yukon's children dental program.

The changes contained in this bill, along with the changes planned for the regulations, will contribute to the government's priority to ensure that our strategic investments build healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities: first, by ensuring that Yukon schools have the necessary human resources to facilitate the availability of good, basic dental health care for children via the children's dental program; and, second, by removing legislative barriers that prevent dental hygienists from utilizing the full range of their education and experience.

This bill represents our government's continuing efforts to provide Yukoners with access to the best possible health care. While I have spoken mostly about dental professions other than dentists, I do want to also recognize the role of dentists. I want to take a moment to extend our continued thanks to Yukon dentists who have helped and continue to provide services and support on an ongoing basis to ensure that our children's dental program remains a valuable part of Yukon's health care structure.

I would like to thank staff in the departments of Community Services and Justice who have worked on a very short timeline to deliver this important bill, and I look forward to responding to questions and comments that may arise.

**Mr. Kent:** I would like to thank the minister for his second reading speech. I would also like to thank the officials from Community Services, as well as the Justice official, who provided the briefing on this act to members of the Official Opposition, as well as the Third Party, yesterday morning.

We too agree with the importance of the children's dental program. These amendments that we'll be discussing here today during second reading and, presumably, into Committee of the Whole a little later on this afternoon, facilitate dental hygienists doing some of the work that previously dental therapists did.

Some of the questions that I have for the minister — perhaps he can answer them in his closing at second reading or once we get into Committee. There are essentially three or four questions that I would like to explore with the minister.

I again thank the officials for pointing me to the consultation summary that was on the Community Services



website. The minister can clarify perhaps — and I apologize if he mentioned this in his speech and I missed it — but there were 13 responses received: four from dentists and nine dental hygienists, which fell into four themes. It does say in the consultation that the public was also engaged, so I'm not sure if there were any responses from the public — if the minister can clarify that again in his closing speech, or perhaps he would like to do so when we get into Committee of the Whole and he has officials with him. That would be interesting for me.

I note that, in the news release, the consultations started in mid-to-late May and closed in late June. If there was only this limited response — and again, I recognize that obviously those professionals have a vested interest and would provide their responses. The document that is on the website spells out the themes, but we won't get into those responses. The minister mentioned them in his speech. I am just curious as to why the public didn't engage more fully on this. Obviously this is a program that is important to many parents, especially those who don't have dental plans for their families.

The minister mentioned that the program is available for kindergarten to grade 8 in Whitehorse area schools and kindergarten to grade 12 in community schools. One would have hoped that the parents of those children would have been more engaged. I would be curious as to whether or not there were forms that were sent home with the students with the consultation questions that were included here and whether school councils were engaged as well. Obviously they are an extremely important part of the school community. I would be interested in hearing from the minister or other members or ministers on that side to speak to this as well. If there is some clarity that they can provide around that, that would be great. That is one of the things that has me concerned — whether or not the department has done any evaluation as to why the public comment was so low, or if indeed there wasn't any. I will wait for the minister to respond on that as well.

The minister mentioned that these were necessary for the children's dental program but that the act will require a more fulsome review. If he can perhaps update the House — if that is something that is in the legislative plan or legislative calendar for the government. If so, where does it lie within the next three or four years of the mandate? That would be helpful for us to know as well. Hopefully, there are more individuals from the public who will get engaged.

This is more a program question that I will have for the minister — the discrepancy between Whitehorse schools kindergarten to grade 8 and community schools kindergarten to grade 12 having access to this program. Obviously, the children in the Whitehorse area schools have the same issues as children in the community schools, other than perhaps the access to dentists on a regular basis. But again, those families without a plan could be facing significant dentist bills for their kids in the Whitehorse area. I am curious as to whether there is program review planned and if there has been any cost analysis done for expanding the program in the Whitehorse area and those types of things as well.

We are obviously going to be supporting these amendments to the *Dental Profession Act*. I don't have any more questions or comments at this point, but perhaps some will emerge as we get into Committee of the Whole.

I thank the minister for bringing this forward and thank the government for supporting this important program for Yukon students and Yukon families.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for bringing these amendments forward. The briefing yesterday was great. It's nice to go into a briefing where you're happy with the changes and you don't have so many hard questions to ask.

The Yukon children's dental program is obviously critical, and making these changes to allow it to continue on is really important. I was lucky — I guess in some cases lucky and, in other cases, not lucky — to go to the dentist this morning. I got to have a conversation with the tools in my mouth about — did you hear that these changes had come forward? It was my understanding that the department actually contacted dental hygienists, dentists and those practising in the dental field in the territory, and that outreach was given for them to respond and they really appreciated that.

Part of the conversation that I had was the idea now that dental hygienists will be able to practise to the full scope of their abilities. It sounds very similar to nurse practitioners, actually — as opposed to being limited, it will be opened up. The one comment this morning was that, "Wow, that means that I could, for example, set up in Watson Lake and we could have a dentist who would visit the community on a monthly basis, or something, but I could clean teeth in Watson Lake." I was like, "You could." It was very exciting. To have a dental hygienist who would be happy to move to a community or go back to a home community is a positive thing.

Maybe there's an opportunity here for Yukon College. Knowing that there's no dental therapist program offered in Canada anymore, maybe we could have that program offered in the north. Wouldn't that be fantastic? I'm just putting the plug in there for Yukon College, if they're listening.

Mr. Speaker, we'll have some really basic questions when the officials are in the House, but predominantly it's that we're happy to see the changes — anything to facilitate this service for kids in communities. The Member for Copperbelt South had some good questions there that we also look forward to hearing the answers to. We thank the government for these changes and look forward to the conversation in Committee of the Whole.

**Mr. Gallina:** Thank you to the minister for bringing this bill forward. I'm speaking to this bill today for a variety of reasons. The first is that, during the 2016 election campaign, I knocked on the door of a constituent who invited both me and my canvasser into her home for a frank discussion. We listened to this bright, energetic Yukoner who works as a dental therapist within the Yukon government.

She discussed valid and ongoing frustrations she experiences in providing dental services to Yukon children. This constituent's frustration resonated with me, as she spoke

of her routine visits to communities outside of Whitehorse where she treats children who are experiencing ongoing oral health issues ranging from minimal discomfort to severe pain.

As she relayed her anguish and helplessness with having to leave children in communities without the most basic of dental treatment due to the restrictions on her practice under the current act, restrictions that are directly attributable to the outdated *Dental Profession Act* — the very act that governs her practice.

After listening to this constituent, I reflected on her journey to becoming a dental professional. I thought about how she had joined the dental profession for all the right reasons. I thought about her commitment to attending school to master the theories behind and the practices needed to provide both proactive and reactive treatment to dental patients. However, despite the constituent's best intentions and most diligent of efforts, she regularly finds herself restricted in her role and unable to meet the need of her patients. I definitely thought about how, despite these challenges, she continues to work and contribute to her chosen profession for the betterment of Yukoners.

As the Minister of Community Services stated in his second reading speech to the House just now, these amendments bring the Yukon's dental profession legislation in line with that of other Canadian jurisdictions and standards. As a government, we cannot hope to recruit to or retain dental professionals in our beautiful territory without current, applicable and relevant legislation to back up their practice.

Furthermore, the proposed amendments will improve dental services in Yukon by allowing dental hygienists to practise more of the oral care procedures they are trained to provide. This will ensure that they are able to make full use of their training and qualifications to provide more services.

Another reason for my interest in speaking to Bill No. 7 is that, on a personal level and specifically as a father, I too am concerned about the impact that the current *Dental Profession Act* legislation has on the services provided to our children. To reiterate here today, one of the purposes of Bill No. 7 is to expand the scope of practice for dental hygienists in Yukon as it relates specifically to providing dental care to children in Yukon schools who are treated under the Yukon children's dental program.

Expanding the scope of practice for the territory's dental hygienists means that they will be able to perform additional services in dental offices and in schools as part of the vital preschool and school-based public dental health program for children in both urban and rural Yukon communities. Proper dental care delivered without delay is important to the overall health of our children. All Yukon children deserve good dental care. Yukon families who do not have regular access to a dentist rely on the Yukon children's dental program in schools for their children's dental care, and it falls on this government to ensure that these vulnerable patients are treated in a way that is effective, efficient and timely.

For those of us who have had the misfortune of having a toothache or other dental pain, we know that this is an experience one doesn't quickly forget. We can all agree that

timely access to dental services is vital to managing even the simplest of tasks while in the throes of dental pain. Keeping this in mind for a moment, just imagine being told that you'll have to wait for an undefined amount of time to have this pain alleviated, knowing that you will still have to continue on with everyday activities while dealing with this untreated, unresolved pain. In some instances, this is commonplace and very concerning.

As mentioned by the minister as well, the kinds of dental service delivery that will be addressed by this updated legislation are services that many of us now take for granted — proactive services that include education around oral hygiene and techniques, as well as preventive treatment services like X-rays, anti-cavity treatments, cleaning, scaling and polishing. At best, Yukon citizens should have the assurance of both proactive and reactive treatment while, in reality, a number of Yukoners are only receiving reactive dental treatment while they are in the acute stages of discomfort and pain.

This experience may have lasting consequences, such as negative perceptions of, and interactions with, dental professionals, the degeneration and/or loss of temporary or permanent teeth, and an overall decline in oral health. The proposed amendments provide a local solution to a local problem by ensuring the continuation of dental care for one of our most vulnerable populations — our children.

I would like to conclude by coming full circle from where I began speaking today. When we contacted our Porter Creek Centre constituent to inform her of Bill No. 7, *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, she was both surprised and relieved to hear about the action our government is taking to address gaps in the legislation that governs her professional practice, and she relayed her appreciation for the consultation that the Yukon government undertook with her and her colleagues earlier this year.

This conversation reinforced for me the importance of government listening to constituents' concerns because, as in this case, it resulted in a constituent's profession being respected and validated. This constituent is inspired to continue working in the field of her choice, where she continues to demonstrate commitment to the well-being of Yukon citizens, which is a wise investment.

I would like to thank the public and the dental professionals for their feedback and the public servants for their hard work on this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Danch'ea. Good afternoon everyone. As Minister of Education, I am very pleased to speak on the positive impact that the amendments to the *Dental Profession Act* will have for children in Yukon schools.

Through the Yukon children's dental program, preschool and school-age children receive diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services. The costs of the services provided through this program are covered by Yukon Health and Social

Services, so there is no cost to any parent, guardian or grandparent.

The services include dental exams, diagnostic X-rays, oral hygiene instruction, cleaning and scaling of teeth, and fluoride application. We've heard that already. I repeat it here on the basis specifically with respect to students and how important these amendments are.

As there are no resident dentists in rural Yukon, this program provides very important dental care to young people in the rural communities. Under the current act, dentists and dental therapists can provide these services. The amendments will allow dental hygienists to expand the scope of services that they provide specifically to school children. The continued access to these dental services both in urban and rural communities is essential to the well-being of all of Yukon's children.

Through this program, they learn about dental hygiene. Dental hygiene helps our students learn about self-care and that, in turn, helps them make healthy lifestyle choices. Dental health can have an impact on mental and physical health too. Good dental health can help a child's self-esteem and bad dental health can lead to pulled teeth, dentures and gum disease. None of us like going to the dentist, but children who learn good habits early become good dental patients later on.

By working together to provide these dental services in Yukon schools, we are offering integrated programs directly to those who need it where they need it — in their communities, near their homes and in a space that is accessible and familiar to them. Of course that alleviates some of the stress many of us have in going to the dentist, or at least we hope it alleviates that stress.

Investing in the health of our young people helps improve our educational outcomes and our quality of life. It is a significant program built into schools for the benefit of school children to help build healthy communities and contribute to the building of healthy communities. Ultimately, the amendments that have been introduced today to the *Dental Profession Act* ensure that we will be able to continue providing these essential services to Yukon children who might not otherwise receive good dental care. I urge our colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to support — once they have their questions answered and the debate continues — the amendments to the *Dental Profession Act*.

**Speaker:** If the member now speaks, he will close debate.

Does any other member wish to be heard?

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I would like to thank all of the members who have spoken here today on this act. I am sensing that there are some questions that would like to be posed, but generally I am also sensing that, overall, there is support for seeing these changes come through. All of the speakers have noted that this is important for our kids, for our communities and for the health and well-being of all Yukoners.

Just speaking for a moment regarding the Member for Copperbelt South's questions, I will get some specifics from officials as we move into Committee of the Whole. I will add just one anecdote. I noted that when we reached out to talk to the public and the professionals and when I reviewed the responses and took a look at them, they were all quite supportive. So even though there might have been an opportunity for more Yukoners to respond — schools or otherwise — we didn't hear any negative comments that raised flags for us to try to go and seek further information. I will try to get the specific answers during Committee of the Whole.

It is always interesting to me to hear when some public comment is low. I note, for example, the cannabis survey had over 3,000 respondents and so that tells us at the very least that Yukoners engage when they are concerned and maybe less so when they feel that something is moving in the right direction. It is not for me to say, but I think it is for us to reach out and try to approach the public to provide all opportunities for them to give us a response.

I appreciated the story that the Member for Takhini-Kopper King brought forward. The timing is just incredibly interesting, but I think that this notion of trying to get services into our communities — in this instance, the member was referencing Watson Lake, but I think all our communities are important. It would be great to get those services there. I also thank the members from this side of the Legislature for their comments.

As a young person, as you grow and gain some sense of responsibility, dental hygiene is one of the first places where it's your responsibility. First, the type of responsibility you might learn — and I'm maybe sharing a little bit too much here, but I remember being asked by my parents whether I had brushed my teeth, and I learned all sorts of tricks, like putting toothpaste in my mouth so my breath smelled right, and all sorts of things, until I figured out that it was actually a really great idea and not so hard, in fact maybe easier, to brush my teeth.

The more we reach our children, wherever they are in our schools — as the Minister of Education noted is a place where they feel comfortable — then I think the better we will all be for our long-term well-being as citizens here in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Legislature for the opportunity to speak to this and I look forward to Committee of the Whole when department officials will be here to answer more detailed questions.

*Motion for second reading of Bill No. 7 agreed to*

**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*

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

The matter before the Committee is general debate on Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

**Bill No. 7: Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is general debate on Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I would like to begin by welcoming into the Legislature, Committee of the Whole, Ms. Sandra Markman from the Department of Justice, and Ms. Shehnaz Ali from the Department of Community Services. They will be here to assist today as we move through questions in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to rise again to speak to Bill No. 7, *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*. The purpose of this bill is to enable Yukon's dental hygienists to fully use their training and qualifications in all clinical settings. It will also assist our Department of Health and Social Services to continue to offer Yukon's children's dental program.

If you allow me, Mr. Chair, I'll take a moment to provide some background, beginning with the children's dental program.

When it was originally created, only dental therapists were employed and permitted to provide the services for this program. They provided some independent oral care, such as cleaning, scaling and polishing. As part of a treatment plan created by consulting dentists, dental therapists also did minor dental procedures, such as removing baby teeth and filling cavities. For all members here, if you want something interesting, you should check out the French language for those terms. They are pretty interesting.

Dental services were provided through the children's dental program to Yukon communities, which in many cases had little or no regular access to dentists. Since 2011, Canada no longer has a training facility for dental therapists. The number of dental therapists in the Yukon has steadily declined over the years to the point where their services are now largely unavailable. This has created significant issues for the children's dental program.

Fortunately for all stakeholders, there is another category of dental health professionals that can step in — fill the gap, as it were. Dental hygienists, when allowed to practise to the scope contemplated in this bill — a scope for which they have

been trained — will be able to fulfill the needs of the children's dental program. The training scope of practice for today's dental hygienist focuses primarily on prevention — that is, dental hygiene and interim management of dental issues, particularly in children.

Dental hygienists' scope of practice under the current *Dental Profession Act* is more limited than their training, and this amendment seeks to broaden their scope for improved consistency and efficiency. Enabling hygienists to make full use of their training and expertise with these legislative changes will allow us to continue the children's dental program, although with a slightly different scope of clinical services. The typical scope of practice for dental hygienists who are trained in today's certification programs focuses primarily on prevention — that is, dental hygiene and the interim management of dental issues. We are confident that the full use of the training and the qualifications of these very able professionals will allow us to continue to provide access to the important services of the children's dental program.

If and when the *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)* receives assent, our next step will be to develop appropriate amendments to the regulations. When they are approved, the act will be proclaimed.

With the new legislation in place, dental hygienists will be able to provide some services prior to a patient being examined by a dentist. These include taking X-rays, applying anti-cavity treatments, cleaning, scaling, polishing patients' teeth and instructing and demonstrating oral hygiene techniques to patients. We have also taken this opportunity to ensure that our registration and licensing records and procedures are up to date for dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists — those who are remaining — those professionals who are regulated by the *Dental Profession Act*.

Mr. Chair, we thank the public and dental professionals who provided their feedback to us on the proposed changes to the *Dental Profession Act*. Dental hygienists and dentists told us that they support the changes that we are proposing. They are also recognizing the value of the Yukon children's dental program.

I know that when we were in the consultation phase of the proposed amendments, I was approached by several dental professionals, who spoke to me directly, and I gave that information to the department as part of the public outreach session. I heard directly from several of the professionals and got their sense that this is a good move. They are always hoping for more, and I think the member opposite had commented on that. I look forward to us discussing that during our question and answer session but, overall, this has been well received.

I wish to thank the various department officials from Community Services and Justice for their work in preparing this new legislation and in briefing the members of the opposition, which will help ensure success in our vision of vibrant, healthy and sustainable Yukon communities.

**Mr. Kent:** I would also like to welcome the officials from Community Services and Justice here today. They are here to provide support to the minister during Committee

debate. As I mentioned in my second reading speech, I don't have a lot of questions, so maybe I'll just put them on the record and, if the minister misses a couple of them, then he can ask me again just to repeat them. Again, in his second reading speech and his opening remarks here with respect to the overall legislative plan, he did mention of course that they heard back from the professionals they spoke to, that perhaps there is a more comprehensive review of this legislation that is needed. I'm curious as to whether or not that is in the government's agenda for their legislative calendar and if he has an idea of when that review — if it is going to take place — when it might take place — that would be helpful.

Again, as I mentioned during second reading speech — and the minister can correct me if he did have the figure during his speech — I thank the officials for pointing the opposition members, during the briefing yesterday, to the summary of the feedback received. In that summary, I noted that they did receive responses from four dentists and nine dental hygienists. I'm just curious, because I know the consultation was targeted, obviously, but it was also open to the public. I'm just curious if there were any responses or feedback and what the numbers were with respect to public feedback. If there weren't — if that feedback was low, as suspected — then what types of tools were used to reach out to the public, as I mentioned at second reading again? Were school councils involved? Were there forms or anything sent home with students for their parents?

Obviously, as I mentioned, the children's dental program is an important program for students and families throughout the territory. There may have been additional feedback or responses provided that either would have helped to inform these particular amendments and what we're discussing here today, or perhaps informed the future broader review and potential program review.

Sorry to the minister for getting all those questions out at once and, if he missed any, I would be happy to repeat, but it would be great to hear back from him on those topics that I raised.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** I thank the Member for Copperbelt South for his questions. I will do my best to answer them here, and if I do miss any, I do hope to hear them. I will work in reverse order. I will begin with the questions about the responses.

The main way we did this was by reaching out directly to dental professionals. We sent letters to all dental professionals. We put out for public consultation through a range of methods. We advertised in papers, we put out a news release, and we put out web-based invitations. We didn't send anything through students to their papers. I did, for example, speak with my colleague, the Minister of Education, about these changes and so there wasn't anything. Our notion of it was that we were focusing on the service program and that the location of where it was being delivered was the schools, but that wasn't the central theme of what was being developed or the notion of what we were trying to address here. It wasn't anything specific.

For numbers, I will have to check. I know that we had the 13 formal responses that are listed. However, I would like to note that some of them were from associations. Although it's a response, it is a response with a broader base in terms of the information that we're receiving.

Again, I will state here that, in those responses and in the informal settings where I got into conversations with members of the profession who happened to reach out to me directly — and sometimes in airport waiting rooms — all of the responses that we received was positive.

I will move on to the other broad-based question that the Member for Copperbelt South — the Official Opposition House Leader — raised regarding what's next. I did mention that there is the specific point that we will develop regulations so we will see that this is proclaimed once those regulations are there, so there is a small piece to come before we get there.

On the deeper piece, which he's talking about, I think the ultimate place where we see all of our health professions moving is under the *Health Professions Act*. That was the notion, I think, of it as an umbrella piece of legislation, which would treat as many of our health professionals as possible. There is a notion that we want to move in that direction and we have been actively reviewing that legislation as it applies to all of Yukon's health professionals. That review involves considering everything from the technical structure of the legislation to details related to scopes of practice, complaints and review panels and so on. I don't have a specific timeline.

I have always been advised when it comes to legislative agendas to be careful about standing up either in the Legislature or in Committee of the Whole to say it will be on a certain date. What I can say is that since I have been in this role, we have worked on several professions under the *Health Professions Act* and we will continue to do so during our time here. I'm afraid I don't have a specific answer for the member opposite.

Of course, when we undertook this piece of work, it was to address a critical issue that we were facing. We went from nine therapists down to two and, notwithstanding the lovely suggestion from the Member for Takhini-Kopper King that maybe Yukon College would consider at some point doing some training — I mean those sorts of things are a little ways out — we recognized that what we had to do was come in and make this change now in order to ensure that the program could continue in a strong fashion. Even though we would have liked to have done more, that would have taken more time and we were really working to fix a very specific challenge that we were faced with.

I will leave it there. Hopefully we will hear if there is further follow-up that the member opposite would like to hear.

**Mr. Kent:** I thank the minister for those responses. I look forward to getting a sense for how many individuals from the public were given the opportunity — perhaps as future reviews are undertaken, there is an opportunity to get more engagement maybe. Maybe all these consultations just become — perhaps this one could have been called the “dental professions act and regulations and cannabis” and then you

would have had a great big response like you did for your cannabis one. Maybe all these consultation should be a rider on a cannabis consultation and you would get some great feedback. Again, I thank the minister for his responses.

I guess one of the questions — and perhaps this is better directed to Health and Social Services and, if so, I will get the minister to make me aware of that — would be with respect to the program itself. As we talked about, it's extremely important for kindergarten to grade 12 students in rural Yukon and it covers kindergarten to grade 8 students here in the Whitehorse area. I'm just curious if the minister or the government would be able to undertake some sort of cost analysis of full coverage for the Whitehorse area students.

Obviously it's important in rural Yukon because they don't have the access to the dental professionals that we do in Whitehorse, but there are families in the Whitehorse area that don't have dental plans, so it would certainly be helpful, I think, for them if there was an opportunity to have their children covered through grade 12 with this program, as they are in rural Yukon. But again, I recognize that everything comes with a cost, so if that is something that the government would undertake when or if they do the legislative review — or separate to that, to do a program review to see if there is an opportunity to expand this program, particularly for those students and families in the Whitehorse area.

I thank the officials for the briefing that we received yesterday. It was very straightforward and these amendments are to support an extremely important program here in the Yukon, and I thank the minister and his government for bringing these amendments forward and allowing the expanding scope of service for dental hygienists in our schools. I thank all members who spoke at second reading, and I'll turn it back over to the minister. Beyond that, I'll turn it over to my colleague from the Third Party.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** First of all, I think one of the questions that I heard was how many individuals from the public were given the opportunity to respond. I would say all of them.

**Mr. Kent:** Just for clarification, it was how many members did respond. I realize that the opportunity for broad consultation was given. I read the news release and saw all that stuff, so just to clarify.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Thank you for the clarification. We'll happily try to check with the department to ensure what sort of numbers there were. I know the ones that we know of and were put in the release — I'm just going to get a note here.

We did not get responses from the public. We did have, as the member opposite notes, 13 responses — nine from hygienists and four from dentists. I will try to check which of those were from associations because I think that makes a difference as well.

We didn't actually hear from the public, although I do again note that — and we were sure to try to check. We always hope to get a lot of response, but one of the things that I feel more assured by is that, when we saw such an overwhelming response on other topics, we know that the

public is willing to engage when there is an issue that they wish to engage on. I take that lower number as indicating that there was no burning issue, but we have our ears open. Again, just to emphasize, the responses that we did have were all quite constructive.

When it comes to the program itself, the Yukon children's dental program, it is, of course, a Health and Social Services program as the member opposite has noted. I think that I will be sure to pass on his questions and interest to the minister, who would be the person who would discuss reviews of the program or considerations of expansion.

I think, though, that it is clear, as Minister of Community Services, that we recognize that there are specific challenges for our smaller communities, which do not have the population to always have the full range of professionals or services that are available within those communities. I think there are times — and I won't talk about this program in particular, as it is not one of my areas. But we do strive to ensure that our rural communities receive a good level of service — noting those challenges. In this instance, I think there could be reasons, and I will let the minister speak to it and I will pass that question on.

Again, thanks to the member opposite.

**Ms. White:** I welcome the officials into the Chamber, especially the one who is here for the first visit. It is very exciting times in the Legislative Assembly. I appreciate the changes to the act and I definitely appreciate the briefings. I was saying earlier, when you guys were in the lounge, that when we get a briefing on an act or changes to an act that aren't contentious, it is very pleasant and easy. We don't have to ask whether it was political direction or whether it was process or what happened. This is an example of one that it is easy to get behind, so I am glad that I was there for that one.

To follow up on comments made by the Member for Porter Creek Centre, dental health and dental hygiene are hugely important to health. I realize that, as the Minister of Community Services, you are here because of professional licensing and I appreciate that, but I just really want to respond. A lot of the casework that we do in the office sometimes — it is access to dental care. Riverstone Dental this last winter, as you all know in this Chamber, offered a free dental day. Thankfully, they had a wall tent set up with a wood stove, and they had lineups. They actually had more people come into work than they had originally planned for because the demand was so huge.

The one thing — and I appreciate that the minister said the difference between rural communities and Whitehorse was the access to dentists. I would challenge that sometimes it is access to the financial means in order to pay for those services. That happens maybe more so if you have to travel in from Keno, but if a financial barrier is the problem, then that is why I fundamentally believe that dental services should be under Health and Social Services. It is a fundamental right, in my mind. If you don't have teeth, you can't chew food. If you can't chew healthy food, you are not going to be healthy, so it all plays in. I realize that is not really relevant to the act changes at hand, but I just wanted to get that out there.

We actually have very few questions. I was at the dentist office this morning. The hygienist was really excited that he got a letter and there was outreach. I was able to talk to the dentist who owned the clinic — same thing. They were happy that the outreach had been done in that way.

I appreciate that no one else from the community sent something in, because these are not contentious changes. This is really positive. This is making sure the Yukon children's dental program continues on. I appreciate that the government was able to look and say, okay, we need to make these changes.

I still have a pitch in for Yukon College, if they want to fill some pretty big shoes and get students from across the country to come. Maybe dental therapy is a niche they can move into.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to line-by-line debate.

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Thanks to the member opposite for her comments. I hope someone will choose to ask a question that will maybe get Ms. Markman's involvement in the line-by-line debate. That would be a great time, noting I was unaware that it was her first time here. Thank you to both members opposite for welcoming officials.

One of the things I want to note is — and I think we all agree here on the importance of dental hygiene. I think we all agree that whenever we can move down the avenue of prevention we will make ourselves healthier all the way along. That's one of the things that's happening here, recognizing that members opposite would like to see more programs and more services — that's terrific and I will pass those comments on to my colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services.

This amendment will support hygienists to provide dental services so, in the end, this will benefit the public and generally support the enhancement of our well-being here in the territory. That said, I appreciate that there is an interest for more, but I'm happy we're arriving here today to solve a very specific problem. I think it's a good news story for the whole of the Yukon.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Bill No. 7?

Seeing none, we'll move to clause-by-clause.

**Mr. Kent:** Mr. Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all clauses and the title of Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, read and agreed to.

#### **Unanimous consent re deeming all clauses and title of Bill No. 7 read and agreed to**

**Chair:** Mr. Kent has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all clauses and the title of Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, read and agreed to.

Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

*Clauses 1 to 19 agreed to*

*On Title*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Streicker:** Thanks to all members of the Legislature for their consent to all the clauses in the act.

Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Streicker that the Chair report Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, without amendment.

*Motion agreed to*

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

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. McPhee that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order.

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

#### **Chair's report**

**Mr. Hutton:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 7, entitled *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act (2017)*, 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.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

*Motion agreed to*

**Speaker:** This House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

I wish all MLAs a happy Thanksgiving.

*The House adjourned at 4:58 p.m.*

#### **The following sessional papers were tabled October 5, 2017:**

34-2-30

*Yukon Development Corporation 2016 Annual Report (Pillai)*

34-2-31

*Yukon Energy 2016 Annual Report (Pillai)*

**The following document was filed October 5, 2017:**

34-2-16

*Government of Yukon 2017-18 Interim Fiscal and Economic Update* (Silver)

**Written notice was given of the following motions October 5, 2017:**

Motion No. 137

Re: unspent funds budgeted for projects in 2017-18 (Istchenko)

Motion No. 138

Re: Government of Canada consultation on proposed changes to tax law (Cathers)

Motion No. 139

Re: not implementing a territorial sales tax (Cathers)

Motion No. 140

Re: ensuring RCMP have appropriate resources (Cathers)

Motion No. 141

Re: reducing the net financial assets (Cathers)

Motion No. 142

Re: reorganizing the importance of the Emergency Medical Services in Watson Lake (McLeod)