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HANSARD

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2017 Fall Sitting

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DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Don Hutton, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun
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Hon. Ranj Pillai	Porter Creek South	Deputy Premier Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation
Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee	Riverdale South	Government House Leader Minister of Education; Justice
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Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Patti McLeod	Watson Lake
Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Geraldine Van Bibber	Porter Creek North

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New Democratic Party

Liz Hanson	Leader of the Third Party Whitehorse Centre
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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

In remembrance of Gordon Downie

Speaker: I will do my best to get through this but I beg the House's indulgence on this one.

I rise today on behalf of the House in order to honour the passing of Wicapi Omani, the "Man who walks among the stars", also known as the pride of Kingston, Ontario — indeed, all of Canada — Gordon Downie.

Gord, as the nation affectionately embraced him, succumbed to incurable brain cancer yesterday after a courageous and often public battle.

He and his Tragically Hip bandmates played an emotional 15-night, cross-Canada "Man Machine Poem" tour last summer, culminating in a sold-out show on August 20 in their home town, reaching an estimated 11.7 million viewers on the CBC.

While Mr. Downie was clearly suffering from the ravages of his disease, he showed remarkable grit, determination and courage in the face of adversity. His resolute and optimistic humanity served, and will continue to serve, as a great inspiration to all of us.

Whether the Tragically Hip were referencing long-ago Toronto Maple Leafs' Stanley-Cup-winning goals — admittedly, they're all a long time ago now — in *50-Mission Cap* or recounting the long path taken to overturn the wrongful conviction of David Milgaard in *Wheat Kings*, the beautiful southern Ontario cottage-country constellational imagery of *Bobcaygeon*, or painting a vivid picture of the vastness of the Great Plains west of Winnipeg, which many of us have had the privilege of seeing both on the ground and in the air in *At the Hundredth Meridian*, or, finally, creating a musical picture of life in northern Manitoba in *Thompson Girl*.

Mr. Downie, and another Gord — go figure; the band had two Gord's — and Paul, Rob and Johnny uniquely expressed their affection and wonderment at this amazing land. Gord was neither an ardent booster, nor a harsh critic. He was a consummate storyteller and telling important Canadian stories in remarkable and memorable songs is what we do.

At this point, I will provide some of Gord's wise words to inspire us today and every day: "Music is the ultimate medium for the expressions of love, and those expressions find a beautiful backdrop in the environment. Music is also a popular rallying point — at its central core, it's a way for people to get in touch with the best parts of themselves and to voice the love in their hearts. And the environment is one of the great loves of our lives — when we think of the best parts of ourselves, the environment is always there, informing us, as a backdrop."

As we know, in his final years, Gord championed reconciliation and restoring the relationship between indigenous people and the rest of Canada. His *Secret Path* project was the cornerstone of his advocacy for indigenous communities in the north. The genesis for this project was the heartbreaking story of Chanie Wenjack, who died in 1966 after running away from a residential school near Kenora, Ontario.

We know, unfortunately, that Chanie's story was by no means unique, as there have been numerous similar stories from across Canada, including a recent report on CBC recalling three indigenous boys — Bernard Andreason, Lawrence Jack Elanik and Dennis Dick — who fled Inuvik's Stringer Hall and attempted to walk to Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Andreason survived the ordeal while, tragically, Lawrence and Dennis perished.

It is auspicious timing that the House has the opportunity this afternoon to debate important issues concerning the reconciliation among indigenous and non-indigenous persons. I am sure that Gord would approve.

For many of my demographic — that is, early-old, by our kids' estimation — Gord and the Tragically Hip were the soundtrack of our 20s and later, inspiring us to jump, dance, sweat and belt out iconic choruses. Hip concerts were legendary for loyal fans singing every word from the first power chord to the final encore.

Gord clearly struck a deep emotional chord with Canada. As our Prime Minister said in his heartfelt words this morning, "Canada is less of a country for having lost Gord." Mr. Downie has left us too soon, but his poetry, music and his hopeful message will remain with us for many years to come.

In closing, I will give Gord the floor to guide us today and all days. This is the first verse of *Ahead by a Century*, which urges us to grab life and live as well as we are able.

First we'd climb a tree and maybe then we'd talk
Or sit silently and listen to our thoughts
With illusions of someday casting a golden light
No dress rehearsal, this is our life...

No dress rehearsal indeed, Gord.

We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.
Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In remembrance of Gordon Duncan

Hon. Mr. Silver: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government and the Third Party to acknowledge the passing of local entrepreneur Gord Duncan.

Mr. Duncan moved to Yukon in 1964, the fourth in a family of five children of well-respected Yukon public servant, Tommy Duncan and Colleen Duncan. A bright student, Gord graduated with a commerce degree from UBC and was on the dean's list. His first foray in business was in the Klondike when Alan Nordling recruited him as the assistant manager of the Klondike Visitors Association. He was recruited to Dawson to lead and later became the owner of Total North Communications.

In business and sports, Gord was one of those who could really be considered “most valuable player”. He contributed greatly to the community, served as the president of the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce and on the Yukon Utilities Board, just to name a few. A strong proponent of Yukon entrepreneurs and businesses, he participated in one of Government of Canada’s Team Canada trade missions.

In later years, Gord took to farming and took great pride in his potato patch on the Yukon River. His widow, and former farming partner, Angela and their children Jake, Romney and Eliese could not be with us here today, but in the gallery there are other friends and family who I will introduce after this tribute.

Yukoners who knew Gord will have recognized his voice and heartfelt words in a letter he wrote that was published after his passing in August. Being a former math teacher, I found his words especially reflective. In his own unique style, Gord talked about his cancer diagnosis in this way — and I quote: “What would you do if you knew you were not going to be here in X, where X denotes a period of time. Well, we are all not going to be here it just turns out X is different for everyone. Solve for X is one of the eternal questions it would seem.”

Mr. Speaker, he also hopefully answered his own question in this way — and I quote: “So when we all solve for X, where X represents the time left, love each other, don’t hold on to...” stuff “.. too tightly and have a little fun along the way. For those of you who want a redraw on that challenge card... think again.”

Mr. Speaker, as a math teacher, it warms my heart to see others contemplate our own immortality in algebraic terms. We should all heed the advice that Gord left us with. They are absolutely words to live by.

Thank you very much for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to introduce at this time Gord’s daughter, Tiffany Boyd; Gord’s son, Brandon Duncan; Gord’s sisters, Becky and Pat Duncan, former Premier of Yukon; also good friends Terry and Pam Bergen; Don MacDonald; Joe Binger; Frank Silvestri, and we also have from Total North, Don Johnson, Josh Clark and Spencer Bergen, among others in the audience. Thank you for being here today.

Applause

Ms. Van Bibber: I’m very honoured to rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to Gordon Andrew Duncan. Gord was born on May 5, 1955 in Stradishall, England to Tommy and Colleen Duncan. Three more children were born across the pond.

Back in Canada, they moved from Edmonton to Yukon with children in tow — Ken, Sheila, Gordon, Rebecca and Pat. That was 1964 and so began their Yukon life, and what a legacy this family has made on Yukon. But today, the focus is on Gord.

At the outdoor potluck and potato harvest gathering on August 12 at the Old Shack Ranch, three main tributes were given by Terry Bergen, Dan Stephens and — on behalf of the family — his sister, Pat.

It was wonderful to read those and gain such insight into the fun-filled, kind, generous and intelligent man that was Gord. From best friends at university and with travel stories while they “found themselves”, I’m sure they left out a few stories that they hoped and prayed their parents would never find out about.

He was an employee of Total North Communications before Gord eventually became the owner, and the business is a true Yukon success — from the employees’ stories who shared his largesse and made their collective workplace the best place to work that it could be. He was an innovator and loved to try new things, and his staff worked right along with his enthusiasm.

Apparently, “Can we do it?” was a question often asked by Gord, and the answer was usually, “Let’s figure it out.” Christmas parties, Friday lunches, pizzas and surprise bonuses — sounds like an absolutely wonderful atmosphere.

His business ethics were second to none — customer first. I know from personal experience because my husband, Pat, and I ran a small business in remote Yukon, and we went to Total North and they assisted us with radio phones and satellite phones and the “how-to” of it all. Service was top notch.

Gord loved his sports. He was an avid curler, pretty good at baseball and a great hockey player. He also tried his hand at the game of golf. The list of Gord’s Yukon friends is a “who’s who” of the Yukon fabric. The ranch, music and writing, along with his family, were other joys that rounded out his life.

The article that was mentioned by the Premier, written by Gord, and published by his family on August 11, was an amazing glimpse into his grasp of the disease and his reflections. In that article, Gord said he was an inherently private person and he is probably squirming a bit at all this attention, but we, on this side of the pond, must pay tribute to such a caring, innovative Yukoner.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce my husband, Pat, who has come to pay his tribute today.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further tributes?

Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Mr. Adel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to make a small correction to the record. It’s Dan Johnson, one of my constituents — welcome — and one of the principals in Copperbelt North.

Applause

Mr. Hassard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask all members to join me in welcoming a friend of mine, Joanne Davignon, and Paul Lackowicz as well.

Applause

Mr. Kent: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She didn't want me to introduce her, but I will — my wife Amanda Leslie is here to witness the tributes to the late Gord Duncan as well.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if we missed him or not, but Mr. Josh Clark is here today and also plays a key role with Total North. I'm sorry to be redundant, but I would be in trouble if I didn't also recognize Mr. Paul Lackowicz, who I serve in Porter Creek South.

Applause

Mr. Adel: Mr. Speaker, so as not to be remiss, I would like to introduce Angus Clarke, son of the Speaker, who is here today with us in the Legislature.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of personal privilege

Speaker: The Minister of Justice, on a point of personal privilege.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of personal privilege.

Yesterday, during Question Period, I stated — quote: "... I should point out that the members opposite voted against the amendment that I brought forward with respect to that legislation."

That comment was in reference to Motion No. 140 that we debated in this House last Wednesday. I want to correct the record on that statement. In fact, the members opposite did not vote against the amendment; they did, in fact, state that they would not support the amendment, but it did not come to a vote.

I thank the House for the opportunity to correct the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you.

Tabling returns and documents.

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: The Chair has for tabling the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office 2016-17 annual report. This report is tabled pursuant to section 24 of the *Child and Youth Advocate Act*.

Are there any further documents for tabling?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have for tabling the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* from 2015.

Ms. McLeod: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling a letter from the Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hutton: Mr. Speaker, I have two documents to table today: *A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada*; and *Marijuana-Impaired Driving: A Report to Congress* from the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I have for tabling today a document, entitled *150 Acts of Reconciliation for Canada's 150*.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House endorses reforming Yukon's election finance rules.

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

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of a financial breakdown showing the full and true costs of administration, records management, compliance, and legal advice related to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Health Information Privacy and Management Act* and the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* for the 2016-17 fiscal year, and expenditures to date for the 2017-18 fiscal year, including:

(1) costs incurred by each department and directorate of the Government of Yukon;

(2) costs incurred by each corporation of the Government of Yukon, including subsidiaries of government corporations;

(3) costs incurred by the Cabinet office;

(4) costs incurred by the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board;

(5) cost of legal advice, including the cost of all Outside legal counsel; and

(6) an accounting of the total number of employees in each government entity whose job description, in whole or in part, includes administration, records management, compliance, or legal advice due to the provisions of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Health Information Privacy and Management Act* and the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to:

(1) convert the Yukon government mail fleet in Whitehorse to electric vehicles; and

(2) install electric vehicle charging stations in Whitehorse.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to direct the Public Service Commission to:

(1) require all departments and public bodies under the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* to develop and implement public disclosure policies to guide staff when making disclosures of wrongdoing under the act; and

(2) complete and make available the guidelines for staff on procedures for making disclosures of wrongdoing, pursuant to the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*, by April 1, 2018.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to promote local artists by converting part of the old Whitehorse library space into a home for the Yukon permanent art collection, including a public viewing gallery space.

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: Public airports legislation

Mr. Hassard: It's a new day and another stakeholder group has come out to criticize the Liberal government's airports act. Today it's the Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce that has sent a letter to the minister, saying that they have concerns with the consultation process on this bill.

It's clear, Mr. Speaker, that the minister did not consult the Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce, so I'm curious: Can the minister let us know if he consulted any chamber of commerce on the *Public Airports Act*?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for his interest in this matter. Yesterday, members opposite referred to the city's "blues". We tried to obtain a copy of the city's "blues"; we have been told they do not exist, Mr. Speaker. Could the member please commit, in their next question, to providing those "blues" to this House so I can see exactly what was said at Council?

Mr. Hassard: Apparently the member hasn't quite figured out how Question Period works here in the Legislature. I'll try with another question since he didn't appear to be interested in answering the last one.

On Monday, we asked the minister if he had met with the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association to discuss the *Public Airports Act*. His response was — and I quote: "I met with them on July 25 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m." Mr. Speaker, the minutes from this meeting, which the minister tabled in the Legislature here yesterday, show that this in fact wasn't a COPA meeting, as the minister suggested. The minister's own minutes contradict his statements in the House and clearly state that this was a meeting with the Yukon Aviation Advisory Group.

The minister seems to be having difficulty keeping the facts straight. Every day, he is either contradicted by himself or a stakeholder, and his credibility is severely stained. Will he cut his losses and go back to the drawing board?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for their continued interest in this matter. Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House introduced airport legislation that empowers the aviation industry. The legislation before this House allows for an advisory committee to oversee the drafting of any regulations. That was done intentionally, Mr. Speaker. It was done because everyone in this territory remembers the imposition of parking fees at the airport — the imposition of parking fees by decree. There was no consultation; there was no ask; just the willy-nilly imposition of fees that have raised more than \$1.5 million since it was done.

We don't want to see this imposition happen again, so we have built safeguards into this legislation — safeguards that will protect industry, safeguards that will protect the public, safeguards that will protect from a government bent on imposing rules or charges on the public or the industry without any regard for the consequences.

Nobody wants to see that happen again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hassard: Clearly the minister is not interested in answering these questions but we are here to ask them.

A little more on the Yukon Aviation Advisory Group meeting that the minister has been misrepresenting as the pinnacle of consultation here. Not only was he wrong when he told the House that it was COPA meeting, but I would like to point out the list of attendants for that meeting. There were only seven people there at that meeting and, of those seven, five — count them, Mr. Speaker; five — were representatives from the Government of Yukon.

Is this seriously what this minister considers consultation? A meeting of seven people, five of whom were there to represent the government? Is this what consultation is under this Yukon Liberal government — they consult themselves?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Once again, I will thank the members opposite for their interest. It is indeed refreshing. I'm glad the members opposite are now interested in consultation. It's a welcome change.

Indeed, I would characterize this as a post-deathbed conversion, Mr. Speaker. I say that because people might remember that in 2015, the Yukon government launched its waterfront lease-to-title initiative. It offered people the opportunity to apply for title on waterfront land currently held under long-term leases. Did the government consult on that? No, it did not.

In 2015, the side opposite amended the rural residential land application policy to allow placer miners to apply for tenure on land obtained before 1999. They were supposed to consult with First Nations before doing this. Did they? No, they did not.

I'm glad the members opposite have now decided that consultation is important. It is something that we apparently now agree on.

Question re: Procurement policy

Mr. Kent: I'll follow up with the Minister of Highways and Public Works on a topic that I raised yesterday respecting procurement.

During the election campaign, the now-Minister of Economic Development, at the time the Liberal candidate for the riding of Porter Creek South, promised to — and I quote: “As a priority implement the recommendations of the Procurement Advisory Panel Report in an accelerated manner, completing its implementation by 2018.” The minister was unable to answer this question yesterday, so I'll ask it again, as we are weeks away from 2018.

Can the Minister of Highways and Public Works tell us if he is still on track to meet this commitment?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for the interest in the way the government buys goods and services. It is an important issue.

With my full support, the Department of Highways and Public Works is tackling procurement, making it more efficient, fair and transparent, and building in ways to give locals great opportunities to bid on and win local jobs. This is a welcome change for Yukon, Mr. Speaker, and we're looking at models to do this.

We looked at the F.H. Collins school project. As you might remember, more than \$6 million was spent on design that was never used. The project was a year late, and construction began before environmental permits were in place and it came in overbudget. That model was not a good one.

We decided to look at new models, and we're still refining and improving them. I'm proud of the department's work and we will be talking more about it in the future.

Mr. Kent: With that question, what we are interested in is the specific commitment that the Liberals made during the campaign with respect to implementing the recommendations of the Procurement Advisory Panel but, for the second day in a row, the minister was unable to respond to or answer that question.

On the final day of the Spring Sitting during Economic Development debate, I asked some questions regarding procurement as it relates to the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement*, which came into effect on July 1 of this year. I asked specifically about the 10 projects of \$1 million or less that could be directly awarded to Yukon companies. At the time, the government said it would be driven out of the Department of Highways and Public Works.

Here we are — over three months has passed since implementation. Can the Minister of Highways and Public Works tell us if he has picked the 10 projects for this year, which ones they are, and, if not, when can we expect them to be announced?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As I have said, this government is looking at changing the way that we procure goods and services, and I'm glad the member opposite has brought up the direct award of \$1 million. We are currently working on developing rules and procedures on how best to implement those things. That's part of our whole program because, as I

said, the department — with my full support — is looking at ways to tackle procurement — making it more fair, more efficient, more transparent and building in ways to give locals great opportunities to bid on and win local jobs. That's a welcome change for the territory.

Again, we were looking at models to do this, Mr. Speaker, and we looked at the hospitals in Dawson and Watson Lake. Well, that model wasn't a good one to use either, because the Auditor General of Canada wrote a scathing report on both of those projects — millions of dollars overbudget, completed late as well, poorly planned, and they didn't meet the community's needs. It wasn't a good model for procurement, so we're looking at other ones.

Mr. Kent: Again we didn't get an answer, other than that the minister is working on it.

As I mentioned at the time, in debate with the Minister of Economic Development, there are only 10 projects to choose from, so the government is going to have to essentially pick winners and losers. You have the potential to have different industries pitted against each other, perhaps, to see which projects will be chosen and perhaps even which contractor will be chosen.

The minister said they were working on the rules. Can he tell us when they started working on these rules, when he expects them to be in place, and whether or not these \$10-million projects line up with the fiscal year, or do they expire on June 30, which would be the day before the anniversary of this free trade agreement coming into effect?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: The Department of Highways and Public Works, with my full support, is working on procurement as we speak. They are looking at making procurement more efficient, more fair, more transparent and building in ways that will give locals great opportunities to bid on and win local bids, local jobs. That's what they are doing right now. Rome wasn't built in a day. We work on these things. We don't do things fast and loose. We're trying to be methodical and to put it in place properly so that we have good processes and good, strong fiscal accountability. That's what we pride ourselves on here.

We decided to look at models — models we could use. We looked at the new hydro dam — the \$3 million spent on that by the members opposite, mostly on consultants from Outside, with no buy-in from Yukon First Nations. At the end of the day, there's no dam. That was not a good model. That was a really terrible procurement model. We're looking at improving things and doing things better. We're working methodically. The department has a team of people now working on procurement. They're doing great work, and I will have more to say on this in the future.

Question re: Greenhouse gas emissions

Ms. White: Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. It will affect future generations even more as governments across the world have failed to reach their targets of greenhouse gas reduction. Coal is one of the dirtiest forms of energy, with nearly twice the CO₂ emissions

of natural gas — and that's without speaking of the air pollution caused by coal-powered plants.

Those are a few of the reasons why the federal government has committed to phasing out coal as a source of electricity by 2030. Unlike some provinces, Yukon doesn't use coal as a source of energy and, just two weeks ago, this House unanimously passed a motion supporting the Paris accord and its greenhouse gas reduction targets.

In light of this, Mr. Speaker, I have what should be an easy question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Does he want to see a coal-mining industry in Yukon — yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: That is a great question from the member opposite. I must be honest — it's not something that I've taken a lot of time to ponder in discussions with our Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. It's not something that we've discussed in any briefings.

I do know that, from the past, there have been different deposits that have been identified within the Yukon. I think at least one of those deposits falls within the Peel watershed, so I assume the process that we're going through now and the findings from the Supreme Court — and the reset of that process — will have some effect on that.

I don't think today it's appropriate to make a statement that I'm against it or for it without going into looking at what technology is in place. I know that Saskatchewan has used a lot of brand new technology on carbon capture. Certainly at the federal level, there are some strong pieces. I think it would be most responsible to answer that question after going through the due diligence of it.

I appreciate the position. I will commit to doing research on it. I'll work with my department to understand both the pros and cons of that, and then I will come back and make a statement to you on that point. I need to be a bit more educated on the subject matter.

Ms. White: At a time when renewable energy is more affordable than ever and is a key economic driver across the world, the fact that we are having a conversation today about coal mining is embarrassing. Yet the conversation is needed, since a company has submitted an application to YESAB to explore for coal. First Nations and other intervenors have opposed the project, saying that while the impact of the exploration may be small, the only outcome of the project is a coal mine, and that would be devastating.

Unfortunately, YESAB can only look at the exploration itself, and it ended up recommending approval of the project with a few restrictions. I guess, Mr. Speaker, these conversations will have to happen sooner rather than later. The government has 10 days to make the final decision. Unlike YESAB, the government can look at the big picture and consider whether or not a coal industry is something that Yukon should develop in the 21st century.

Will the minister look at the big picture and reject the application to explore for coal in the Whitehorse Trough?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I appreciate the question and certainly, as this process unfolds and the department works through that

particular process, I know I will have an opportunity to speak to this.

I will go back to the point — as the Member for Takhini-Kopper King appropriately identified, this is a time to talk about renewables and certainly that has been the focus of our government. We're looking at a series of strategies where we are focused on renewables. When it comes to the mining sector, it is making sure that we are balancing the environment and the economy with the practices and, of course, looking at best practices.

I'm excited to be working with Kluane First Nation, I'm excited to be working with VGG in Old Crow on their work, and I'm excited to be working with Liard First Nation and a series of other nations as we look at renewable projects. Certainly our focus — and when I'm working and wearing my Yukon Development Corporation hat — is looking at these renewables as the Energy, Mines and Resources. That is our focus, and certainly as we go through this process that the member opposite has so appropriately brought to the Assembly today, I will ensure that I am well-briefed on it and we can come back and continue this discussion.

Ms. White: It's a matter of principle. One can't support a coal industry while supporting climate action.

Authorizing coal exploration is one step further down the rabbit hole. If this government has no intention of allowing for a coal industry in Yukon, it should simply say so and reject the project. It would save everybody's time and resources and allow Yukon to focus on a renewable future.

Coal is being phased out across the country. Even Ontario and Alberta, which rely heavily on coal for producing energy, are closing down their coal-powered plants. We're not talking about a transition over 50 years. Canada is phasing out coal by 2030. That's a mere 12 years from now.

Renewable energy is booming across the country, creating jobs and building infrastructure for our future, so why on Earth would we even consider developing a coal industry in Yukon?

Will the government repeal legislation and regulations that allow for coal mining and coal exploration in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I think what I've stated today is that I want to take a look at all the information and data. I know that, in some cases, what has transpired is that First Nations, through the land claims process, have acquired and specifically picked certain A and B blocks because of the mineral deposits that are there. Within that, I believe that at least one — and I may misstate this, but I think it is Division Mountain — falls within an A block of a self-governing First Nation. I want to take a look at the legal ramifications of us putting the legislation through — what the vision and opportunities are for some of these A blocks. I want to take in and consider all the information before I make a statement.

Certainly it's something that is new to us, in the sense that there is going to be a coal-mining industry. I would think that what's going to happen within North America is — we have seen a phase-out, although there has been some retraction to that phase-out within the United States and western Canada.

One of the interesting things about a commodity is that it needs a market. If there is no market, there is usually no reason to extract the quantity.

I appreciate the question today, and certainly I look forward to further discussion on this particular topic in the Legislative Assembly.

Question re: Cannabis regulation in Yukon

Ms. McLeod: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the federal commitment to legalize marijuana by July 1, 2018, I have a question for the Premier. On October 4, he told local media that in Yukon, you would be able to purchase marijuana at the Whitehorse liquor store by July 2018.

I just wanted the Premier to confirm that he was committing that marijuana would be available in the Whitehorse liquor store by July 1 of next year?

Hon. Mr. Silver: I do appreciate the question from the Member for Watson Lake. It gives me a chance to clear the air on the topic. The question that was posed to me by the media was: Are we ready? Will we be ready?

We know that the federal government will be ready by July to provide a mail service to all jurisdictions in Canada. We know that there have been premiers across Canada, including me, who have talked about the worries from the regional level as to preparedness because there were so many questions still not answered by the federal government at that time. We've had that conversation again. We've had our five questions answered on a national basis.

Then the question by the media was posed: Will we be ready locally to do the distribution side of things? My answer to that question is: At the bare minimum, we will have at least a source locally. Whether that be a liquor store; whether that be private sector; whether it's a hybrid — all of those parts are not figured out yet. We're still working with our federal counterparts; we're working with a few different departments here — whether they are Justice, Health, Education — to make sure that we're as prepared as possible for this federal regulation when it comes in — but to say that we've made a decision for the liquor store or other places as being the distribution network — that's not true.

Ms. McLeod: The Premier's comments on the marijuana file suggest that he hasn't yet decided whether the plan is for the retail of marijuana to be done by a government-run monopoly or by the private sector. Mr. Speaker, if a private sector company is going to start retailing cannabis by July 2018, they will need to start planning right away.

Will the government make a decision about whether retail and distribution will be done by the private sector or by a government-run monopoly?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question. It's an opportunity to update the Legislative Assembly on what's actually happening. It won't surprise anybody in this House how complicated and complex this matter is. The federal government has made a decision with respect to legalizing marijuana and cannabis distribution across the country. In response to that, it is necessary for us — the Yukon

government has made a commitment to determine what legislation is required in this situation and determine whether or not the guidelines of the federal legislation are what are going to be followed here in the territory. Those decisions are yet to be made.

They are yet to be made, in particular because we've heard from over 3,000 Yukoners with respect to a survey that went out this summer. The decision has not been made as to how the distribution will happen. The other decisions have not been made, other than the fact that we will have legislation and people are furiously working on that. There is a government-wide committee, encompassing a number of departments that are working hard on these issues and they will continue to do so until we are able to determine each and every one of these decisions as they are required in order to implement these laws.

Question re: Cannabis regulation in Yukon

Mr. Hassard: Just to follow-up on the Premier's comments on this marijuana question from the Member for Watson Lake, it says in the newspaper — and I quote: "There will be, in the Yukon, your ability to at least go into the liquor store here in Whitehorse — at the bare minimum." There seems to be some confusion here. It is my understanding that the Minister of Community Services told the Association of Yukon Communities in late September that no decisions had been made as consultation was still underway, but it sounds like maybe there have been some decisions made on both timelines as well as where marijuana will be made available.

I am curious, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier or the minister could please clarify why we are getting a different story from what the Association of Yukon Communities got.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Again, no confusion other than the confusion being perpetuated by the Yukon Party on this issue. There will be local distribution. There will be a local source. The details of that are yet to be figured out. We are still waiting for federal craft regulations on whether there is going to be private sector consideration. Without us knowing more details from Ottawa, it is hard to decide if we are going purely public, purely private, hybrid — all of those considerations. We have a herculean task in front of us with the survey results of our consultation this summer — one of the largest results of consultations in Yukon history — and we are going to make sure that we listen to Yukoners.

When I say the bare minimum, I mean that. I mean at the bare minimum, there will be a local source where you can get cannabis legally in Yukon from a local source. Whether it is a private sector consideration, a public sector consideration or some kind of hybrid in between that — these are the details that we still have to work out.

Mr. Hassard: It is rather confusing for the citizens of Yukon when they read, and I will quote again — and these are the Premier's words, Mr. Speaker, not mine — the Premier said — and I quote: "There will be, in the Yukon, your ability to at least go into the liquor store here in Whitehorse — at the bare minimum." Why would the Premier make a statement

like this without first seeing what bylaws Yukon communities, including Whitehorse, may have in place beforehand?

Does the Premier feel that his government can dictate where marijuana may be sold in Yukon communities without first consulting them and seeing what their bylaws might say?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I thank the Leader of the Official Opposition for raising this question. As we already stated yesterday, we are bringing forward a discussion today here in this Legislature to talk about the future of cannabis here in the territory and hopefully hear from all sides of the Legislature on where this is going.

The Premier has just stood up and responded twice and said the same thing each time, which is that we will have a solution in terms of providing a retail outlet. We have not yet decided that. I wrote the same thing to the Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce yesterday evening. That is the situation. We appreciate when we talk with municipalities that they have some concerns.

I spent some time on September 23, I believe, having that conversation with them. What we said to them at that time was that we appreciated those concerns and solutions we bring forward would be in engagement with them, aware of constraints that they have. We just had the largest survey response ever. In this Legislature, we're hearing that we're not consulting enough and moving too fast, and we're also hearing that we're consulting too much and not moving fast enough.

Question re: Public airports legislation

Mr. Cathers: The Minister of Highways and Public Works' *Public Airports Act* has come in for a crash landing before it got off the ground. The list of Yukoners coming out against it is growing by the day. These stakeholders are being reasonable — they want to work with government. All they're asking is that government withdraw the legislation and take it out for more consultation. It sure hasn't taken the Minister of Highways and Public Works long to pick a fight with the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister please reconsider his decision to use the Liberal majority to ram this bill through and just do the right thing — withdraw the bill and take it out for more consultation?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for his interest in this matter. It's an important issue and he has asked me a question and it gives me an opportunity to address his concerns. The fact is that we have introduced airport legislation that empowers the aviation industry. It empowers the aviation industry, Mr. Speaker. The legislation before this House allows an advisory committee to oversee the drafting of any regulations. That was done intentionally. It was done intentionally because everyone in this territory remembers the imposition of fees at the airport. There was no consultation; there was no ask. We don't want to see that happen again.

We have built safeguards in this legislation to protect industry; safeguards that will protect the public; safeguards that will protect them from a government bent on imposing rules or charges on public or industry without any regard for

the consequences. We don't want to see that happen again, so we have introduced this legislation to help protect the industry.

Mr. Cathers: Unfortunately, that was another ridiculous deflection by this minister. The aviation industry certainly doesn't feel very empowered by his decision to ram through the *Public Airports Act* without consultation. A growing list of stakeholders is contradicting his claims. He has been forced to withdraw his own press release after one organization demanded that he stop claiming they had been consulted. Yukoners were not consulted properly on the *Public Airports Act*. We're hearing it from the aviation sector, we're hearing it from municipalities and there is an easy fix for this government, instead of continuing with what the minister seems to think is a game of dodge ball.

The minister can put his ego aside and take the *Public Airports Act* out for proper and meaningful consultation. Will he do that and realize that it is the right thing to do — to listen to these strong concerns we are hearing from a growing list of stakeholders who are not happy with this minister's handling of this legislation?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Two points: number one — of course we're listening to industry. We're listening to industry and the public and all manner of people on a number of different issues. We mentioned the marijuana legislation today. The public consultation this government is doing is broad and wide and deep on a number of different issues.

As for the legislation — this bill before the House — it is framework legislation, as I've said before. There is consultation on the nitty-gritty of this piece of legislation planned, going forward, to draft the regulations. We want industry involved in that process, and more — the chambers of commerce, the First Nations, anybody and everybody can have their say on the regulations. I have committed to this in this House. I have absolutely committed there and I'll continue that.

Mr. Cathers: The Minister of Highways and Public Works' *Public Airports Act* has crashed on takeoff. We've heard a growing list of stakeholders saying the minister has fumbled the ball all the way throughout the consultation process, and they are not comforted by his bland assurances, platitudes and deflections. Rather than admit his mistake, he is apparently trying to go full steam ahead on this legislation. What's the urgency? If the Yukon has survived for almost 22 years without an airports act, why can't we live a couple more months while the minister conducts legitimate consultation as a growing list of stakeholders are calling for it.

His excuses have been weak. It's time for him to set aside his ego, admit he made a mistake and just pull the *Public Airports Act*. Will he do that, or are we going to hear more ridiculous deflections from this minister?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I'm glad the member opposite is now interested in consultation. It's a welcome change; a post-deathbed conversion. I'm very happy that he is now interested in consultation. That hasn't been the case in the past, when fees were imposed at the airport on December 31, 2014, on an unsuspecting public. That happened.

We are also currently in the Supreme Court over the Peel — there's another classic example of a consultation process run amok. Again, that happened under the members' opposite watch, and we're going to do better.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 149

Clerk: Motion No. 149, standing in the name of Mr. Hutton.

Speaker: It is moved by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun:

THAT this House endorses reconciliation among indigenous and non-indigenous people as fundamental to redressing the legacy of residential schools and other historic wrongs and as crucial to building a stronger Yukon in which the world views of First Nation and non-First Nation people of the territory are understood, respected and valued.

Mr. Hutton: It gives me great pleasure to introduce this motion on reconciliation. I think it very fitting that it coincidentally happened today, when our country suffered a great loss with the untimely passing of Gord Downie. I believe one of the best ways that we could honour Gord's memory is to carry on the work that he was so passionate about, especially during his last years, and that was reconciliation with First Nations and creating awareness about the terrible legacy residential schools left in this country.

Our Yukon Liberal government is committed to renewed government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations. We are building relationships based on cooperation, partnership and respecting self-government agreements.

Self-government agreements are a map for the way forward for all Yukoners, not just for First Nations. Self-government agreements are instruments for collaborative nation building, environmental protections, sustainable economic growth and, most importantly, reconciliation.

Our Yukon Liberal government has been working hard to rebuild relationships with Yukon First Nations after 14 years of implementation by litigation by the members opposite. We are collaborating with First Nations for the benefit of Yukon. Establishing National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday was a symbolic step toward reconciliation and is an opportunity for all Yukoners to celebrate First Nation knowledge, language, culture and history. Our Yukon Liberal government has reinvigorated the Yukon Forum in order to establish and advance joint priorities and address issues collaboratively through open dialogue. We are working with First Nation governments to address the legacy of residential schools through improved service delivery and creating a

culturally relevant and responsive justice and corrections system. Our Yukon Liberal government is working with Yukon First Nations to implement the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We support the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Yukon First Nations enrich the social and cultural fabric of the territory. Revitalizing, maintaining and celebrating First Nation knowledge, languages and culture are key to a modern Yukon.

Ms. Van Bibber: I rise today to speak to Motion No. 149, put forward by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun. I support this motion to endorse reconciliation with First Nation people, and I will speak a little of the impacts that I know about this issue.

The Yukon community is small, and most of us long-time or born Yukoners probably know someone who was an attendee of residential school or the hostels. It is a sad legacy of Canada, and it is a legacy that will be front-page news for many years to come. The generational effects of a whole group of people cannot be summarized in one document or in 94 recommendations, but it is part of a solution to understand, respect and value each other.

There is much anger toward these schools that tried to take the Indian out of the child, the churches for their indoctrination and, of course, the governments for encouraging and championing the assimilation. We know it was a very, very bad experiment, as the first peoples did survive and many became stronger and a force to be reckoned with, as we still stand today.

My mother lost her Indian status due to marrying a non-native man. Hence, her children were classed as white. So what were we? Most important, what was I? Sometimes I was too white; sometimes I was too Indian. "Indian" was a term used at that time. I was also called a "half-breed" and that was also the language used at the time. But, because I was classed as white, I was allowed to go to public school so I did not experience residential school.

Recently, I spoke to a young woman of mixed heritage from one of the communities and she said it's still the same today. I was surprised because I thought we had moved forward from the blatant need to separate ourselves into groups. So we do have much work to do, and it begins in the homes of all Canadians. Teach your children to value, respect and understand all people, no matter their ethnicity, colour or beliefs.

As we continue our blended path forward, we can only have a stronger Yukon and a stronger sense of place. I believe that by supporting this motion, and speaking to it in this Legislative Assembly, we take our own positive steps forward toward reconciliation. By speaking to historical wrongs, society does do a good thing, because awareness and knowledge are what makes people understand the "why" or the "how come" of how we came to be today.

I'll stop with a quote by Edmund Burke: "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it."

Hon. Ms. Dendys: I rise to speak to Motion No. 149 today. I would like to thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for bringing this motion forward. I would like to thank the member opposite for her words. Thank you so much.

The Government of Yukon is committed to reconciliation and building partnerships with First Nations. I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to this motion. I would like to acknowledge today that we are on the traditional territory of the Ta'an Kwäch'än and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and to shed some light on what that means — that they have shared their territory with us and that, when we entered into our treaties with them, that is when they gave us formal permission to do so. Prior to that, society assumed that it had the permission.

I would like to quote Justice Murray Sinclair, commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: "The residential school experience is one of the darkest, most troubling chapters in our collective history." I truly believe that.

Justice Sinclair had to respond to comments just after the truth and reconciliation calls to action and the reports were tabled about, "Why don't they just get over it?"

His response was — and I quote: "And until people show that they have learned from this, we will never forget, and we should never forget, even once they have learned from it, because this is part of who we are. It's not just a part of who we are as survivors and children of survivors and relatives of survivors, it's part of who we are as a nation. And this nation must never forget what it once did to its most vulnerable people." I want to repeat one part of this quote: "... until people show that they have learned from this, we will never forget...".

Justice Sinclair also made statements about the importance of education. He said that education is what got us here and education is what will get us out of this mess.

I want to reflect on Gord Downie as well. I was very emotional today preparing to speak to reconciliation in Canada, knowing that a person like Gord Downie used his position to advance our cause. To lose someone like Gord Downie today, on the day that we are talking about reconciliation, is quite profound, and I thank the Speaker today for his very amazing tribute to Mr. Gord Downie. He stood for something that is what I want to focus on today through my comments.

Reconciliation needs to be action every day. His campaign was "Do something" — do something, it is so simple. Each and every one of us in the Legislative Assembly and people like us who have positions of influence have a chance to make our society different from what it is, to use our positions to bring awareness to — as Justice Sinclair said — the "... darkest, most troubling chapters in our collective history." The loss of Gord Downie is a tremendous loss to our country.

I have the utmost respect for him — that he used his position of influence to send the message to Canada about making reconciliation about action. Every single one of us has

that opportunity and responsibility for reconciliation in Canada. In 2016, Gord was honoured by indigenous leaders from across the country and he was given a Lakota name that translates to "Man who walks among the stars". He now walks with our ancestors, and perhaps that is where he will make the biggest impact. That is one of our beliefs as indigenous people — that we can call upon our ancestors and they will come and help us when we need that help. It is really amazing to stand in the Legislative Assembly in the Yukon and talk about that, because that is true and real to us. That is what you call reconciliation — when you have an opportunity to share, to educate and to help people understand your point of view and your perspective.

This past summer, as others have, all of us have had many amazing experiences since coming into these positions. I want to talk about a few that I have had over the last 10 months or so in the position of Minister responsible for Tourism and Culture, which includes heritage, and also as Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. I feel like reconciliation and opportunities to share around reconciliation should be in every single portfolio and every single thing that we do.

I want to start by just talking a little bit about the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls that started here in the north. We believe the north is where healing will come from. That's something that has been prophesied; it's well known within the indigenous community that healing will come from the north. I was incredibly humbled by the experience of listening to the stories of our families and for the courage they have shown to start this inquiry in Canada. I'm happy that other jurisdictions are starting to share their stories as well. I watched closely over the last week as it unfolded in Manitoba. We know that's where many indigenous women have gone missing and are known to have been murdered in that province, and all provinces and territories throughout Canada.

This is one of our next chapters we're going to tell in Canada. This is a chapter that has been a long time coming. It's a reflection of an attack on our people. I have said this in many forums over the last several months — that an attack on our women is an attack on our identity. It's an attack on everything that makes us who we are, because those women are the ones who bring life to our families, to our communities and to our nation. It's an important chapter to tell.

I send out my thoughts, prayers, and my hopes. As a politician in Canada with responsibilities, I look to what comes from that inquiry — to bring life to them, to actually see through the actual implementation of what comes from that.

I had an opportunity to listen to Dr. Cindy Blackstock, who has led the human rights case on indigenous children and the child welfare system. That's another chapter, where we're very fortunate to have people who have taken forward the battle on behalf of all our indigenous children.

This week, we have heard of a story of Gabriel Smarch. I am going to say his name today — Gabriel Smarch —

because he had incredible courage to tell his story and what his experience has been in our child welfare system. That is what that case is about. That human rights case was about was about the Gabriels of this world.

So when we talk about reconciliation we have a lot of work to do, Mr. Speaker — we do. We're very committed, I think, in the whole Legislative Assembly — that's what I hope and I do hear some support for this motion. We did get unanimous support the last time that we debated this, but I just really want to emphasize those particular chapters — some of them have been told, some of them are still yet to be told — and how very important they are.

This summer, I had the opportunity to attend a number of festivals and to talk about the importance of culture. Culture is to me — and I've said this before in this Legislative Assembly — foundational to everything that our communities are trying to achieve. When you attend these festivals — I'll talk about the first one, the Da Kų festival in Haines Junction — I know that the Member for Kluane attended along with me at that festival — but that particular festival is about waking up the land. That was the theme — “Our House is Waking up the Land”. Again, it's about revitalization about indigenous culture, revitalization of language — the actual practice of it. Again, it's about action, and so going to those festivals and watching the interaction and the generosity and being on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik people and their graciousness of hosting and teaching and continuing to live the vision that the elders had was really amazing.

One of the things I have talked about a lot this summer in particular is about when you come to a festival like this, participate. It's an opportunity. It's an opportunity to learn something about the culture. I had many interactions with tourists at all of those festivals that I attended this summer and we talked about the history of the people, and they just expressed such deep gratitude for a rich experience. That was one of the festivals I wanted to touch on.

Adāka was another one. It happens every year. It was a very rich experience this year, being Canada's 150th anniversary and what we struggled with, as indigenous people throughout Canada, to celebrate the confederation of Canada's 150th anniversary. We struggled with that — and I did, as an indigenous person — to speak to and find that balance and present myself sometimes as a bridge because that is sometimes how I see myself — as a bridge between our indigenous people and others. Having that opportunity to talk about reconciliation and to experience it together in these types of festivals emphasized the great opportunities that we have.

As a government, we're really so proud to support them and to continue to support them. It's not just an event; it's much more than that. It's an opportunity to celebrate our culture and to put reconciliation into action.

The watercraft project was an incredible part of this festival this year. We're very blessed in this territory to have the rich culture that we have and the revitalization of it and people who have just dedicated their lives to continuing to

bring it back, to sing the old songs, to create new songs, and to be generous about sharing the experience.

The other one that I attended this summer was Haa Kųsteeyí in Teslin. This is a Tlingit gathering. I was so honoured to be welcomed by the Tlingit chiefs as a representative of the Government of Yukon to dance with them in the grand entry. I don't believe that has ever happened. To stand on the stage with them, together, shoulder to shoulder, and to celebrate their incredible culture — that was a very defining moment for me and for our government that things are changing, things are shifting.

I wanted to also reflect on the CYFN General Assembly. At that assembly, they had former National Chief Ovide Mercredi, speak as one of their keynote speakers. I just want to quote from something he said at this assembly. “We are leaving our dark period; we are entering a new era. The future is our young people; our future is bright if we believe in our inherent rights. This is a time to move together with common vision; settlers walking together with us in a better way than we did in the last 150 years. I am optimistic about our future.”

One of the themes at the CYFN General Assembly this year was about walking the vision of our elders. I believe that's exactly what we're doing here today as we talk about reconciliation, as we talk about breathing life back into our self-government agreements or modern treaties — that is what we're talking about. We're walking the vision of the elders, whatever position we are in and whatever responsibility we have.

I want to also reflect on National Aboriginal Day, because it was an amazing moment for me, personally, and I think for all Yukoners. I was honoured to help mark that first holiday in Yukon on June 21 along the banks of the Yukon River. That is where we gathered to recognize those who came before us and to recognize the importance of indigenous people, their contribution to the fabric of Yukon and Canada as a whole — again, so proud.

I did acknowledge very clearly that this was the work of this whole House to bring National Aboriginal Day to a statutory holiday in Yukon. I think that it can help to pave the way forward, working together year-round, government-to-government to foster reconciliation, nation building.

I want to reflect on Wayne Price's comments. He too spoke about coming out of darkness. He talked about a prophecy of indigenous people — that they would go into a place of great darkness for 200 years and that we are now in the last 50 years of that 200-year period where we're coming out of darkness. It's similar to what Ovide Mercredi was talking about, and I believe it was based on the same prophecy.

There were a couple of anniversary events that I attended.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Well, I'm going to just jump forward because my most important experience this summer was walking up the trail with a Singletrack to Success youth group in Dawson. They took me up one of their traditional trails that they are revitalizing at Moosehide and they shared

with me that they are walking in the steps of their ancestors. To me, that is where the hope is — it's with our young people, it's with our youth, and that project symbolizes reconciliation in its full form. They are so gracious with sharing their story and they are very hopeful about their future.

I would like to say more about that because it was actually my most important point to make, but perhaps I will have another opportunity to talk about that project at a later date.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I'm really pleased to rise to speak to Motion No. 149. The motion reads:

THAT this House endorses reconciliation among indigenous and non-indigenous people as fundamental to redressing the legacy of residential schools and other historic wrongs and as crucial to building a stronger Yukon in which the world views of First Nation and non-First Nation people of the territory are understood, respected and valued.

I would like at this time to thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for bringing this motion forward today so that we can talk openly about our actions, about strengthening reconciliation.

I look forward to support for this motion from all members of this House. Reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people in Canada is of vital importance and it is no different here in the Yukon. The TRC and its very important work led to the development of 94 recommendations that I encourage all Yukoners to educate themselves on.

What is reconciliation? Reconciliation is more than listening; it is more than acknowledgement; it's more than art hanging on a wall. Mr. Speaker, reconciliation is about mutual understanding, mutual respect, and seeing each other. It's about changing how we do things, how we say things, and how we show leadership. It's about working together to create a stronger future for our children. It's about listening; it's about collaboration and cooperation.

Bill C-35, as it was introduced in mid-1985, really attempted reconciliation in a way that defined us as indigenous people in the Yukon — the indigenous people in the Yukon defining, then, what determines you to be, in my language, “*dinjii zhùh*”, which means “Indian” or “First Nation”.

For my mother and my grandmother, and all of my aunts and uncles, including me — we were all taken away from our communities in an attempt of assimilating us into a society that we were not accustomed to. In our community, we were protected. We were protected and seen — all with the same eyes and the same respect. There were no differences until we stepped out of our zone, outside of our community, and that meant that we had to make some adaptations. We had to adapt and look at structures that have been imposed on us. Reconciliation — reconciliation by way of introducing us to an education system, perhaps, that we didn't speak.

Language was a barrier — language for our grandparents' language, language for me, language for our community. The language of the first peoples of our communities was not

understood — so, loss of language, self-identity, of nurturing who you are, as indigenous in your own right in your own community. The true history, the hidden truths and the dark chapters were all hidden from all Canadians.

This history — understanding and opportunity to learn who we really are as Canadians and our shared history — was not written in our history books, and the conversations we are now having were not had in early years. Only now are Canadians — and, in some cases, our own Yukoners — beginning to understand our shared history as we should all be accepting the challenge to learn more and do more. Reconciliation is the responsibility of all Canadians.

On August 20, 2016, Canadian music legend, Gordon Downie, tasked the nation — and I quote: “Do something.” So we are going to do just that. Canada and Yukon must do more than just talk about reconciliation. Our Yukon government, our departments and the Yukon have taken important steps and are leading in the advancement of reconciliation in our territory — beyond perhaps anywhere else in Canada.

With the implementation — and the cornerstone and the foundational documents that we've signed and we've agreed to — of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, which has set the tone for reconciliation in our Yukon.

As Minister of Health and Social Services, I want highlight some of the ways that the department is carrying out the direction and commitment made over a year ago leading into the election. This government has worked very hard to revitalize the Yukon Forum, and I am happy to see that many of the recommendations and shared priorities coming out of it are now concerning health and social services. As the senior liaison representing the First Nations on the Yukon Forum prior to last year, I saw the challenges of getting the items on the table for discussion. The reconciliation documents that were presented were sometimes not accepted; it had to be on the terms of the government. Now we are looking at reconciliation and cooperation by way of a framework agreement.

Under the *2017 Yukon Forum Joint Priority Action Plan*, there is a commitment to develop and formalize a joint bilateral process to allow for strategic, effective engagement on matters related to health and social services. Under that particular action, there is a timeline that sets out what I want to speak to, because it is important to back up words and actions that help to realize and fulfill reconciliation efforts. The first action is to determine existing opportunities and timelines. The second action is to determine a path forward, which is to be completed by February 2018. The third action is to develop an implementation plan by April 2018. The fourth action is to develop an evaluation process in the same timeline.

I will refer us to the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*. In that report, in the mid-1980s, they spoke about reconciliation — some 20-year commitments, perspectives, realities and strengthening our relationships. We must begin our work. There cannot be peace or harmony unless there is

justice. There is no peace and harmony unless there is justice. These are quotes taken directly out of the report.

I would like to read some of that because I think it sets the foundation of where we have and have not gone and what we have not done in this amount of time since the report. There were many other reports about assimilation, reconciliation and opportunities to advance a relationship. I quote directly from the report: "Successive governments have tried — sometimes intentionally, sometimes in ignorance — to absorb Aboriginal people into Canadian society, thus eliminating them as distinct peoples. Policies pursued over the decades have undermined — and almost erased — Aboriginal cultures and identities."

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to having this government work with our indigenous First Nation governments as well as the departments to benefit all Yukoners and to look at reconciliation in the true sense of the word.

Reconciliation can be defined by many ways. Is it principles of peace or harmony or justice? Is it about indigenous rights? It's about who we are and I'm speaking now as that person — as an indigenous person in this Yukon — who represents the indigenous voice as being raised by my community and by my elders to carry forward a message around wellness of our people — increasing awareness.

Mr. Speaker, initiatives like this report, and like many other reports, needed implementation. It needed the drive and it needed the support behind it to be successful. The initiatives of this government will do just that. It will build a stronger Yukon in which world views of First Nation and non-First Nation people of this territory are understood, respected and valued.

This is why I'm speaking about these things on the floor of this House and why I feel it's important, so that everyone has an opportunity to hear and understand why reconciliation is important and how we are working to advance reconciliation as a government, as elected officials, community members and as individuals. It doesn't happen overnight, as indicated by the Premier in some of his language. Rome wasn't built in a day. Well, this didn't happen in a day. It will take many, many years to address reconciliation. It took us 500 years to get there. It will take us some time, but we aim to take some quick action and I have defined that in the principles agreement and framework agreement that we signed off on.

I'm proud to say that while this great action plan has been developed, I have been working with my department to talk about some very specific things within the Department of Health and Social Services toward the goal of reconciliation. I would like to outline three ways that the department will carry out this direction: programs and services; engagement; and training of staff. I don't really have a lot of time to speak today, although I would like to speak longer, but working with the child welfare process is essential.

Every child matters in the Yukon and every child matters in every Yukon community. My department is looking at ways to increase the use of extended family care agreements. Extended care agreements encourage that we have safe,

appropriate child facilities and that caregivers have the resources they need. This can perhaps be a family member, a community member or someone who has a connection to the cultural traditional practices. If not, then we will ensure that that happens by way of education, by way of engagement.

Through arrangements like the memorandum between Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Health and Social Services that was signed in 2012, we can ensure programs like the extended family care agreement protect children's connection to their culture, their integrity and their rights as indigenous youth of this territory. That agreement also outlines cooperation between Kwanlin Dün and Health and Social Services — things like custom adoption, grandparents' rights — making sure that grandparents have access to their grandchildren — as we have practised historically.

Another way my department is actively working toward reconciliation is through the Yukon mental wellness strategy. It identifies the importance of culture in supporting wellness, specifically recognizing culture as an important social determinant in health, and acknowledging how Yukon will support on-the-land healing programs that benefit both First Nation and non-First Nation people.

The second round of mental wellness innovation funding saw \$3,000 transferred to six Yukon First Nations for a variety of projects aimed at improvements to mental wellness for citizens in their traditional culturally appropriate practices and ways. Land-based healing is another way that my department is providing opportunities to advance reconciliation in the territory. In partnership with Yukon First Nations, we will contribute to working toward and finding ways and partnerships on culturally appropriate evaluations of current land-based healing programs. We have to ensure their success; we have to ensure that we do check in periodically and that we adapt and change accordingly the implementation of priorities and structures that we have set in place by way of recommendations from the Royal Commission's report — recommendations from the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*. There are many great studies that have been done on indigenous people. It's now time to put some action around that and the action happens within the mandate that we've been given as ministers of this government.

I won't touch on the Yukon Forum again, Mr. Speaker, but it is a fantastic and exciting opportunity. I would like to highlight a few of the engagements that my department has in this undertaking with First Nation partners.

The department is preparing to undertake a five-year review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. The five-year review of the act is very important and is long overdue. As members are aware, child welfare is a priority for this government and for First Nation governments. Additionally, and as identified as a priority at the Yukon Forum, improving the outcomes for First Nation children and their families is very important to me both personally and in my role as Health and Social Services minister. We are engaging with First Nation governments on appointments to review committees and on the process of the review itself.

The department is also currently undertaking the development of a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder plan. In doing so, I provided direction to department officials to reach out to each Yukon First Nation partner to seek permission to engage with their community on development of this plan. Mr. Speaker, part of the reconciliation is asking permission to engage and, when that permission is not granted, respecting that decision.

Officials were directed to go into the communities they have been invited to; they were directed to work with local champions, local supports in getting feedback on what those community members wanted to see in the plan and ways that would help their communities thrive.

On the development of the cannabis legislation for the territory, officials are meeting individually with Yukon First Nations. Their goal is to gather input on how this legislation affects First Nation communities, gather feedback on how to ensure legislation is culturally relevant and respectful, and also to hear about possible partnership opportunities when legislation is passed, because an important part of reconciliation that is often overlooked is the right to economic development opportunities and implementation of our self-government agreements — sections of our self-government agreements — that require First Nation participation and engagement in drafting and design.

The last example I want to highlight is the early learning and childcare component. I reached out to each Yukon First Nation asking for thoughts and opinions on how our government can best allocate the funding recently announced by the federal government. All of these engagements are steps toward reconciliation.

We have a lot of work to do. We have a lot of engagements happening. We're hopeful — I'm hopeful — that this government and our partnerships will see some true successes, some true reconciliation and collaborative approaches in reconciliation — my role in reconciliation is something that I take very dear to heart.

Lastly, I want to speak briefly about training opportunities for our staff throughout government and encourage reconciliation within each department — opportunities for a true representative public service plan that truly highlights the self-government context and the cultural context of the self-governing nations, the nations in which our employees reside. I encourage all our staff to attend such training whenever it is available.

I see my time is short, so I would like to at this point just again thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for his motion, and I would like to thank the House and all those who have spoken so far. Mahsi'.

Mr. Istchenko: It's a privilege to rise in this House today to speak to Motion No. 149. Of course I want to thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for bringing this motion forward.

I guess I have a little bit to speak about this motion. I think it is a very important motion and that's why I'm standing in support of it today.

I want to talk a little bit about my — and I think relevant living in Yukon and growing up in the community — when I went to school — and soon we will approach Remembrance Day — I remember learning about the Nazis looking to exterminate six million Jews. I learned about the French Inquisition. I learned a lot of stuff about world history. I didn't really know what the gold rush was. I didn't know what a residential school was. I went through the school system not knowing much of the history. I didn't even really know much about the Alaska Highway except that my grandfather was one of the first people to work on the pipeline right after the highway was put in.

As we move forward with reconciliation, I was so happy to see and so glad to see that we have First Nation languages in our classes in our school at St. Elias, but we also have that history being put into our social studies and our history programs so people can understand that. That's part of growing and I think it's incredible that this is there.

When the truth and reconciliation report came out, the recommendations — I can remember the previous government which I was part of tasking a deputy minister to go look at this stuff. We're so much further ahead in Yukon than we are across Canada. Most of the land claims have been settled.

They still talk about water — unsafe drinking water in some of the First Nations across the country. We have three in my First Nation — just of Champagne and Aishihik, let alone Kluane. We have level-two operators and great drinking water. It's incredible what land claims have brought and what working together has brought to us.

I want to talk a little bit about growing up in the community. We were some of the first people to have a department store — my family — and I can remember the First Nation elders and the local seniors, or elders, coming in. I think I was 12 or 13 working at the store and asking my grandma, "Grandmother, why don't the First Nations sign their name? They put an X on the cheque." My grandma said, "Well, they don't know how to write." They had come in after the highway. They had moved in from Aishihik or different areas. I was puzzled by that. I can remember my grandma saying, "Remember when they get their supplies, then we take the rest of that money and we'll keep it for them." Sometimes I would give them a ride back to Kloo Lake or to Klukshu. I probably didn't have my driver's licence but we had a van and an opportunity to help. We would get out there and they would be happy to get their supplies from the local store.

As the community grew, and as our community grew — I was talking to an elder and he was talking about when — we had this event out in Haines Junction. It was the 75th anniversary of the Alaska Highway. We had a day for it, and one of the things we did is we got some people together and said, "Listen, what does this look like? We want to be respectful of the First Nations being here before us." I would talk a little bit about a community tree, which I had the opportunity to talk about on the radio a few times. They said when they came into Haines Junction and they built houses there and they moved in, they were a little puzzled about how things went, but it didn't take very long and we had things like

the native bonspiel. We had curling bonspiels in there. I can remember curling in a native bonspiel. I still have a cordless drill, I believe. I won first place in the B event, and it's older — I think it's a nine-volt and they have 24 volts now. I can remember the prizes and curling with First Nation people in the community. They found opportunities to raise money and move forward.

Then I remember when land claims came along, and the conversations we've been having lately — you know, we're trying to figure out how to revitalize curling and we have a TV issue with curling — but revitalize trapping. When the land claims were settled, everybody got jobs and just sort of got away from being on the land, and now I'm so glad to see that, through land claims and having the resource councils and having our Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board working together — and it's a product of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and with the First Nations. Looking at the Alsek moose recovery program and getting trapping back out there — we're doing it with the Junior Rangers and the Yukon Trappers Association works with it — getting kind of back on the land.

A highlight for me in my life was when a member of a First Nation family that I'm adopted into got sick, and I just helped run the business for quite awhile. So when they adopted me into their family many years ago — long before my political career — I can remember my family being there and now the family that I'm adopted into being there. It is a humorous story because I always like the humour part of stuff. I can remember getting my name, Dak'än thāwa, and I was named after Richard Hume — Uncle Richard. I can remember the elders telling me for about two years that it meant “man pants” — it's not what it meant, it meant something else — and laughing at me. I thought it was hilarious and so did everyone else, but that's sort of part of loving their tradition, and things are changing in the world. We have cellphones now and satellite phones and satellites.

With the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Highway, there wasn't a lot of focus — I remember that — on the First Nations but, with the 75th anniversary, I was happy to see that. I sort of bring back a couple of years ago, when we had revitalized the native bonspiel and had the 50th anniversary, and I worked with the local Lions Club. We had Bob Charlie and the Klukshu Flats five-piece boogie band, which hadn't played in quite a few years, back on stage. It was incredible to see.

As we move forward in my community, some of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — the municipality is going to do a flag-raising. Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' flag will be — I think they have been trying to work on that for awhile. Of course, all of us are busy and everybody is going to meetings, and that's kind of how it goes.

We're working on this community tree, and it's called “A Road Runs Through It”. It's going to be a history from the start of our community, but long before that. The roots will be the First Nations' root that works up, and then there will be the families who have come to the community. Their names

will go on this tree and it will be a living kind of artwork that can be added on to within our community. I think that's incredible and something that we're doing in the community.

I just wanted to touch a little bit on my career as a politician — when I first got elected. I have three First Nations in my riding, and the focus for me was just to try to help. I think I had some great successes. I listened earlier today in the House when one of the questions was being answered about consultation. I was proud to work with the Kluane First Nation on getting cottage lots out and wind power. I should probably get an update on that one of these days — I will.

I was proud to work with our previous government, trying to work on a reconciliation agreement with White River to give them some more opportunities. Champagne and Aishihik are the local First Nations there and there is lots of stuff with them. I'm going to continue on doing that. I'm going to continue on working for all of the people of the Kluane riding.

In the motion, it says “... building a stronger Yukon in which the world views of First Nation and non-First Nation people of the territory are understood, respected and valued.” You just need to go to my community and I think you can see that, Mr. Speaker, so I thank you for that.

Ms. Hanson: I'm pleased to rise on behalf of the Yukon New Democratic Party to speak to the motion put forward by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun. The subject matter of this motion and the history it raises are difficult, which is all the more reason why we, as elected members and elected representatives of all Yukon citizens, must give them voice, why we must move beyond awareness to action.

I agree with the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin when she made those comments earlier with respect to the imperative of action. I thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for bringing the issues associated with reconciliation back to the floor of the Assembly.

As we have spoken about before, Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was, in the first instance, to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 150-year history of the residential schools. In so doing, by revealing the history of the residential schools, it also challenged us to peel back our blinders and be open to the truth of the history of this country, of this territory we now call “Yukon”, and to be open, in that sense, to the process of reconciliation and the renewed relationships that are based on mutual understanding and respect.

That mutual understanding will allow us to begin the process of respecting and valuing the world views of both First Nation and non-First Nation people who live in Yukon.

A guiding principle of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was that the truth of our common experiences will help set our spirits free and pave the way to reconciliation.

Over the past 2.5 years since the *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*, the 382-page summary of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada — since that time, since it came out, I have found myself

returning to it time and again. It's dog-eared. It's compelling and it's challenging.

The truth of the residential schools, what they were, why they were, how they corrupted our view of ourselves as a kinder, gentler nation than, say, our neighbour to the south and how they profoundly affected generation after generation of indigenous people of this nation — that truth is hard.

Thanks to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and all those who bore witness before it, that truth can no longer be denied. That truth and its consequences must be remembered. The next step, however — the biggest step — is a step of reconciliation. It goes beyond reports. It goes beyond studies, beyond statements of intent or press releases. So what is it? What is reconciliation? We've heard different discussions about this already this afternoon. There is no one way to define it.

Former Justice — now Senator — Murray Sinclair has a succinct way of expressing it. He said that, "Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships." He also said, "There are no shortcuts." Forging and maintaining respectful relationships — it bears repeating — because respect is relational. It's not simply telling people about the programs and services we are providing. Respect is relational. It is mutual. It is never unilateral.

In the spirit of reconciliation, we need to be truthful and acknowledge that here in the Yukon we have a long way to go to maintain truly respectful relationships. Even before considering the calls to action in the report, we need to take a moment to reflect on our local situation. For reconciliation to be realized, substantial changes in how we resolve differences would need to be implemented. We have a long way to go.

The language used by the TRC is compelling. For example, they said — and I quote: "Reconciliation not only requires apologies, reparations, the learning of Canada's national history, and public commemoration, but also needs real social, political and economic change."

Mr. Speaker, I have heard some heartfelt expressions this afternoon with respect to Gord Downie — and I say this with the deepest respect. We need to move beyond sentimentality. Death is sad. Death of a Canadian music icon is sad. And in a very real way, it is sad that it takes celebrity to begin to give voice to the children — children like Chanie Wenjack, victims of residential schools.

Gabriel Smarch was given voice, not the voice of celebrity, but he was given voice at great personal cost and risk, and we must change that. As we have seen over the past weeks and days, there are some fundamental challenges for us when we talk about reconciliation in areas such as justice. There are questions we must ask about power. Who has it? Who wields power and how is it wielded? There are questions about the difference between the legal system and a system that is based on justice.

As an aside, Mr. Speaker, I have on a wall behind my desk a very old framed quote that a friend gave me many years ago. It has followed me throughout my career. It is a simple statement, but like many seemingly simple statements, it is deceptively challenging — much like many of the words

contained in the TRC recommendations. The quote is from Anatole France, and it simply says, "The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread." Depending on your world view and your experience, that statement does describe the legal system that most would agree with, but it also describes how legal systems can be and have been used to justify all manner of social injustice.

In rereading the TRC summary report, I find myself, as I imagine others in the Chamber have done, personally challenged. The history I was taught, like many in this room, was supposed to be objective and balanced — in short, the truth. As the layers of the work and research done over many years, and as the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin pointed out — the work done in the 1990s by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples was headed by George Erasmus, a Dene man from the Northwest Territories who was also a young, aboriginal leader during the Berger Commission in the 1970s. It is not as though we haven't had the opportunity over the last half-century to begin to understand these issues.

The history taught in the past and to this day, as the TRC said, contains — and I quote: "... notions of European superiority and Aboriginal inferiority have tainted mainstream society's ideas about, and attitudes toward, Aboriginal peoples in ways that have been profoundly disrespectful and damaging. They too need to understand Canada's history as a settler society and how assimilation policies have affected Aboriginal peoples." The TRC hoped that this knowledge and understanding will lay the groundwork for establishing mutually respectful relationships. In my view, nowhere is that basis for those mutually respectful relationships more finely expressed than in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*. It is profound because it is hugely challenging. We need to remind ourselves that the declaration was resisted, undermined, debased, debated and minimized by successive federal governments. It didn't matter what stripe — Liberal or Conservative — all the time, right through, and only recently has it been accepted, and then there has been a retreat.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission considers reconciliation to be an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships in all levels of our society. They call upon us as legislators — not simply just as Cabinet, but as all legislators — to study under it with a view to identifying its impacts on current government laws, policy and the behaviour that would enable us to develop a holistic vision of reconciliation that embraces all aspects of the relationship between First Nation and non-First Nation Yukoners.

One of the realities in the truth is that the residential schools were a tool of genocide and that tool was wielded by the churches. A lot has been spoken about the role of churches in Canada and their harmful history with respect to residential schools.

What many Canadians, myself included, have likely and at least not consciously heard of is what is referred to — and this was something again, when I keep going back to the TRC,

I find myself drawn to the area where they talk about the Doctrine of Discovery. I do this because it's a perverse thing, but the more I read it, I think, "Man, we have some thinking to do in this territory."

As the issues of the reality of the abuses of residential school was gaining public attention, the settlement churches, the churches that established those residential schools began to realize that the issue of reconciliation and the issue of how we deal with this history has manifested itself in the abuses of the residential school — that history is much more deeply rooted. That formed a major challenge and continues to form a major challenge to us because it's rooted in a historic legacy that goes back 500 years.

I want to quote one of the people who was involved in the settlement — the church settlements — talking about it from the Roman Catholic foundation, and that's where the Doctrine of Discovery comes from. She said: "Most non-Aboriginal Canadians are aware of the fact that Indigenous peoples commonly regard land rights as culturally and religiously significant. Fewer non-natives, I suspect, would consider their own connection with property in the same light, and fewer still would regard the legal foundation of all land rights in Canada as conspicuously theological. In fact, however, it is. The relationship between law and land in Canada can be traced to a set of fifteenth-century theological assumptions that have found their way into Canadian law... The Doctrine of Discovery was the legal means by which Europeans claimed rights of sovereignty, property, and trade in regions they allegedly discovered during the age of expansion. These claims were made without consultation or engagement of any sort with the resident populations in these territories — the people to whom, by any sensible account, the land actually belonged. The Doctrine of Discovery has been a critical component of historical relationships between Europeans, their descendants, and Indigenous peoples, and it underlies their legal relationships to this day, having smoothly and relatively uncritically transitioned from Roman Catholic to international law" — and unfortunately to national law.

Not very many of us are conscious of that as we go about, day by day, assuming that the laws that we have in our country and in our territory are objective and have roots in our current situation. In fact, many of the conflicts that we have around land and aboriginal rights go back much longer.

I raise this today because there is a relationship — again subconscious but clearly ingrained — in how individuals and their governments continue to respond to aboriginal land rights. Without having that consciousness brought forward, it makes it very difficult for us to really embrace reconciliation.

When we say in this Legislative Assembly that we embrace all 94 recommendations, we are making a profound statement. We are saying that we are prepared to dismantle the legal structures and policies that are based in the Doctrine of Discovery. If that is true, we should be very proud of ourselves. If it's not true, then let's talk about it and find out where the discrepancies are.

The TRC said it was not enough to simply repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. For example, while still maintaining

the requirement for aboriginal people to prove the validity of their existence and territoriality, the TRC did not challenge the validity of the Crown's sovereignty, which is why treaties — and the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin spoke about the importance and imperative of the land claims and arrangements that we have negotiated in the Yukon — are so important because, as the TRC points out, without treaties, Canada would have no legitimacy as a nation.

It's going to take hard work. It calls for personal action, but it also calls for systemic action. Mr. Speaker, my hope is that we will not reject or resist the call for systemic change. I referred earlier to Gabriel Smarch and that recent disturbing story of an intergenerational survival of residential school abuse, of sexual abuse within our child welfare system and education system. Portrayed in the national media, it gave ordinary citizens beyond those who might normally have been familiar with the consequences of residential schools that have played forward in a most tragic way — it is through the good work of responsible journalists that voice is given to those whose voices are silenced by the systems we have put in place. Once that one lone voice finds the courage to speak, we are obliged to listen and to hear aspects of that tragic life, aspects previously only seen through the lens of a child welfare system, police, corrections, probation, law courts. It offers an opportunity to make the break from past practices and ways of doing things to consider how, if we apply the lens of reconciliation, the outcomes of justice might look different and how they might restore voice and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support this good motion coming from the member opposite, so we can make sure we have a full and comprehensive discussion as we move forward over the next years together as legislators, and how we can talk together — how we as citizens of the Yukon Territory embrace not just the language of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but the spirit and intent of those commissioners and every single witness who testified before that commission.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this motion, which touches on the issue that is incredibly important to our government and to me personally. I thank my colleague, the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, for bringing this important issue forward for us to debate today.

I also want to thank those who have already spoken for sharing their thoughts. I look forward to hearing from other members of this House on this motion.

The path toward reconciliation that we find ourselves on is a long and winding one. The path behind us holds many lessons, and we can learn a great deal if we are willing to.

The path before us holds great promise so long as we are committed to moving forward. Staying in place will get us nowhere. This motion calls on us to endorse reconciliation and to move forward along this path. I agree with my colleagues that we should endorse reconciliation. I would like to speak to some of the reasons why this is not just a good idea, but critical for the future of our territory and the well-being of all Yukoners.

Reconciliation is about acknowledgement and an acknowledgement of the past in order to build a better future. At the territorial and government level, the process of reconciliation is rooted in the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. This agreement between Yukon First Nations, the governments of Canada and Yukon provided a framework for negotiations toward self-government and final agreement with Yukon First Nations. This is a historic document that was groundbreaking when it was agreed to in the early 1990s. People from across Canada and the world have, for a long time, looked to the Yukon as a source of inspiration, and this is no exception.

The *Umbrella Final Agreement* placed our territory at the forefront of reconciliation in Canada, and that is something we can and should be proud of — and keep in mind in this House and in our work as the elected representatives of the people of the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement should be the centrepiece for how we as a government operate when dealing with First Nation governments. One of the reasons that the *Umbrella Final Agreement* is so important is that it provides certainty to the parties involved. It provides each government with clear expectations and forms the basis for cooperation and dialogue moving forward. This is essential in order to reduce conflict and foster cooperation and collaboration. By engaging in constructive dialogue, we can make progress toward a better future for Yukon. We won't always agree, and that's okay. Walking together on a path toward reconciliation will not be without difficulties, but it is important to keep the dialogue open. When there is conversation, there is a chance to find common ground, and common ground is the basis for cooperation.

At its heart, the *Umbrella Final Agreement* is about trust and respect between governments, which is needed to find common ground. Our Liberal government is committed to a renewed government-to-government relationship with First Nation people of Yukon built on cooperation, partnership and respect. We believe in this approach, based on respecting the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the final and self-government agreements that flow from it. It is essential to moving toward a modern Yukon.

We've seen the results of other approaches in the past based on confrontation, antagonism and disrespect. We've seen the acrimony and the breaking down of relationships with First Nations in the territory. We pledge to Yukoners to chart a different course. Our priority is negotiation rather than litigation. We believe that a healthy, collaborative relationship with First Nations is the path toward reconciliation.

We believe that final and self-government agreements are the map for the way forward for all Yukoners and not just for First Nation people. These agreements are instruments for collaborative nation-building. They are instruments for environment protection and sustainable economic growth. They are vital instruments for reconciliation and, if implemented according to the spirit and intent, they are beneficial to all Yukoners.

It is critical that we ensure that these agreements are upheld. Honouring these agreements, according to their

original spirit and intent, is important for building relationships and healing. That is what is needed — healing and the building of relationships so that we can move forward together on the path toward reconciliation.

The Yukon Liberal government has been working diligently since we were elected to renew more respectful relationships with Yukon First Nations. Earlier this year, all Yukon First Nations with final agreements, the Council of Yukon First Nations and I, as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, signed a mining memorandum of understanding to reset the goals, priorities and processes to improve the management of mineral resources in Yukon.

This mining MOU commits the parties to working collaboratively to review and improve legislation and policies for the licensing of all phases of mining life cycle and coming up with solutions together. The MOU also commits the parties to working collaboratively to review and improve legislation and policies and to develop recommendations to address issues related to licensing and management of mining projects, both on and off settlement land.

We're already starting to witness the results of our new, respectful approach toward working collaboratively with Yukon First Nations, and there is still a lot of work to do. Our government is committed to seeing it through and working collaboratively with First Nations for the benefits of all Yukoners.

Another piece of this has to do with the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* — a unique and innovative piece of legislation that was developed through a partnership with the federal government, the territorial government and the Council of Yukon First Nations. The act flows directly from chapter 12 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, and it creates an effective process that engages and represents the interests of all Yukoners to assess the effects of projects and other activities in the Yukon that those might affect.

As I have said before, the partnership that creates this act is something Yukoners should be proud of. It reflects the kind of respectful government-to-government relations with Yukon First Nations and other levels of government that our new Liberal government is working hard to reintroduce to this territory. By collaborating with First Nations, we can chart a course that balances environmental protection and sustainable economic growth that will benefit all Yukoners, and part of that is respecting the partnership that gave life to this act.

We in the House can be proud that we were able to come together to offer unanimous support of the Government of Canada to pass Bill C-17. This bill will restore confidence in Yukon's environmental and socio-economic assessment process and thereby bring certainty back to the territory's mineral industry and make it a safe and attractive place for investment. This will be good for First Nations, good for industry and good for all Yukoners.

Another important initiative of our government that supports efforts toward reconciliation is the reinvigorating of the Yukon Forum. We've held three meetings of the Yukon Forum so far this year. To put that in context, there were only

three meetings of the Yukon Forum in the five years before the Liberal government came into office. The Yukon Liberal government has held three meetings of the Yukon Forum already this year, and we will have another in December. Reinvigorating the Yukon Forum directly reflects our Liberal government's priority of building strong government-to-government relationships with First Nations to foster reconciliation.

The most recent meeting took place in the wonderful community of Champagne in the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. I would like to add that we were able to have that meeting this year in their newly renovated hall in their community. It means a lot to that community, and I want to thank the Member for Kluane, who I know was a champion of that project. I know that means a tremendous amount to that community and provides an opportunity and a place for potlaches and weddings and is a place where true reconciliation happens. He should be noted for his work on that project; he was a champion of it.

The meeting saw the Yukon government and First Nation leadership agree to an action plan that outlined steps and next steps for addressing joint priorities. These priorities include fiscal relations, collaborative processes for heritage, justice, education, health and social services, land claim and self-government implementation, and ensuring that Yukon's legislative agenda considers First Nation priorities.

As Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I am happy to report that this action plan includes resource revenue. Actions on resource revenue include: initiating discussion between self-governing Yukon First Nations and Government of Yukon to address a resource revenue-sharing agreement and a review and potential changes to the Yukon's resource royalty regime; and resuming discussions between self-governing Yukon First Nations and the Government of Yukon toward settlement of a chapter 23 implementation agreement. This action plan also covers chapter 22 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*.

We are working with Yukon First Nations to determine existing opportunities under chapter 22, including undertaking an inventory and analysis of programs, addressing Yukon asset construction agreements, determining procurement improvements, and providing updates on existing programs, along with discussion of the adequacy of programs and clear timelines for completion of deliberations.

I would like to highlight some of the chapter 22 initiatives that are currently underway. In March 2017, the Yukon government provided funding to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to reclaim an abandoned placer camp located on category A settlement land at Examiner Gulch. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation is managing the contract, and funds were provided for the First Nation to subcontract the site cleanup.

Through the regional economic development fund, the Yukon government is supporting the Carcross Tagish Management Corporation to develop a feasibility study and business plan for potential new manufacturing businesses in Carcross, and also to help prepare a request for proposals for

the development of an ecotourism plan and community engagement initiative.

The regional economic development fund has also supported the Kluane Dana Shāw Corporation to hire a geographic information systems professional to develop and implement training of several citizens of the Kluane First Nation. The results of this skills training will feed into a geographic information systems mapping business plan.

The Da Daghay Development Corporation has also provided, with support this year through the regional economic fund, for a fire crew training pilot program.

Finally, the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources are jointly supporting the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation to build capacity to address mineral development opportunities within their traditional territory.

These are just some of the examples of work being done that support the objectives of chapter 22. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I look forward to sharing more with this House as the days go on.

Getting back to the joint action plan that was signed at the Yukon Forum meeting in Champagne last month, it also included work related to chapter 11 and land use planning. Our government is working with Yukon First Nations to convene a workshop to carry out a review of land use planning generally in Yukon and chapter 11 of the final agreements in particular. This workshop and review will lead to a report with recommendations that will be provided to all parties to the Yukon Forum. Additionally, the action plan included the adoption of the work plan for the mining memorandum of understanding that I mentioned earlier.

I must say, the Yukon Forum has been very productive so far this year and I look forward to seeing it continue to provide a venue for open and frank discussions between our Liberal government and the Yukon First Nations. As I mentioned earlier, when there is a conversation, there is a chance to find common ground and common ground is the basis for cooperation and relationship-building. Building relationships and working cooperatively is an essential piece of reconciliation. That is what our Liberal government is committed to. That is what the people of Yukon elected us to do.

I said that this path toward reconciliation holds great promise so long as we are committed to moving forward, as we are, and we will continue to work in partnership with First Nations and for the benefit of all Yukoners.

Once again, I would like to thank my colleague, the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, for bringing this important issue before us today. I would like to just add a bit to my words today. The Leader of the Third Party touched upon — and I say this with absolute respect — the fact that today in the Legislative Assembly, we have heard from the Speaker some words about Gord Downie. I absolutely respect her perspective that hearing from a celebrity today — this conversation is so big. I'll just reflect on why, when I heard those words — when one third of the population of the country heard those words last August — it was important. I

think it's because, as much as we can have political debate here, sometimes the political debate in this Legislative Assembly becomes — we have friction. I think when any of us walk out of here at the end of the day there are times where you take a deep breath and maybe wish that things had gone differently. But we do as a group — all three parties — come to a place of common ground, I think that those days are pretty special.

I think to say on behalf of my colleagues — and I don't think I am going to speak on anybody's behalf — this motion that was put forward today is something that I assume all members are behind. I think everybody here has strong views toward reconciliation, and everybody understands the importance of it. What was profound for me, was when I heard and watched people in Kingston, Ontario — a group of people — respond to those words, and then the commentary for days after felt like a large portion of the population of this country were also getting it.

Having the opportunity to have lived in different places, whether it was Toronto at one point, or Halifax or Vancouver, I find that the sentiments, ideology, perspective and respect that are here in the Yukon are not always consistent in other places in this country. By hearing an individual — it wasn't even so much the individual's words, it was the response of the others in that venue — and then to see that translated across many media outlets and the response from people, that was what I felt was impactful.

Before I finish, a quote from the great Gord Downie — a national treasure, who sadly passed away last night. Gord Downie was a tremendous advocate for reconciliation. He helped raise awareness and the need for reconciliation across Canada. The quote is: "It's going to take us 100 years to figure out what the hell went on up there. But it isn't cool and everybody knows that. It's really, really bad, but we're going to figure it out, you're going to figure it out." I think the future of this territory and country is too important to not take this into consideration. I know that I only have about a minute left.

I want to thank the Member for Porter Creek North for sharing a very personal perspective today. In some ways, I can relate to some of the things that she said. I think and truly believe as well in her comments that she talked about — it starts at home. I agree with that. I think that we have to be careful with our words. Our words are so strong — our words to our children, our words to our family members, especially as young kids come up, those words help frame perspective. I want to thank my mom, who brought me up and always taught me to treat people as people and that everybody was the same. Certainly that helped me to get on the right path, and I try to do that and I hope that others do as well.

Thank you for a chance today. Thank you to the others who spoke, and I look forward to the remaining comments here today.

Mr. Adel: I am pleased to speak today on this very important motion. I am planning to support it. It is significant — this motion — and was put forward by my colleague, the

Member for Mayo-Tatchun. Our Liberal government campaigned on a promise of respectful government-to-government relations with the First Nation governments in the name of reconciliation.

Reconciliation is central to everything we do as a government. Since taking office, we have worked diligently on respectful government-to-government relations with First Nations as we said we would. So far this year, there have already been three meetings of the Yukon Forum as previously mentioned by some of my other colleagues and from the members from across the way. A fourth will be held in December.

This forum, which was created over a decade ago, is a significant initiative that is symbolic of the cooperative nature of governance in this territory. It provides an opportunity for the Premier, the Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations and Yukon First Nation leadership to gather to discuss issues and work together on joint priorities.

Indeed, at the most recent meeting of the Yukon Forum, which was held in Champagne on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, the Yukon government and the Yukon First Nation chiefs approved a joint action plan on a number of priorities. This was just one step on the path forward, but it was an important one. More generally, the Yukon Forum is significant in keeping a dialogue open between governments in this territory. We might not always agree. It's important that we keep this dialogue open so that we can have frank discussions about issues of common concern and work to find common ground.

Again, this was the third meeting of the Yukon Forum this year and that is significant. Since the forum was established, there have been a total of eight meetings and three have occurred this year. There will be a fourth meeting of the Yukon Forum before the end of the calendar year and there will be four more next year. Meeting regularly with First Nations leadership through the Yukon Forum reflects our government's commitment to improving the government-to-government relationship between the Yukon government and the Yukon First Nations. We are committed to a renewed relationship with First Nation people of the Yukon built on cooperation, partnership and respecting the self-government agreements.

These agreements are not just suggestions. They provide a map forward for all Yukoners, not just First Nation people, on the path toward reconciliation. Implementing these agreements in the spirit of reconciliation is the path forward to a modern Yukon. This is what Yukoners want — this is what I heard at the doors — because a modern Yukon will benefit all Yukoners, First Nation and non-First Nation alike.

From a personal perspective, an important part of reconciliation is also education. We are moving toward reconciliation, but we need to educate ourselves and our children about First Nation culture, practices and the historical context of Canada's first peoples. Of course, educating our children in public schools about the history of our relations with First Nations in this territory and across the country is important and I'm happy about the changes that have occurred

in the public school curriculum brought forward by this government to incorporate Yukon content and First Nations way of knowing and doing in all grades.

In my opinion, education needs to begin at home through discussion with all the members of our families. In my family, reconciliation has been brought to the dinner table for discussion many times and those discussions are lively. I am proud that two of my children were born and raised in Yukon. They have gone to school, played on the playground, played sports and worked with other First Nation children, everyone alike. They also both took a semester of CHAOS at the Wood Street School. CHAOS is the community, heritage, adventure, outdoors and skills experiential program offered to Yukon students in grades 9 and 10. This program was developed in collaboration with the First Nation Programs and Partnerships unit at the Department of Education. One of its goals is for students to develop an understanding of, and make connections to, Yukon First Nation knowledge, traditions, skills, values and beliefs — and my boys both benefited from this. They have shared them at home with their mother and me.

Our family talks at the dinner table have evolved as they have grown up and gained experience through educational and extracurricular activities in the Yukon. We have come to believe, as a family, that a healthy, collaborative relationship with First Nations is the path toward reconciliation, so I am happy to voice my support for this motion. I appreciate what has been said by my colleagues in this House so far, and I look forward to hearing from others and what they have to say about reconciliation.

It is important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are all part of this conversation, all joined together in an effort toward reconciliation.

Mr. Hassard: I too am honoured to rise today to speak to Motion No. 149. I would like to thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you are the one who brought this motion forward. I would like to thank all members of this House today for their heartfelt words spoken here and I look forward to hearing others as well.

I just want to acknowledge the importance of this motion and its timelines. I would like to also acknowledge the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for the work that they have done in bringing forward the stories and experiences of those who have suffered as a result of residential schools. We really need to pause and reflect on the courage that it took for all of the people who have come forward and shared their stories. It's certainly not an easy decision to make to come forward to share these stories. As we learn more about the trauma, we know that sometimes bringing up these stories can have devastating impacts on the victims. The testimonies and stories that were shared are devastating to hear.

Those are just from the people who have come forward. We know there are many others who have not. I know that, in this House, we all know people who have suffered as a result of these events, as well as others. The issue of reconciliation is a monumental task, no doubt, but it is certainly a task that is

necessary and one we need to do together. Through cooperative work and understanding, the pain and loss are not easy things to share or to hear, but they are certainly necessary for reconciliation.

That is part of how we prevent these types of atrocities from ever happening again. With this out in the open, we can actually address the issues and it allows us to speak out and to take action.

I would like to say how I think it's encouraging and a very important sign that, here in the House, all three parties can come together on an important issue like this and work together. I know that has been mentioned by more than a few people here this afternoon, and I would just like to reiterate that very important point because I think it shows just how important this is to Yukoners.

I think, as Yukoners, we are very proud of the work that has been done to date. A lot really revolves around the accomplishments of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* and the final and self-governing agreements, and it has created that relationship and the responsibility to work together.

I believe that, in many respects, Yukon has been leading the country in its response and approach to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. A lot of hard work was done on this file under the former minister, Elaine Taylor, when she was the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, and I would certainly like to acknowledge the work of the current Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate. We certainly all know that it isn't an easy file, but we do know that she has been working very hard. When we have asked for information, she has certainly been very forthcoming, so I thank her for that.

I think that the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls is also a topic that all three parties in this House need to continue to work cooperatively on as well. I certainly look forward to being able to work with members of this House as we do that important work over the next few years. This is a responsibility of all of us in this Legislature and as leaders in our community. I know I certainly take my role and responsibilities as MLA very seriously when it comes to addressing these concerns and ensuring that collectively we move forward on a path of reconciliation.

I thank the member again for bringing this motion forward, and I certainly look forward to voting in favour of this motion.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thank you again for bringing forward this very important motion. As has been said earlier, the then-chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission — now Senator Murray Sinclair — said — and I know it's already been quoted this afternoon: "Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships." That is a banner under which all of the comments today have been made and the goal that we all have in mind together.

It has also been said by the Member for Whitehorse Centre that we have a long way to go. I don't disagree with

that, and my comments here today will be focused on some of the achievements we have made here in the Yukon, but I have in my mind — as we all do — that we have a long way to go. We can never be complacent. This is not a problem we are going to solve; it is a new way of life.

It's my great honour to have my current role and to be part of this new way of life. Yukon and Canada are leaders. It's a very exciting opportunity for all of us, I suggest to you, in this Legislative Assembly to be part of this new way of life.

There are some very practical ways of how this is happening here in the territory, and I cherish the opportunity to describe some of those to this Assembly today. Yukoners have much to be proud of on our reconciliation path and, while we learn about those achievements, we must always remember — and I appreciate that I'm repeating myself, but it's for effect and emphasis — that we cannot be complacent. We are forging a new way of being — a new Yukon, a new Canada — and we are leaders in doing so. As noted by the Leader of the Official Opposition, we have made great strides, and other places in Canada are looking to us for how our self-government agreements have been implemented and for how we, as a government, are relating to First Nation governments and giving them the due respect they have long awaited.

Earlier today, I tabled the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action, and I have spoken in this House before about the importance of that title. They aren't recommendations; nobody wants another report. They are calls to action; they are a road map — as I think one of my colleagues said earlier. This document and the work of the commission were very important steps for government and for all Canadians on the path to reconciliation.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was an important step and a path for not only reconciliation for Canadians with First Nations, but with Inuit and Métis people as well.

Residential schools are a part of our shared history. We have heard much of that today so I won't take too much time to emphasize that, but we must and we do recognize the impacts they have had upon our Yukon First Nations and all indigenous peoples in Canada. All peoples of the Yukon are on this journey of reconciliation together, and we all have a role to play at home, at work and in this Legislative Assembly, in the way in which we carry out all of our interactions with each other.

Our work is underway and it must continue. As I have said, it is a new way of being.

I want to mention a number of specific items in the truth and reconciliation calls to action that I'll be addressing on behalf of the Department of Justice to point out some things but, before I do that, I want to draw attention to item 27, or call to action 27.

It calls upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, of which I am a past president. It represents 90,000 lawyers and notaries, and it regulates them on behalf of the public interest across Canada — 14 law societies and organizations that regulate lawyers and notaries — and it requires them to train lawyers, to ensure that lawyers receive the appropriate

training and that includes skills-based training, intercultural competencies, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism. I know that this is something that the Federation of Law Societies of Canada is doing. I know that as a member of the law society here — the Law Society of Yukon is also keen to meet that call to action.

Call to action 29 calls upon the parties, and in particular, the federal government — to work collaboratively with plaintiffs not included in the *Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement* to resolve issues for them. I take the opportunity to indicate here to this Legislative Assembly that one of our very own legal counsel, Laura Cabott, worked extensively on determining on a national committee what the *Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement* would look like and how those terms could be brought to meaningful fruition for Canadians across the country to bring those claims. After she helped make that a successful process, she dedicated her career to individual cases, and in fact received a local award here for her dedication to those causes. That included her carrying out over 700 hearings on behalf of individual claimants.

I note that because, in addition to a leadership role the Yukon has taken with respect to coming to terms with that agreement and the resolutions that came from that agreement, there are individuals here who have taken great strides to represent us on a national stage and at a practical level to determine how we can achieve some, if not all, of these calls to action. She was instrumental in that process.

The Department of Justice is working toward reconciliation by responding to calls to action. A number of them that I'm going to mention here today relate specifically to the following calls to action: No. 30, reducing overrepresentation of indigenous people in the justice system. Indigenous people are overrepresented in custody at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Although the rate of First Nation offenders varies, it is usually between 60 and 70 percent. That is simply not acceptable.

Justice and Health and Social Services participated in intergovernmental local tables on matters related to indigenous justice including: overrepresentation; indigenous justice strategies; restorative justice; indigenous courtworker program; First Nation policing; federal, provincial and territorial coordinating committee for senior officials; the federal, provincial and territorial working group on youth justice; and the cost-sharing program.

As well, the recent Yukon Forum identified justice issues — and we have heard quite a bit about the forum today — as an area appropriate for greater cooperation, and a justice table of shared priorities is being established. In addition, I recently met with the ministers of justice from across Canada in September. There is a national deputy minister working group — they call it a task force — it's very serious business. Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia are leading that, but Yukon will in fact be a part of that organization because we are ready. Yukon is ready to implement some restorative justice issues and some restorative justice programming.

That deputy ministers task force is working with former Yukon Justice Barry Stuart, as am I, to make sure the Yukon has a significant role and that what we know and have learned is actually woven into the restorative justice project that will come from that taskforce.

Amendments to the *Criminal Code of Canada* have been urged by this jurisdiction — by me personally — to the federal Minister of Justice — and by others — regarding bail provisions. They will have a positive effect on the overrepresentation of indigenous people in our criminal justice system and, hopefully, a real, practical solution.

Call to action 32, creating alternatives to imprisonment — there are three diversion options providing alternatives to imprisonment for indigenous youth offenders: a pre-charge panel, extra-judicial sanctions and a restorative community conferencing program. All are in effect here in the Yukon. Again, it's not perfect, but we are taking strides. There are evaluations of the programs to determine if they are working and evaluations of these programs to determine if they are not working and how can we improve them?

The Community Wellness Court and the Justice Wellness Centre are both great successes here in the territory, which provide alternatives to incarceration for qualified non-violent offenders. Offenders with mental health or addiction issues and/or cognitive impairment are provided support as they follow a wellness path outside of the Correctional Centre, which will allow them to break the cycle of recidivism.

We are working with territorial court users committee on reforms to the bail system and with the federal Department of Justice and the ministers across Canada so that unrealistic bail and probation conditions are not imposed when they do not serve a valid safety purpose. In those cases, they should not be used. When there are valid safety concerns, they will be used. Our interest is in supporting those who are in the justice system and not incarcerated to help them meet their conditions outside of the Correctional Centre.

Calls to action 31 and 34 address the needs of offenders with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Health and Social Services and Justice are both funding a Justice-led fetal alcohol spectrum disorder study, which is completed and the final version is coming soon. It found that 17.5 percent of offenders have a positive FASD diagnosis. This is clearly something that must be addressed. The correctional services branch has adopted a complex needs case management process to better address and provide service for clients with cognitive impairments.

Call to action 36 provides culturally relevant programming for offenders. That's the call to action. Justice is responding here in the territory by having a contract in place with the Council of Yukon First Nations to provide a First Nation reintegration worker program. That has been since 2012. The Kwanlin Dün First Nation justice department and offender supervision services are working on a two-year pilot project for a collaborative, culturally relevant service delivery model to assist the ongoing case management of clients living in the community.

With Justice funding, we have supported Kwanlin Dün First Nation to hire two land guards and two community safety liaison officers to police their traditional territory. That program began in June of 2017 to help prevent crime and abuse of the land. It is providing a tremendous community service. It is very successful. It is a model that is being looked at by other communities across the country and across the Yukon. We are once again leaders.

The Young Offenders Facility refers young offenders to off-site treatment programs, such as the Kwanlin Dün's First Nation Jackson Lake healing centre, as appropriate.

The Corrections branch has incorporated First Nation culture for inmates by including such measures as incorporating traditional foods into the menu, referring offenders from Whitehorse Correctional Centre to the Jackson Lake healing camp when available and appropriate, establishing an elders advisory board, making cultural workshops available, offering indigenous language training, making smudge kits available in every unit, incorporating First Nations medicines and health care upon request, setting up a library with First Nations books, and other initiatives that support First Nation inmates.

Call to action 40, supporting indigenous victims of crime by funding a new legal advocate position at the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre — that funding is along with the funding from the Women's Directorate — and developing an essential skills for northern victim services workers program to support capacity building in rural and remote communities. That has been done, along with the Northern Institute of Social Justice and the governments of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Again, they are seeking our guidance and we are partnering.

We are collaborating with other governments and non-governmental agencies, including many First Nation organizations, by participating in a *Victims of Crime Strategy* implementation committee and Justice Victim Services staff members deliver services to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation community in space that is provided by the Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

Call to action 42: We work to recognize indigenous justice systems through a community justice and public safety agreement with the Council of Yukon First Nations to support information sharing with First Nations on corrections, policing, and victim issues. We're also working on administration of justice agreements.

Of course we have spoken about the response the Yukon has taken under the great leadership of our minister with respect to missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and we have also worked here in this Legislative Assembly to hopefully pass soon the new *Missing Persons Act*.

There are a number of other Justice initiatives that I want to mention, including recent changes to Yukon's *Land Titles Act, 2015* that provides for the registration of category A and category B settlement lands in the Yukon Land Titles Office, without any loss of aboriginal title. This is again a leadership piece. The Kwanlin Dün First Nation, last year, approved the amendment to its self-government agreement allowing it to

register parcels of land, again, without losing aboriginal title, which will allow them to continue development. It is a move that we hope other First Nations follow and we are more than pleased to facilitate with respect to other First Nations so that they can grow their governments and achieve their own goals.

Yukon is working on a Gladue report pilot project as well, which will ultimately have professional, standardized Gladue reports, which will assist the judiciary in proper sentencing of First Nation inmates or offenders.

I should move on, based on the time that I have today, to note some of the Education opportunities and the effect of what the Department of Education has done in relation to achieving its reconciliation goals and the new way of life here.

In Education, we recognize the importance of teaching all Yukon students about the history and the legacy of residential schools. Socials Studies 10 includes a unit about residential schools, which was developed with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and Yukon teachers, elders and former students and is taught in all Yukon schools at the grade 10 level. It is also a leadership piece. I recently provided a copy of that unit to the Department of Education in Newfoundland and Labrador. They are very keen to see what we are doing with respect to that challenge and the way in which we can provide education. Yukon, along with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, are considered leaders in teaching students about residential schools — just one step on the path to reconciliation.

Yukon First Nations are essential partners in supporting First Nation students and in teaching all Yukon students about First Nation ways of knowing and doing. Our redesigned curriculum has a focus — absolutely — on doing so. The Government of Yukon has signed education agreements with six Yukon First Nations. These agreements reflect our government-to-government relationships and our commitment to reconciliation. They identify the unique needs and priorities of each First Nation in relation to the education of their citizens. The government works collaboratively with each First Nation to develop an implementation plan to support the schools and improve educational outcomes for citizens of their traditional territory. I guess I want to emphasize that. They are all different. Each First Nation must be respected. Each First Nation must come to the table. We must go to the table with them as well and determine how we can achieve reconciliation together in the world of education.

I take it that my time is short, Mr. Speaker. I will just take the opportunity to relate to Mr. Smarch's story that came forward earlier this week. The pain and suffering that he suffered was unconscionable. It is an important story for him to tell and an even more important story for all of us to hear and understand. In doing so, we will move forward together to face the challenges of reconciliation. I thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, today you gave a moving tribute in honour of Gord Downie. Just six months ago, Mr. Downie won the Juno Award for Songwriter of the Year. As he spoke in recognition of this award, he said

something — and what he said was that he recognized that we are not completely Canadian yet. I just want to build on that theme — about how to become more complete as a territory and as a country.

He was talking about the need for us to reconcile our past, to redress the legacy of residential schools, and to forge and maintain a strong, respectful future for Canada. This past Thursday, you will recall that we had the opportunity here in the House to welcome the Canadian Aboriginal Sport Circle and the North American Indigenous Games representatives here in the Assembly. I had the honour and privilege to present a tribute on behalf of all of us as members of this Legislature to recognize the work that they are doing to help toward reconciliation.

Let me start there, Mr. Speaker, speaking about sport and wellness.

Sport is one of the best ways in which we can improve our overall quality of life, and the health and vibrancy of our communities. It's a powerful tool for reconciliation. Sport creates strong leaders. It is inclusive of all community members and is an opportunity for everyone in a community to come together to play, laugh and work together toward a common goal.

This summer, I was lucky, alongside my colleague, the Minister of Tourism and Culture, to attend the North American Indigenous Games. It was truly wonderful to see the spirit of the indigenous youth from across North America, and in particular from the Yukon, in culture and sport.

We support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action regarding sports, including call to action 88. Action 88 calls on all levels of government to ensure long-term aboriginal athlete development and growth and to provide continued support for the North American Indigenous Games.

Our government is proud to help aboriginal youth in Yukon find positive opportunities to learn and grow as individual leaders and community members. When I gave the tribute here in the Legislature, I didn't know it at the time, but the next day, I spoke to the summit to welcome the representatives from across Canada who were here for that summit. I put on my Team 88 t-shirt and counted backward. What I realized was that the day that we gave the tribute here was exactly 88 days after the opening of the North American Indigenous Games. I found it very meaningful.

I invited two young people to come and speak to the group there, Nigel and Madison. Nigel and Madison came to speak to the Minister of Education and me with the Child and Youth Advocate office, and they have this idea. This idea is to bring forward a softball tournament that they are hoping to introduce next year. They stood up in front of all the people who were there from across Canada to talk about reconciliation and to talk about human rights and the rights of children. They were very moving. They talked about that in a way that captured the spirit of what we're trying to achieve through reconciliation. I found it quite impressive. I'll relay a short story about them afterward.

Needless to say, all the folks who were here in the Yukon from across the country, talking about sport as a tool for reconciliation, were very impressed with these young people who were taking an initiative to act.

I would like to talk for a moment about communities. One of our government's core priorities is that all communities matter. As Minister of Community Services, I value my relationship with municipalities. It is equally important to me, and a responsibility that I take seriously, to build strong relationships with communities that have both a First Nation and a municipality, and those communities with a First Nation and no municipality. I have said here in the Legislature this week, I believe, that I have been travelling to all communities and am now on my second round of those visits. Tomorrow, I hope to return to the Member for Kluane's riding and will be meeting with the communities in his riding.

Across all of our communities, there are great examples of reconciliation work, and I'm just going to note a few. In the riding for the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Member for Pelly-Nisutlin, the Village of Teslin and the Teslin Tlingit Council are an inspiration on the strength and collaboration of their working relationship. They collaborate on projects together and take a holistic view of what's best for residents and citizens of their community and traditional territory. I use them as an example when I talk to other communities.

The Member for Kluane noted that the Village of Haines Junction is planning to raise the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations' flag at their municipal facility, and I think that's slated for November 2.

In Dawson, in the riding of the Premier, the municipality and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation are working with the Klondike Placer Miners' Association on considering whether the Klondike should be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These are all strong and tangible examples of reconciliation, collaboration and partnership at the local level.

I'll list one more, Mr. Speaker, and it happened today. Today, the Minister of Health and Social Services and I went to the Association franco-yukonnaise to announce a 24/7 French language health support line. We were excited to announce it and it's coming through the French Language Services Directorate. It's in partnership with organizations outside of the territory and certainly in partnership with l'AFY, the Department of Health and Social Services.

As I was speaking in French to the meeting that was there, working on health support for the francophone community, I spoke about how important it is that we also support our indigenous languages here in the territory, because when we do so, we support all minority languages. Supporting indigenous languages supports French language and supporting French language supports indigenous languages, and that's how I introduced the Minister of Health and Social Services. She spoke in Gwich'in to the members of the francophone community and it was quite impressive. It was a very good day and yet another example of ways in which all of our communities are working to build reconciliation.

For a moment, I want to talk about my own riding, Mr. Speaker, of beautiful Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes. One of the earliest residential schools in the Yukon and Canada was the Chootla residential school. It was in operation for almost 60 years in Carcross. It was one of four residential schools in the territory, plus one in northern BC, that many Yukon First Nation students attended. The legacy of these schools is still felt across the riding and across the territory. As the wording of the motion says from the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, redressing the legacy of residential schools is fundamental to reconciliation. Chootla school is a strong reminder of the need for reconciliation in Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes.

I want to just talk for a moment. I was there this summer with Minister Bennett and Khà Shâde Héni — Chief Carvill — and we went and toured the old site. We talked with the Carcross citizens who have had the job of deconstructing the school and rebuilding their relationship with that space. It was a moving experience to see that happen. It's not just about the school coming down; it was about the citizens who had done the work to take the school down and who were rebuilding that place — reclaiming it.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation is doing great things within the community of Carcross. On National Aboriginal Day this year, the first date that we celebrated it, they opened the brand new learning centre and they were focusing on community. I had the honour and privilege to be there as they raised the totem pole, as the carvers breathed life into that totem pole, and as they raised it with the community there in attendance and as witnesses. It was a very moving ceremony.

Within the riding of Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, we have four local advisory councils. Three of them have a position on their council for a First Nation representative. All of those local advisory councils are working on planning processes, and each one of those planning processes has a respectful relationship with First Nation governments, dominantly the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, but also Kwanlin Dün First Nation.

Today we heard that the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'an Council and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation announced their decision to move forward with shared regional planning for beautiful Southern Lakes. This is great news, and I will do whatever I can in my role as MLA to support this effort.

I want to finish by talking about National Aboriginal Day just for a moment. Reconciliation was a cornerstone of our platform. For this reason, one of the first things our government did, and our first official bill — and I was proud that it came through the Department of Community Services — was to proclaim National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday across Yukon. It was important for us that this be one of our first acts as a government and one of our first acts in this House.

First Nations make an enormous contribution to this territory. Revitalizing, maintaining and celebrating their knowledge, language and culture are core to a modern Yukon. It's our belief that celebrating indigenous culture and heritage

will improve our economy, our social fabric, our environment and our community. I said then, and I will say again, that this is a Yukon holiday for all Yukoners.

I will just return for a second to young Nigel and Madison. Their goal for their softball tournament is to host that tournament on National Aboriginal Day next summer. I think that is a great acknowledgement, and I know the Minister of Education and I are very supportive and very proud of the work that they are doing.

In conclusion, reconciliation is not just for First Nations. It's not just about First Nations. Reconciliation is for the whole of the Yukon. Reconciliation strengthens us all. When we redress historical wrongs and focus on government-to-government relationships and value the world views of First Nations, we build a stronger Yukon. We can create a community that is more at peace, more active, more engaged and more whole. Reconciliation truly benefits all of society, and for that reason I support the motion.

Hon. Mr. Silver: I rise today to speak to the motion regarding reconciliation. I want to thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for bringing it forward. I am very much in support of this motion, and it is absolutely an honour to speak to it today. As the Minister responsible for the Executive Council Office, my own mandate letter outlines that I will: work to revitalize the Yukon Forum as a place for collaborative work with Yukon First Nations on shared priorities; work to lead efforts working with First Nations to respond as a government to the calls to action in the truth and reconciliation report; work with Yukon First Nations to develop a government-wide policy to support the respectful use of traditional knowledge in government actions and decisions.

I will speak to the Yukon Forum later, but I want to start by just talking a bit about the calls to action. This Yukon Liberal government is committed to actively taking part in the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action. We have demonstrated this through working with the Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada to finalize the memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Yukon.

This MOU sets out a framework on how we will work collaboratively to implement the calls to action. This approach is respectful governance in action and together we will advance reconciliation. To paraphrase the Minister of Community Services, it is not just for Yukon First Nations; it is for all Yukoners.

Of the 94 recommendations from the TRC, one speaks directly to government with regard to actions like recognizing National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday. It is action 80 and it reads — and I quote: “We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the

history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.” This call to action, Mr. Speaker — of course, it was directed at the federal level — resonated with our Liberal territorial government. It was an opportunity for Yukon to lead the country in an effort of reconciliation and to join the Northwest Territories in recognizing National Aboriginal Day as a holiday.

Passing this legislation in the Spring Sitting was an absolute honour. I believe that making National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday here in the Yukon was an integral step toward the path of our own reconciliation. Responding to the TRC recommendations contributes toward building a stronger foundation of reconciliation efforts, and it was time to celebrate the immense contributions that First Nation peoples have made and continue to make in our territory and across the country. We are showing Canada that National Aboriginal Day is a day of celebration. It is a day of hope and it is a day of pride. It was especially poignant to legislate the statutory holiday this year as we celebrated 150 years of Confederation. Let us remember, Mr. Speaker, that Canada is much older than Confederation. We celebrated the indigenous people of this country, the people who were here first.

Developing healthy relationships with Yukon First Nations has been a priority for me as an educator, as a teacher, but also as my time as an MLA — absolutely a priority — as well as many MLAs here in the Legislative Assembly.

In June 2016, I was honoured to attend the Council of Yukon First Nations General Assembly. In the week prior to the General Assembly, I was home in Dawson City and was able to share National Aboriginal Day with Chief Joseph and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people. That was back in 2016. Sharing that important day with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens was a highlight, and I was glad to share my feelings about National Aboriginal Day with those who gathered soon after the General Assembly. I made it clear that, by the time we arrived at June 21, 2017, I hoped to be standing beside Grand Chief Peter Johnston as Yukon marked the day, for the first time, as a statutory holiday.

I confirmed for those gathered at the General Assembly that a Yukon Liberal government would be committed to making this happen, and I'm honoured to be here today serving as Premier of the Yukon Liberal government, having kept that commitment.

As Premier, Mr. Speaker, I have had opportunities to meet with all of the Yukon First Nation chiefs. I'm very grateful for the conversations and look forward to continuing to work for the benefit of First Nation communities and of all Yukoners.

I would like to make special mention of the contributions of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in my riding of Klondike. I was warmly welcomed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people when I moved to Dawson City, and that welcome is not one that I take for granted. The traditional knowledge that has been shared with me has greatly contributed to my experience as a teacher, as a Yukoner and also as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

As Premier, I'm extremely grateful for the positive working relationship that I maintain with Chief Roberta Joseph, and I look forward to officially celebrating National Aboriginal Day with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people for many years to come.

Renewing government-to-government relationships with the First Nation people of Yukon is a priority of our Yukon Liberal government, and we have been vocal about this priority since our campaign. National Aboriginal Day being our first piece of legislation was an excellent representation of our dedicated commitment.

We have already made remarkable progress in repairing the Yukon government's relationship with Yukon First Nation governments. The subject of the Yukon Forum is a perfect, if perhaps fairly obvious, place for me to outline our commitment to reconciliation. This Yukon Liberal government is looking forward to our fourth Yukon Forum of 2017, which will take place this December.

Mr. Speaker, shortly after being sworn into office, my Cabinet ministers and I signed the intergovernmental *Working Together* declaration with the Grand Chief of the Council of Yukon First Nations and the Yukon First Nation chiefs. That declaration affirms — and I quote: "... our commitment to work together in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration." I'm very pleased with the progress we have made so far. The declaration also commits us to working together to — and I quote again: "... create a joint five-year action plan that identifies common priorities and ensures a clear plan for implementation options that are collaborative and transparent." We have accomplished that task, Mr. Speaker. I do want to thank all of the folks who have been working behind the scenes, the public servants of all governments — our Aboriginal Relations branch, but also the Council of Yukon First Nations executive director.

I want to specifically thank Shadelle Chambers for all of her work on the CYFN side of things and just all of the conversations that have been done government-to-government over the last years, but specifically with all the conversations that I have had with Ms. Chambers over the years and all of the books she has made me aware of and that I've read in my commitment to lifelong learning. I really appreciate that relationship.

We have kept our commitment to meet up to four times a year and we will continue to do so in many years to come. It is a privilege to sit down with Yukon chiefs to discuss issues that affect all Yukoners. Our conversations have been respectful, engaging — sometimes challenging — but always enlightening. Hosting meetings is not an act of reconciliation, Mr. Speaker. It's the genuine discussions and the considerations that go into our conversations that allow us to do that tough work of reconciliation.

We are proud to have healthy government-to-government relationships with Yukon First Nations. Yukon chiefs joined our ministers at Yukon Days in Ottawa and presented not only the perspective of Yukon First Nations to federal ministers, but also a united front with the Government of Yukon. The intergovernmental forum is another reflection of our positive

working relationship with chiefs joining our ministers in conversations with the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, Carolyn Bennett. Our Yukon Liberal government has clearly made work with Yukon First Nations a priority and already our efforts has provided us with a positive and encouraging relationship. We are looking forward to continuing partnerships and we know these partnerships will benefit, as I have said many times before, all Yukoners.

It may be only recently that we have started to hear about reconciliation efforts in this country, but our actions today will set the path for our children tomorrow. We will set a path forward that leads to healing and let us all be leaders in reconciliation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I just want to add, in the conversations that have been had today from Members of the Legislative Assembly, who have, on both sides of the floor — the background, the blood, sweat and tears and the work that has gone into Yukon-specific reconciliation is very admirable and I'm very grateful to be here in the Legislative Assembly with such giants.

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

Does any other member wish to be heard at this time?

Mr. Hutton: I totally agree with the words of the Hon. Murray Sinclair that education is the way forward, but the barriers in our current system need to be removed to provide a wholly inclusive learning environment.

In 1962, I believe it was two years after First Nations were allowed into public schools in the Yukon and it was my first year of attending school. We had a very large class for Mayo at that time — 32 grade 1 students — 16 each First Nation and non-native. I became friends with a First Nation student and this was the beginning of my education and my introduction to First Nation culture. Some 26 years later, my friend was best man at my wedding and our friendship endures today after 55 years.

The intentions were good for having First Nation students attend our public schools, but of these 16 First Nation children who entered grade 1, very few, if any, successfully completed that first year. They were set up to fail, Mr. Speaker. Their parents did not speak English very well, if at all. They had no exposure to books and no one to read books to them.

I was very sad to see all these friends left behind as I moved on to the second grade. There was no extra support provided at school. The teaching staff had little, if any, knowledge of First Nation culture, language or traditions. Unfortunately, this initial setback impacted these students throughout their entire school years, and very few of them were able to graduate from the system.

I saw a tremendous opportunity develop in the late 1970s and early 1980s as First Nations embarked on their modern land claims process. I was hugely encouraged and optimistic when, upon the tabling of their proposed claims to land by the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun, there was overwhelming support from the 108 non-native people from Mayo who

attended this meeting. Twenty-five percent of Mayo's population was at that meeting. That would be akin to having 8,000 people attend a meeting in Whitehorse, just to put it into perspective.

I thought we were still on track in 1992 when Na Cho Nyäk Dun signed their final and self-government agreements. In the late 1990s and the decade following, my optimism turned to disappointment as implementation of the agreements slowed and then stalled and then became a 14-year history of litigation. There have been a few notable successes in the implementation process, and I'm happy to state, Mr. Speaker, that I was able to play a very small part in this successful undertaking as I was co-chair along with the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun chief at the time, Albert Peter, of the very first renewable resource council established in the territory, as mentioned by the colleague from Kluane — one of the examples that really worked. It gave a direct link for local people, First Nation and non-native, to define common issues, bring them forth to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and actually have them implemented.

We saw that as a potential template for implementation. This was a model for how things could work. Unfortunately, there have been very few other successes of note. We have much to do and we owe it to all Yukon residents to provide equal opportunities for all of us to live, thrive and prosper in this amazing land we call home.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members opposite and all my colleagues for their eloquent and passionate support for this extremely important motion on reconciliation. I wish us all the utmost success as we move forward on this issue. Our Yukon will be an even better place to live when we achieve this true partnership with our First Nation friends and neighbours.

I am reminded of the advice of Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young: "teach your children well".

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Agree.

Mr. Gallina: Agree.

Mr. Adel: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Mr. Hutton: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Mr. Kent: Agree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Agree.

Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Agree.

Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 18 yea, nil nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.
Motion No. 149 agreed to

Motion No. 37

Clerk: Motion No. 37, standing in the name of Mr. Hutton.

Speaker: It is moved by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the Government of Canada to legalize cannabis use in Yukon by the summer of 2018.

Mr. Hutton: I'm pleased today to speak to Motion No. 37. Legalizing and regulating cannabis is important. The federal government has introduced legislation that will make cannabis legal in Canada in July 2018. Our Yukon Liberal government supports the federal government's decision to legalize cannabis in Canada, and today I would like to speak to a few of the reasons behind this support.

The federal government has proposed a cannabis act that would create a strict legal framework for controlling the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis across Canada. There are many benefits to the legalization of cannabis. Legalizing cannabis will help keep it out of the hands of children and work to reduce and discourage criminal activity. It will also reduce the burden under the criminal justice system. I believe that this move to legalize cannabis is well overdue.

Criminalizing cannabis in Canada has not worked as a deterrent, and every year, \$1.2 billion is spent to enforce an approach that has not worked. Another problem with the criminalization of cannabis is that these laws have disproportionately targeted marginalized populations across Canada, and we see that problem here in the Yukon as well. Criminalization of cannabis has had real harm on many Canadians. I believe the federal government is moving in the right direction to legalize cannabis use.

According to a study done by the United Nations, right now in Canada, our young people have an easier time getting access to cannabis than in almost any other country in the world. This shows that the strategy we've been using in Canada has simply not been effective in keeping cannabis out of the hands of our youth. It's important that we stand up for what is best for our youth and ensure that cannabis is better regulated and that there's improved education concerning the use of this drug.

Whether you believe that it's safe or not for people to use, the research is clear: Cannabis has negative effects on the developing brain and we need our youth to have a better understanding of it. This will happen if cannabis is legalized

and proper regulations and educational initiatives are put into place. The federal government's reasoning for legalization has been less about the economic benefits of cannabis sales and more about the fact that this is a safety issue. This is a public health issue. This issue is about keeping our communities safe. It's about keeping our children safe and healthy. Heavy use of cannabis by teens has been linked in study after study to a range of different social and mental health problems.

Taking cannabis out of the hands of the black market and putting it into a well-regulated system is going to work to protect our children. This government is working hard to create a Yukon approach to regulation that works for all communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Yukon government has been working with many departments and stakeholders to address the legalization, regulation and restriction of cannabis here in the Yukon. The Yukon government has established a government-wide working group on cannabis legislation that is being led by the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services with the participation of the Yukon Liquor Corporation. I know that the Member for Riverdale South will speak in more detail about the work of this government-wide working group, and I look forward to hearing more on this topic.

Another initiative of this government has been the recent public survey on cannabis legislation, which was the most successful survey to date with more than 3,100 surveys completed. The full report of what the government heard from Yukoners is expected to soon be released to the public, and I look forward to hearing what Yukoners had to say on cannabis regulation and legalization in our territory.

An issue that has great importance to me is the need to ensure that our communities are protected from the negative effects of drug-impaired driving while still respecting the rights of Yukoners. The cannabis act proposed by the federal government has put forward further penalties related to cannabis-impaired driving in the proposed drug-impaired driving legislation. It is important that the federal government carefully considers the effects that any proposed cannabis-impaired driving legislation may have on Canadians and ensures that it is fair and based on evidence.

In a recent report to Congress presented by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on marijuana-impaired driving, there is discussion on studies that have detected THC in the blood 30 days post-ingestion. Further to this, the report points out that many studies' consistent findings reveal the level of THC in the blood and the degree of impairment do not appear to be closely related. This is a very different situation from alcohol where the higher the concentration, the greater the impairment, and it has been documented by study after study for many decades. My concern is that this important information needs to be taken into consideration by the federal government concerning the proposed criminal penalties under the cannabis act. This is an important part of ensuring that our communities are protected with legislation and regulations that promote safety and respect the rights of Yukoners.

I urge the government to continue the good work currently being done with our federal, provincial and territorial colleagues on these important issues. The cannabis regime implemented by this government needs to work for all of our Yukon communities. It is a tight time frame, but I applaud the efforts of all governments working to see cannabis legalized and regulated by July 2018.

Mr. Cathers: I would like to thank the Member for Mayo-Tatchun for bringing forward this motion for discussion. In speaking in my role as the Justice critic for the Official Opposition and, of course, as all members of the House know, a former Justice minister and former Health and Social Services minister, I would like to begin in laying forward the Official Opposition's position on this motion as well as our concerns about the timelines laid out by the federal government, which appear to be endorsed by the Liberal government here in the territory. I would note, for those who may try to mischaracterize our position, that our position on this issue is that if you are going to legalize marijuana, it is vitally important that you get it right and that you do it in a manner that puts in place an appropriate regulatory structure to deal with issues such as impaired driving, notably, and such as the issue of marijuana in the workplace. I'm referring to both in terms of issues such as second-hand smoke and the increased risk that may be prevalent if someone has impairment as a result of cannabis in their system, particularly if they're operating heavy machinery or equipment.

What we have seen in the evidence from a number of reputable Canadian organizations and levels of government, as well as in the final report of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, does cause us concern. We believe that it is unlikely that the territorial government, many provincial governments or the federal government are actually going to have the appropriate structure in place to meet the political commitment made by Prime Minister Trudeau of legalization next summer.

I know this government here talks a lot about evidence-based decision-making. I know they also appear to be very closely aligned with the federal government in terms of messaging and agenda but, in this case, our argument is that, if legalization is to occur, it's very important that the appropriate structure be in place, that there be appropriate resources for the RCMP, for addictions counselling programs, for schools, for employers and for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, to name but a few of the many agencies that will all have new obligations and, in some cases, significant costs associated with the legalization of marijuana.

I am going to quote as well from some of the submissions that have been put forward at the national level by a number of reputable organizations. I note, in citing their concerns, that our contention is that where there are legitimate concerns and questions put forward by groups like the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police or the Government of Saskatchewan, it's very important for the federal government and the Yukon Liberal government, as well as all provincial and territorial governments, to actually

proceed in an evidence-based manner and to know, where those concerns have been raised by physicians and others, that they have answers to those questions — not political answers. If a concern is raised — for example, such as one raised by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police — they said, in their submission on September 12, 2017 to the Standing Committee on Health regarding Bill C-45, *An Act respecting cannabis and to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Criminal Code and other Acts* — short title, cannabis act — they note in their conclusion: “Given the complexities of the Act and the impact it will have on enforcement, resourcing, funding and training issues, there remain many unanswered questions. It is hoped that an extension of time will be carefully considered to allow for law enforcement officials to perform their roles in an effective, solution-oriented and responsible manner.”

Also quoting from earlier in that same submission, they requested — and I quote: “... requests that adequate funding to cover these costs be distributed to police services to ensure that care and maintenance issues and compensation are sufficiently addressed.”

Those are just a few of the issues that have been noted from there. I will quote one other excerpt from that particular submission, and that is the submission that, in the view of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, “... that Canadian police services will not be equipped to provide officers with the training and resources necessary to enforce the new regime within the existing contemplated timeframe. With the July 2018 legalization date quickly approaching, resource constraints and adequate training of officers are areas of concern for all Canadian police services.”

I’m going to also reference from the submission of the Canadian Medical Association to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health on Bill C-45, *Cannabis Act*. The Canadian Medical Association said — and I will quote again from their submission: “Specifically, the CMA recommends a multi-faceted cannabis public health strategy that prioritizes impactful and realistic goals before, and certainly no later than, any legalization of cannabis. We propose that the first goal should be to develop educational interventions for children, teenagers and young adults. Other goals relate to data collection; monitoring and surveillance; ensuring a proportionate balance between enforcement harms and the direct and indirect harms caused by cannabis use; and research.

“There is an ongoing need for research into the medicinal and harmful effects of cannabis use.”

Those are just a few of the submissions that have been made to the federal government House of Commons committee regarding cannabis in this case. In this case, I want to again quote briefly from the Canadian Medical Association’s submission: “The CMA has long-standing concerns about the health risks associated with consuming cannabis, especially by children and youth in its smoked form. Weighing societal trends against the health effects of cannabis, the CMA supports a broad legal-regulatory

framework as part of a comprehensive and properly sequenced public health approach of harm reduction.”

Quoting again from another submission to the federal level, and again all leading to our caucus’ view that it is unlikely the territorial government will have the necessary framework in place — or that the federal government will — to meet the political commitment of legalization by next summer in a responsible manner. So a quote from the Canadian Paediatric Society’s submission — a brief presented to HESA — I believe that is the House committee, but the date of this letter is September 7, 2017, from the Canadian Paediatric Society, and the letter noted in part — and I quote: “Cannabis legislation will have a significant impact on the lives and health of children and youth, and safeguards are necessary. Based on the physical and mental health risks, and with many legal, financial and public safety issues at stake, policy makers — with support from physicians and the public at large — must continue to limit access to cannabis.”

The letter, as well from the Paediatric Society, noted concerns with things such as the concentration of THC in cannabis that 18- to 25-year-olds can purchase legally. They identified concerns including — again quoting from their submission: “Enact and rigorously enforce regulations on the cannabis industry to limit the availability and marketing of cannabis to minors. These regulations must: prohibit dispensaries from being located close to elementary, middle and high schools, licensed child care centres, community centres, residential neighbourhoods and youth facilities; prohibit the sale of cannabis products by means of self-service displays or dispensing devices; mandate strict labelling standards for all cannabis products, including a complete and accurate list of ingredients and an exact measure of cannabis concentration; mandate package warnings for all cannabis products, including known and potential harmful effects of exposure (e.g., to young children and the fetus during pregnancy), similar to messaging on cigarette packaging; mandate and enforce strict marketing and promotional standards, including a ban on all cannabis industry-related advertising and on the sponsorship of events, activities or permanent facilities by the cannabis industry; mandate and enforce a ban on the marketing of cannabis-related products using strategies or venues that attract children and youth, including (but not limited to) ‘candy-like’ edibles, ‘giveaways’ and promotion through social media; restrict the online sales of all cannabis and related products only to individuals identified as being older than the legal drinking age in the province or territory where they reside.”

As well — and I quote: “Extend and align existing anti-tobacco legislation at all government levels to include cannabis (i.e., prohibiting smoking in public venues, smoking in cars where a child is present).”

Moving on to another section within the same submission from the Canadian Paediatric Society, they also recommended — and again I quote: “Invest in the development and implementation of programs for routine roadside detection of cannabinoids and determine suitable consequences for youth who are found to be under the influence.”

Next, I want to quote on the comments made yesterday in this Assembly by the witnesses from the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board in answer to a question asked by my colleague, the Member for Watson Lake, about worker safety and the use of drugs in the workplace as well as what employers liability issues are and the responsibilities related to workplace accidents. Their response to that question was — and I think it was a very frank response by the witness from the board that brought it up — and I quote from yesterday's Blues: "What constitutes impairment? So some of what has to happen is that we still are waiting to see what happens with the federal legislation. I think I can speak for all my colleagues across this country — this is one that we really have to wait and see what they come up with before we can provide some really good advice on how to manage that impairment within the workplace." That, of course, can be found on page 1172 of yesterday's Blues, so I note that I am quoting from the Blues. I don't know if there have been any minor corrections made to that by the witness. I haven't had a chance to review the Hansard after the start of the House today, but I would expect that that quote is correct in every shape and form.

Again, noting those frankly expressed concerns by the witness for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board and noting his view that he believed that colleagues across the country were in a similar position, the point I am making on behalf of our caucus is that legislation takes time. Policies take time. Regulatory regimes take time. Program development takes time. Providing resources to agencies and entities of government, as well as Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board — an arm's length entity of government — all takes time.

When we are standing here in October 2017 and hearing that key agencies — in this case, the one that Yukoners depend on to manage occupational health and safety — simply don't have the answers they need yet to know how they are going to respond, we again view it as highly unlikely that the territorial government will be in a position to have in place the structure to responsibly manage and cope with the legalization of marijuana if the federal government proceeds with the commitment that was made by the Prime Minister to legalize marijuana by July of next year. I note again our view that this commitment and the timeline seems to have based entirely on political considerations rather than an evidence-based assessment of how long it would take to put the regulatory structure in place.

I just want to note for members that we understand and respect that there are strong views within the Yukon public and across the country both in favour and against legalization of marijuana. Again, we are contending that if you are doing it, it really needs to be done right. The issues that have been flagged by reputable stakeholders and groups across the country, particularly with concern to impaired driving, are ones that need to be well-understood, because I don't want to paint this issue in too stark terms, but it is a simple fact that if a mistake is made because government didn't have the appropriate regulatory structure or *Criminal Code* limits

around impaired driving, or if the police were in a position where they didn't have the adequate resources to meet the increased enforcement demands caused by the legalization of marijuana, the consequences for someone who is killed by an impaired driver who was consuming cannabis — there is no do-over for that person. They do not get a second chance. While it is very important that all governments keep in mind the magnitude of what the consequences could be if a mistake is made and if this is rushed because of a political commitment made by the Prime Minister.

I want to comment as well on a submission on Bill C-45 from Dale Tesarowski — apologies to him if I am mispronouncing his name — executive director of Corporate Initiatives, Performance and Planning branch in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice. He outlines in that submission a number of the things that Saskatchewan residents are doing, and noted in part that, when speaking to provincial responsibilities — and I quote: "We must engage with our people, businesses, communities, partners, and other stakeholders regarding these issues and eventually be able to implement processes and practices before July 1, 2018. We must be ready to implement and deal with: minimum age of purchase; legislation, regulation, and statute changes; regulating cannabis cultivation and potency rates, regulating distribution, regulating retail sales, regulating consumption and possession (where cannabis may be permitted, how it may be consumed et cetera); and taxation and pricing..."

"A taxation framework for cannabis must carefully consider the distribution model and methods of administration and enforcement to ensure that tax is appropriately applied and collected.

"In setting a rate of tax to be applied to cannabis, the government must consider a rate that is high enough to deter the use of cannabis from a social acceptability perspective, but not so high that individuals choose to purchase it illegally to evade payment of the tax."

"In addition, we must also address the following issues: engagement; public education and awareness strategies; occupational health and safety — workplace safety; drug impaired driving laws; consult regarding regulation of cannabis sales and distribution to and from First Nations' communities; municipal authority (zoning, licensing, taxation, fees); and completing inter-jurisdictional collaboration and analysis respecting age, retail models, taxation and pricing, in particular."

Mr. Speaker, that is a massive range from a legislative development and regulatory development perspective. That is simply a massive suite of legislation, and that is the advice provided by a senior official in the Ministry of Justice in the Province of Saskatchewan. I believe there are similar issues here in the Yukon that government simply does not know the answer to yet, unless they have far more work on this done than we have seen any evidence of.

I am going to again quote from that submission by Mr. Tesarowski from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice. In his submission he noted timing: "Can all this be done in time? We hope so, but as you can see or hear, there is much to

accomplish in a very short period of time.” Those are not my words — but from a credible source, the Minister of Justice in the Province of Saskatchewan. The confident answer about their government’s ability to respond to the federal government and whether they could do it in time was, “We hope so.”

That again speaks to our concern that the date specified in the motion is simply not realistic, if government fulfils its responsibility to have all of the regulatory structure in place and the appropriate resources, especially for key agencies and entities, such as the RCMP.

As members may be aware, the RCMP also had tested roadside drug impairment kits through a pilot project program. My understanding of the results of that program is that they found there was a very high failure rate, particularly in cold weather, which, of course, the Yukon experiences quite a bit. That places an additional resource burden on the territories due to our being north of 60. It is even higher than what would be faced, for example, by the Ontario Provincial Police in the Province of Ontario or in Quebec or in Atlantic Canada.

The reason it places an additional burden on there is that if RCMP officers and members are not in a position to easily do roadside testing, their fallback options include whether they have sufficient evidence to require somebody to go to the police station for testing there or whether the officer has the sufficient training to do drug recognition, which, as members may or may not know — the existing drug recognition enforcement training is an important tool for RCMP and other police agencies, but there have been challenges with the ability of those agencies to train their members in that drug recognition in a manner that will meet the standard that will hold up in court.

It’s not enough to simply believe that someone may have been impaired in the officer’s best judgment. They need to have the adequate training to be able to testify in a manner that will meet a standard that the court finds acceptable.

Those matters can place a significant drain on the system, and it should also be noted that, with the predictions by many that there will be an increase of the prevalence of impaired driving due to marijuana, one of the concerns that the RCMP have as a result of a number of court rulings across the country related to alcohol use, is the sheer amount of time that it takes a member to fill out the paperwork after completing an arrest of someone who has been found to be driving while under the influence of alcohol.

I don’t know how much detail the RCMP have gotten into with the Minister of Justice or with other ministers but I know that was a concern that they identified to me — and information they provided to me during my early days as Minister of Justice — and that it is an issue that places a significant strain on their ability to enforce impaired driving — simply the fact that the growth of the amount of time that a member must spend on paperwork has grown exponentially over the years across the country, largely as a result of court rulings on technicalities.

I want to go on to just briefly — quote from some of the key excerpts of a document tabled by the Member for Mayo-

Tatchun earlier today. The Government of Canada’s *A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada — the Final Report of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation*.

In the forward, as signed by the chair and the vice-chair — I will quote briefly from it: “The current paradigm of cannabis prohibition has been with us for almost 100 years. We cannot, and should not, expect to turn this around overnight. While moving away from cannabis prohibition is long overdue, we may not anticipate every nuance of future policy; after all, our society is still working out issues related to the regulation of alcohol and tobacco. We are aware of the shortcomings in our current knowledge base around cannabis and the effects of cannabis...”

That is signed by the chair, Anne McLellan, who of course is a Liberal, and vice-chair Mark A. Ware, on behalf of the committee. Again, that ends the quotes from that report put forward, but quoting from the same document — which, for the ease of Hansard, I think they will find it online on the Legislative Assembly website now, since I believe it has been accepted as a tabled document. If not, I believe it is available on the federal website.

I am again going to quote from page 4 of that report, where the task force recommends: “Work with existing federal, provincial and territorial bodies to better understand potential occupational health and safety issues related to cannabis impairment.” This is reinforced by the federal task force identifying similar issues as we heard from the president of the Yukon Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety Board here yesterday. There is acknowledgement in the federal report that there are issues that need to be better understood related to occupational health and safety as it pertains to cannabis impairment.

Moving to page 5 of that same report: “The Task Force recommends that jurisdictions: extend the current restrictions on public smoking of tobacco products to the smoking of cannabis products and to cannabis vaping products; be able to permit dedicated places to consume cannabis such as cannabis lounges and tasting rooms, if they wish to do so, with no federal prohibition...”

Moving on again in the report: “With respect to impaired driving, the Task Force recommends that the federal government: invest immediately and work with the provinces and territories to develop a national, comprehensive public education strategy to send a clear message to Canadians that cannabis causes impairment...”

It also goes on to recommend that they: “Invest in research to better link THC levels with impairment and crash risk to support the development of a *per se* limit.”

It goes on in the next bullet to say: “Determine whether to establish a *per se* limit as part of a comprehensive approach to cannabis-impaired driving...”

I don’t think that the Member for Mayo-Tatchun was entirely correct in his conclusions that there isn’t a direct correlation between the level of THC in the bloodstream and the level of impairment, but what really seems to be being identified by the experts on this matter is that the correlation is

not well understood at what level it causes increased impairment and whether that differs in different people, because of the lack of evidence on this matter.

The task force further goes on to note in its report: "... employers, educators, law enforcement, industry, health-care practitioners and others... will require information tailored to their specific roles.

"To this end, the Task Force recommends that the federal government: take a leadership role to ensure that capacity is developed among all levels of government prior to the start of the regulatory regime; build capacity in key areas, including laboratory testing, licensing and inspections, and training..."

Mr. Speaker, I'm just trying to be mindful of the time here. There are a number of things that I would like to read into the record, but I will limit a couple of them. I'll move on to chapter 2 of that task force report — and I'll quote from "Assessing the Risks":

"Risk is inherent in all discussions on the health effects of cannabis, yet our understanding of risk is constrained by more than 90 years of prohibition, which has limited our ability to fully study cannabis."

It goes on to reference later in that same chapter — and I'll quote: "Risks associated with consumption: Certain factors are associated with an increased risk of harms, including frequent use and use of higher potency products. Driving while impaired by cannabis is associated with an increased risk of accidents and fatalities. Co-use with alcohol may pose an incremental risk for impaired driving and co-use with tobacco may increase smoking-related lung disease."

Being mindful of the time here, I will wrap up my remarks at this point. In introducing the amendment, I'll be moving to this motion and again, our primary contention as the Official Opposition is that, if it is going to be legalized, it's absolutely vital that all levels of government fully exercise the responsibility to have the proper legal, regulatory and resource structure in place prior to the legalization, and we view it as highly unlikely that will occur by the summer of 2018.

Amendment proposed

Mr. Cathers: Therefore I move the following amendment:

THAT Motion No. 37 be amended by deleting the words "by the summer of 2018."

Speaker: First, I have had an opportunity to review the amendment with Madam Deputy Clerk and can advise that the amendment is in order.

It has been moved by the Member for Lake Laberge:

THAT Motion No. 37 be amended by deleting the words "by the summer of 2018."

The new proposed motion would read as follows:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the Government of Canada to legalize cannabis use in Yukon.

Mr. Cathers: I will be very brief in wrapping up my remarks. I would just note, as mentioned, from the many

reputable associations and governments in Canada that have expressed concern about the ability to be ready by the arbitrary deadline of the summer of 2018 imposed by Prime Minister Trudeau through a political commitment that was not well-founded in evidence — I would note that the Premier himself, in responding to questions in Question Period, acknowledged that it was a Herculean task to get ready.

I would note, as I did in reading from the list of the many areas where the Saskatchewan government felt they needed to act in, that it is simply a massive regulatory task and resource-intensive task that is required by every provincial and territorial government.

I would note, in closing, that the Yukon Party Official Opposition respects the fact that, within the Yukon public, there are strong opinions by people, both in favour of and opposed to the legalization of marijuana. Our position is that, fundamentally, we respect the opinions of all but that our assertion to government and our request and strong advice is: if you're doing it, be sure you're ready for it. It is absolutely and vitally important that governments have the regulatory resource structure in place for the legalization of marijuana if that is to occur.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: The amendment that has been put forward is that we remove the words, "by the summer of 2018", which leaves the substance of this motion in question, I would submit to you and to all of this House. The timeline has been imposed by the federal government. It is not a timeline that can be ignored.

In my view, we would ignore the federal government's timeline — being the summer of 2018, July — at our peril and we would ignore it at Yukoners' peril.

The federal government has tabled legislative changes that will legalize the use of cannabis in July 2018, and despite the long list and — I certainly am well familiar with the long list — presented by the Member for Lake Laberge, that work still must be done. To ignore the concept of those deadlines or the date imposed by the legislation put forward by the federal government in April 2017 — Bill C-45 and Bill C-46. Those two bills create a legalized cannabis regime in Canada, and they amend the *Criminal Code of Canada* associated with impaired driving.

If we were not to diligently work toward the goal of July 2018 — and I take the point from the Member for Lake Laberge that there is a lot to be done. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done. There are a tremendous number of decisions to be made, and I certainly hope he recalls that when future questions come up about this topic, because people are working very, very hard.

You've heard about the working group that has been formed by officials from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Justice, the Liquor Corporation — and there are other groups working diligently on this topic. That work needs to proceed. That is why the words "by the summer of 2018" are in the motion brought forward today by the Member for Mayo-Tatchun.

It is irresponsible for us to ignore that timeline and to not work diligently toward it. I do have a number of other facts that I can produce with respect to other comments that have been made, but that is the conclusion of what I'll say with respect to the motion. The words "by the summer of 2018" are critical to the motion and it is an important, if not the most important, factor in expressing the government's position in the difficult work that has been taking place with respect to this motion.

Speaker: Does any other member wish to be heard on the amendment?

Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Disagree.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Disagree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Disagree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Disagree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Disagree.

Mr. Gallina: Disagree.

Mr. Adel: Disagree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Disagree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Disagree.

Mr. Hutton: Disagree.

Mr. Hassard: Agree.

Mr. Kent: Agree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Agree.

Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Ms. McLeod: Agree.

Mr. Istchenko: Agree.

Ms. Hanson: Disagree.

Ms. White: Disagree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are six yea, 12 nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the amendment to the motion defeated.

Amendment to Motion No. 37 negatived

Speaker: Is there any further debate on the main motion?

Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Agree.

Mr. Gallina: Agree.

Mr. Adel: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Mr. Hutton: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Disagree.

Mr. Kent: Agree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Disagree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Disagree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 13 yea, five nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.

Motion No. 37 agreed to

Speaker: Order, please.

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

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The following sessional paper was tabled October 18, 2017:

34-2-33

2016/2017 Annual Report — Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office — Streamlining Advocacy (Speaker Clarke)

The following document was filed October 18, 2017:

34-2-22

Public Airports Act, letter re (dated October 17, 2017) from Cheryl O'Brien, President, Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce, to Hon. Richard Mostyn, Minister of Highways and Public Works (McLeod)