



# Yukon Legislative Assembly

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## HANSARD

Monday, November 20, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

# YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## 2017 Fall Sitting

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

### CABINET MINISTERS

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

### GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

#### Yukon Liberal Party

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

### OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

#### Yukon Party

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

### THIRD PARTY

#### New Democratic Party

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

### LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
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Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Monday, November 20, 2017 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**In recognition of National Child Day**

**Speaker:** Welcome to all visitors in the gallery today. Today is National Child Day. This is a day that marks the anniversary of United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The convention is a treaty that is important to children all over the world. It was approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1989 and ratified by Canada in 1991.

National Child Day is celebrated to recognize that children have unique fundamental human rights. The convention bears in mind that children need specific safeguards and care due to their level of physical and mental maturity. The convention asserts that children's rights are human rights that have special considerations for the developmental needs of young people as well as the responsibilities of adults to provide support, care and dignity for children.

The rights of children are clearly laid out in the convention, and National Child Day has been celebrated since 1993 as an opportunity to educate all about those rights.

As an independent office of this Legislative Assembly, guided by the Yukon *Child and Youth Advocate Act*, the Child and Youth Advocate was created to support children and youth in accessing their rights and having their voices heard within Yukon government programs and services. The Child and Youth Advocate Office is directed by the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* to — and I quote: "... take into account the provisions of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*..." in carrying out its functions and duties. The office therefore works with young people to help them learn about their rights while promoting these rights for all of Yukon's children and youth.

As part of this work, the Child and Youth Advocate has partnered with the Jays Care Foundation, and has been developing a youth-led project focusing on article 12 of the convention — the right to youth participation; article 30 — the right to culture; as well as article 31 — the right to play. Eleven- and 12-year-old indigenous youth advisors have developed this project and are working with the Jays Care Foundation and the Child and Youth Advocate Office to develop youth-led programs throughout the Yukon.

The Child and Youth Advocate Office is also participating in a national day of broadcast, which is also being hosted on National Child Day. This project is a partnership with child and youth advocate offices across Canada and the National Campus and Community Radio Association through Ryerson University. The voices and stories of young people will be aired on non-profit community radio stations across Canada and on CHON FM in Yukon.

They will also be featured in the Senate Chamber on November 22.

Yukon children and youth participated in this project through volunteer interviews that focused on the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and reconciliation. All interviews are being aired on CHON FM throughout today, including interviews with the Hon. Doug Phillips, Commissioner of Yukon; the Hon. Premier; Grand Chief of Council of Yukon First Nations, Peter Johnston; Bengie Clethero, the deputy child and youth advocate; as well as youth Billie Janine Richard.

Today in the gallery, we have a number of people here to honour the National Day of the Child — and I apologize in advance, first of all, if I miss anyone and, secondly, if there are any mispronunciations. Today in the gallery we have Annette King, Yukon Child and Youth Advocate; Bengie Clethero, deputy child and youth advocate; and Annie Blake, administration and communication assistant for the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office.

We also have the following youth advisors: Billie Janine Richard, who is a member of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation; Neveah Webb, a grade 8 student at Porter Creek Secondary School and a member of the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation; Jennifer Tuton, a grade 8 student at Vanier Catholic Secondary School and a member of the Tahltan Nation; Molly Sam, a grade 7 student at Elijah Smith Elementary School and a member of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation; Madison McKenna, a grade 7 student at Jack Hulland Elementary School and a member of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation; as well as Nigel Charlie, a grade 7 student at Elijah Smith Elementary School and a member of the Teslin Tlingit Council.

As well, we also have three adult supporters: Glenna Tetlich, education support worker for Vuntut Gwitchin Government; Cynthia James, community education support worker for the Kwanlin Dün First Nation at Elijah Smith Elementary School; and Lindy Dunlop, who is the mother of Jennifer Tuton.

I would ask all members at this time to join me in welcoming these individuals and in honour of the National Day of the Child.

*Applause*

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In recognition of National Housing Day**

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I rise today to pay tribute to National Housing Day, on behalf of the Yukon Liberal caucus, which takes place this Wednesday, November 22. National Housing Day began almost 20 years ago. In 1998, the Big City Mayors' Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities identified homelessness as a crisis in this country. Today, provinces and territories are working with the federal

government on a national housing strategy. Here in the Yukon, we are making sure that our communities voices are heard in the development of this strategy. We are working with our sister territories to ensure that particular challenges related to housing in northern Canada are reflected.

Housing is more than roof over your head; housing is a cornerstone of sustainable and inclusive communities. It is key to a prosperous economy.

Today, I want to pay tribute to the many people here in the Yukon who are working to respond to the challenges associated with housing. These partners come from all orders of government and many diverse non-governmental organizations. They are committed to working with us to address the housing needs of Yukoners all along the housing continuum, from emergency shelter to rental housing to home ownership. Working with these partners, we are building the housing action plan for Yukon. Through these partnerships, we are increasing the supply of safe, affordable housing along the housing continuum based on the most immediate housing needs in the community.

Partnership with other agencies, governments, Yukon First Nations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are fundamental to efforts to make sure that specific housing needs in communities are considered and met. On Wednesday, we are hosting another housing forum with our partners and stakeholders to discuss the national housing strategy, the Safe at Home plan, and local community projects.

We look forward to commemorating National Housing Day. We look forward to continued partnerships that will lead to the development of affordable, sustainable and inclusive housing options, supporting a better quality of life for all Yukoners.

I know there are many visitors here today in the gallery to celebrate National Housing Day. I will take the time during the introductions of visitors to introduce you all so I encourage you to please stay. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Mr. Istchenko:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize November 22 as National Housing Day. There has been much work done to date and there is still much work to do to improve housing situations across the country. Homelessness remains a crisis in our country and we must continue to work at the territorial level to address the issue in our own backyard. I am proud to see all levels of government, First Nation organizations, and individuals working together with the common goal of providing affordable housing to those in need.

A prime example of this collaboration was the grand opening of the Ta'an Kwäch'än affordable housing complex in Whistle Bend just a few weeks ago. Three beautiful housing complexes are underway — the first having opened this month. By early 2018, there will be 42 affordable housing units for Yukoners to call home. It's a project for the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, the Da Daghay Development Corporation and all of their partners to be proud of. More

collaboration on more projects means more success fighting this national problem.

I would like to commend all the groups working toward this ultimate goal of housing affordability. I look forward to seeing what the future brings in terms of working together on projects to provide safe, secure and affordable housing to all Yukoners.

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Yukon NDP caucus to acknowledge National Housing Day. National Housing Day came about in response to the dire situation that many Canadians found themselves in 1998. In response, the homelessness advocacy group, the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, declared homelessness to be a national disaster, and a state of emergency declaration was released in October 1998. It was immediately endorsed by individuals, community agencies, faith groups, labour unions and various governmental entities.

Mr. Speaker, I can look back at the tributes I have written and delivered on National Housing Day since 2011, and I am saddened to say that there continues to be increasing numbers of people both facing homelessness and those facing challenges to finding safe and affordable housing in our communities and across the country. Today in our country, 3.3 million of us cannot access the housing we need at a cost that we can afford. An estimated 235,000 Canadians are experiencing homelessness each and every year. Of those, 64,500 will be women fleeing violence who will end up in shelters. Homelessness should not be the consequence of a life without violence.

Twenty percent of Canada's homeless population is made up of young people. Thousands of them are on the streets each and every night. Apart from being an epic, long-term planning fail, what does it say about us as a society that we have made so many of our young people so disposable.

What about housing as an act of reconciliation? Indigenous people make up four percent of the overall population from coast to coast to coast but, in some cities, indigenous people represent as much as 50 to 90 percent of the homeless population. It's a homelessness epidemic.

I would like to use numbers closer to home to reflect our own reality here, but until we collect data about homelessness in Yukon, this just is not possible. As an example, in Toronto, indigenous people make up 15 percent of the city's homeless but only 0.5 percent of the total population. So how about we reconcile ourselves to changing that right away, Mr. Speaker?

Nearly 30 years ago, the federal government walked away from the business of making sure that Canadians were housed.

Only last year did they finally heed the call for a national housing strategy — something that experts and advocates have been calling for, for decades. Until that strategy is finally released sometime in 2018 or 2019, we are alone among the G20 countries in not having a national housing strategy. How is it possible that in a country as wealthy as Canada, governments are only just now deciding that we need to face housing and homelessness head-on?

The Yukon NDP believe that housing is a human right. We look forward to the day when homelessness is a thing of the past across Canada and right here in Yukon.

### In recognition of the Yukon Geoscience Trade Show and Forum

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** Today, I rise to pay tribute to the Yukon Geoscience Trade Show and Forum on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government and the Third Party.

The forum is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary from November 18 to 21. This annual event, organized by the Yukon Chamber of Mines, provides an opportunity for geologists, miners, governments and Yukoners to get together to share information and make connections with others involved in the mineral industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Victoria Gold for its commitment and effort to make its Eagle Gold project a reality. This project sets a good example for others because the company worked closely with the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun. They both demonstrated great vision and cooperation in working together to develop this project. I look forward to an exciting and prosperous future for Victoria Gold and the First Nation of Na Cho Nyäk Dun — and for all Yukoners. I also look forward to the knowledge-sharing that will occur over the four days of the Geoscience Forum, because it will assist us in collectively moving the industry forward.

On Sunday, the Yukon Geological Survey hosted a Yukon placer forum to share expertise that can help gold miners and make new discoveries, which was a fantastic event that I had an opportunity to attend.

Industry experts also give presentations about technologies and processes that can be used to enhance placer mining. Mining and exploration companies frequently attribute their investment decisions and exploration successes to the information provided by government geologists. We hear that on the road all the time. The latest geological discoveries are showcased at the forum. Government geologists deliver talks and display posters detailing their research.

Mr. Speaker, the Yukon Geological Survey also invites students from schools to tour the trade show and take part in many hands-on activities relating to mining and geology. The trade show floor has many exhibitors involved in Yukon's mining industry and everyone is welcome to check it out.

As well, people will be able to learn more about recent changes within the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Compliance Monitoring and Inspection branch will have a booth on the trade show floor to explain their recent reorganization and answer any questions about their work with exploration companies and miners in the field. The branch's new structure will expand the available services in communities and improve the delivery of services to clients in the field. As well, they will provide more opportunity to partner with First Nation resource and land staff. Supporting and contributing to the Geoscience Forum is just one of the

ways the Government of Yukon demonstrates its support for the mineral sector.

We support engaging with people and companies who live and do business in the territory. We believe that engaging in respectful relationships and working collaboratively with First Nations will increase certainty and opportunities for the miners operating within our jurisdiction. We also recognize the importance of infrastructure development to strengthen and grow Yukon communities and encourage economic success.

In September, the federal government announced it has committed to contributing to the Yukon Resource Gateway project — an initiative to provide improved road access to areas with high mineral potential. We are now working with First Nations to develop agreements related to those components of the Gateway project that are within the respective traditional territories.

In conclusion, I encourage Yukoners to drop in to the trade show at the Yukon Convention Centre between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. each day of the Geoscience Forum to talk with exhibitors and learn more about the mineral exploration and development industry in our territory.

We will announce our many visitors here today and my colleague across the way will help me in that. We have lots of people and we will wait until introduction of visitors to undertake that. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Mr. Kent:** I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to the 45<sup>th</sup> annual Yukon Geoscience Forum. I would like to thank the minister for his tribute. Many of my colleagues and I have been taking in a number of the talks and events associated with the forum and we look forward to tonight's awards banquet as well.

Much of the modern success of the Yukon mining industry that the minister spoke about is owed to the geologists who were the pioneers in exploring and mapping our great country. I would like to take my time during the tribute to touch on some of the history of the Geological Survey of Canada. As it celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, the Geological Survey of Canada can lay claim to a unique role in the exploration and development of Canada. In 1842 — 25 years before Confederation — it was founded by William E. Logan. Of course we have a very famous rock in Kluane National Park that bears his name.

Mr. Logan began by assessing the mineral wealth of the Province of Canada and discovered an impressive range of mineral deposits. As Canada grew, the survey reported on all aspects of its natural resources. Travelling by horse, foot or canoe — often through uncharted wilderness — its early scientists mapped, described and recorded Canada's geology. Indeed, they were the government's official explorers. Their reports were influential. For example, they played a key role in recommending the route for the railways that linked Canada together as it expanded westward.

The survey scientists collected rocks, minerals, fossils, flora, fauna, as well as photographs and artifacts of indigenous

peoples who they encountered in their wide-ranging travels. In 1911, the Victoria Memorial Museum was built in Ottawa to house the survey and its collections. The specimens and artifacts collected by survey scientists are still part of the treasures held by many of our national museums.

The early work of the survey laid the foundation for the development of Canada's mineral and energy resources. On their website, there is a list of 175 objects that were selected from suggestions made by survey staff and alumni, including of course the Klondike Gold Rush and the naming of Dawson City after the survey's third director, George Mercer Dawson. They provide a glimpse into the survey's 175-year-long history and its outstanding contribution to the development of Canada. A big thank you to those who have contributed to Yukon's and Canada's geological database — whether it was those early geologists like Logan or Dawson or those geologists, prospectors and miners who are today standing on their shoulders — many of whom are taking in this year's forum and hoping to realize their ultimate quest to open Yukon's next mine.

We hope all delegates at this year's Yukon Geoscience Forum are coming off a successful 2017 season and we all wish them well for a successful 2018. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Introduction of visitors.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Pillai:** I will do my best. We have lots of visitors here today. I would like to welcome John McConnell from Victoria Gold, who I saw here today; Harlan Meade and Doug Ramsey from Copper North Mining Corporation; Vanessa Pickering and Graham Downs from ATAC are here with us today; Graeme Jennings and James Berry from Wellgreen are here as well; Clynton Nauman from Alexco is here as well today; Mark Aryanto and Katherine Aryanto are here today; as well as Henry Castillo from Agnico Eagle; and Will Fellars from the Klondike Placer Miners' Association.

Some of our staff members from Energy, Mines and Resources are here: Jennifer Russell; Stephen Mills, deputy minister; Stephen Mead; and John Fox — I still owe him lunch for the last time he came to visit me. John and Shawn Rudolph, I believe, are here today as well; Chris Donaldson from Casino — I think I saw him as well — and I think Peter Turner and Rick Karp as well from the Whitehorse and Yukon chambers of commerce. Dave Ramsay is here today as well, a former MLA in the Northwest Territories who covers some of the same portfolios. It has always been great to get some insight and some wisdom when we cross paths. I know I have probably missed a few people, but help me in welcoming them. Congratulations on the season that you just had. What an amazing year. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Mr. Kent:** I think the minister caught most of the folks in the gallery, but Brad Thrall from Alexco Resources is also with us; and Rob McIntyre, who wears many hats, including

the BMC Minerals hat as well. So they have also joined us here today.

*Applause*

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would like to take this time to acknowledge the youth who are with us today. I just wanted to really, I guess, extend my appreciation for your presence, because it really means a lot to all of us that you are our future. Learning about this process is really important, so I want to just take that time — the Speaker had mentioned your names earlier, so I won't go through that again — and I just want to acknowledge you.

I wanted to also acknowledge my sister for her continued support. Her presence here — thank you for that.

I want to take this time also — and I ask everyone to allow me to acknowledge the members who are here today to recognize National Housing Day. I will go through the list. If I misrepresent your name, please excuse me — Jillian Hardie; Hannah McDonald; Lars Hartling; Charlotte Hrenchuk; Mary Cameron; Brenda Lee Doyle; Mike Gau; Amanda Leas; Pamela Hine; Nelson Lepine; Carl Rumscheidt; Sophie Anderson; Steve Tapp; Clodie-Pascale Brassat-Villeneuve — I apologize; I'm sure I misrepresented that name — Darby MacWilliam; Jen Collon; Julie Lackowicz; Natasha Rumsey; Ian Mackenzie; Kim Corothers; Dwayne MacDonald; Esther Armstrong; Jan Slipetz; Jack Bogaard; Hannah Zimmering; Charlotte Hrenchuk — Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office — I welcome you all here as well.

If I've missed anyone, please accept my apologies. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Mr. Gallina:** I would like members to help me in welcoming a few people in the gallery here today — a constituent, Conrad Tiedemann, lives in the flourishing riding of Porter Creek Centre; Stephen Mead, who Minister Pillai recognized earlier, is a long-time family friend, and our oldest daughters were born one day apart — I remember pacing in the halls of Whitehorse General Hospital with him, wide-eyed and running on adrenaline, getting food and drink in support of our wives, who were in full labour at the same time. Michael Tuton is an old friend and situations often see us on opposing teams, whether it's hockey, baseball or the old flag football league. I see Michael is showing support for Canada's baseball team.

Welcome. Thank you.

*Applause*

**Hon. Mr. Silver:** I also just wanted to point out one other person who has gone unannounced up here — Dwayne McDonald, who worked for Kwanlin Dün health centre. Welcome, Dwayne.

*Applause*

**Ms. White:** I just wanted to re-highlight Mr. Jack Bogaard, who is in the Assembly, because it is through his

shared, lived experience of homelessness that there has been a community that has come behind to support. It's the shared, lived experience and the bravery in actually telling us what it is like that have made such a big difference. So I just wanted to make sure that I put in that pitch there because, without your bravery and sharing those stories, it would be really easy to sweep some things under the rug. So thank you so much for being here.

*Applause*

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

Returns and documents for tabling.

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Speaker:** The Chair has for tabling the *Yukon Electoral District Boundaries Commission Interim Report*, dated November 2017. The report is tabled pursuant to section 415 of the *Elections Act*.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I have for tabling the Yukon Teachers Staff Relations Board annual report, which is tabled pursuant to section 103 of the *Education Labour Relations Act*.

I also have for tabling the Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board annual report, which is tabled pursuant to section 101 of the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*.

I also have for tabling two legislative returns in response to questions from the Member for Lake Laberge and the Member for Porter Creek North regarding Aishihik bridges and line painting.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Today, I have for tabling a letter to the Member for Watson Lake answering her question from November 16, 2017 regarding out-of-territory immunization for Yukon residents.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with all levels of government to ensure a successful resumption of the Yukon land use planning process.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to ensure that the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* exception that allows the Government of Yukon to

reserve up to \$10-million worth for local businesses is used to its full extent for the current fiscal year.

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

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Cannabis legislation framework

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** This morning, the Minister of Health and Social Services and I released the Government of Yukon's proposed framework for legalized cannabis in the Yukon. This framework will form the basis of new territorial legislation to regulate cannabis here in the territory.

The proposed framework follows a public survey that our government conducted in August and September that solicited Yukoners' views on the legalization of cannabis. With over 3,000 respondents, the public survey on cannabis legislation had the highest response rate of any Government of Yukon survey to date. Yukoners have shown that they are interested in the legalization of cannabis and we appreciate them sharing their priorities and values with respect to cannabis.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to all Yukoners, First Nation governments, municipalities and stakeholders for their participation in the public survey. Their participation has been instrumental in providing our government with the perspectives of Yukoners on this new initiative. Engagement results, along with policy, research and analysis, have allowed the Government of Yukon to begin the process of developing a new act to regulate cannabis in the territory.

A Yukon act is being developed in the lead-up to federal legislation that is planned for July 2018. The Government of Yukon is working to ensure that our new act will reflect the values and priorities of Yukoners and Yukon communities. It will provide for legal, controlled access to cannabis that displaces illegal and criminal activity, and it will prioritize public health, safety and harm reduction with a focus on protecting youth from negative health effects.

The document that our government released this morning outlines a proposed framework for cannabis legalization in the Yukon. It is important to emphasize that the proposed framework represents a starting point. The system is designed to be able to adapt as we learn more about the best approach for the Yukon and its people.

Highlights from the proposed framework include: setting a minimum age of 19 for the possession, consumption and cultivation of cannabis; allowing the possession of 30 grams of cannabis by adults who are 19 years of age or older; allowing adults to grow up to four plants per household; providing a government-led distribution system in which the Government of Yukon would have the sole authority to import, warehouse, transport and otherwise distribute recreational cannabis within Yukon for commercial purposes; prohibiting the sale of cannabis in retail locations that sell alcohol; and providing for a hybrid retail model.

Yukoners will have legal access to cannabis upon federal legalization next year. Our approach acknowledges the need for additional time to develop regulations including a

licensing system for private retail that will reflect Yukon's interests and values.

As we move forward to develop legislation, the Government of Yukon is seeking feedback on this proposed approach and the framework that was released today. Yukoners can review the framework by visiting our new public engagement website at [engageyukon.ca](http://engageyukon.ca), and comments can also be provided by e-mail to the following e-mail address: [cannabis@gov.yk.ca](mailto:cannabis@gov.yk.ca). Those e-mails can be sent until December 20, 2017.

**Mr. Cathers:** In rising today as Official Opposition Justice critic, I would like to begin by thanking everyone who did comment on this survey. I do think it's important to note again that, with the government's new survey format that allows people to comment an unlimited number of times, we really do not know how many people actually commented on this survey.

Unfortunately, with the minister's statement today, what we see here is the announcement of a framework that is very short on details and leaves a lot of unanswered questions. I think it's important to walk through just a few of the many unanswered questions here today.

We have still not seen details from the government about how they intend to tax or mark up these products in the Yukon. If the goal is to end the black market, will the tax be low enough to compete with prices on the black market, or will it simply make law enforcement's job harder by making it harder to identify illegal marijuana versus legal marijuana?

The government has not explained yet where its supply will come from. In saying that they will develop a government-led distribution system in which government has the sole authority to import, warehouse, transport and distribute recreational cannabis, the first question that comes to mind is: How? Unfortunately, we see very few details in the announcement here today. Has the government come up with a plan for where it will store it, how it will manage it and how it will distribute and transport it? What will the laws be around the consumption and enforcement of those laws?

In the initial framework, the minister has indicated that it will be confined to private residences and property, but this raises other questions. For example, if you're allowed to smoke marijuana in your home, are you allowed to do so with children present?

The Minister of Health and Social Services says in the press release that the government is — and I quote: "... particularly concerned about cannabis use by young people. For that reason, we are proposing that Yukoners under the age of 19 will not be allowed to purchase or possess any cannabis."

So that does raise the question of what the government is planning to do to prevent people under the age of 19 from being exposed to second-hand smoke. It also raised questions about what steps government will take to regulate advertising of marijuana and whether government will undertake its own advertising campaigns to educate about the harms of young people smoking.

There are also other outstanding questions about who will be enforcing this new legislation and its various aspects. Will it be municipalities? Will it be the RCMP? Or will it be the Government of Yukon by hiring potentially new inspection and enforcement officers? Who is going to do the buying? Is the government planning to hire new staff? Will the sale be through the Yukon Liquor Corporation or will a new Crown corporation potentially be established? How many more Yukon government employees will be required for the regulation and distribution of the sale of cannabis? Will the mandate of the Yukon Liquor Corporation or a new Crown corporation need to make money off of cannabis just to be self-sustaining or it will potentially even lose money, as we have heard may be the case in Alberta?

Other jurisdictions have asked the federal government for more money to deal with enforcement and regulatory costs. Has this government? Has the government even estimated those costs? Another question is: Can a municipality or a community prohibit smoking? Can a First Nation government? Again, these are a few of the many unanswered questions for a major piece of legislation that is scheduled to be tabled in the spring and for a brand new regulatory system that is to be set up by July 1, which is only seven months away.

Mr. Speaker, again, as my time grows short, I would note that I listed a number of these areas previously on October 18, but we see this as a case of rushed public policy and there are many important questions — including as it relates to impaired driving enforcement — that the government has yet to provide the answers that it should have.

We look forward to a time when the government will be able to announce those important questions that they should have the answers to in announcing this program.

**Ms. Hanson:** We welcome the minister's statement today, which sets out the government's framework for the legalization of cannabis. The Yukon New Democratic Party generally supports the government's orientation; that is, where the government plays a central role in the distribution chain. However, there are a few areas that we would like to bring to the minister's attention.

While the control of cannabis will be overseen by the federal government, we want to encourage the minister and this government to pressure the federal government to adopt a robust quality control approach. We are all too familiar with the weaknesses of self-regulation with the tobacco industry and we must learn from this.

I urge the Yukon government to advocate for strict quality controls by Health Canada so that pesticides, herbicides and other harmful chemicals don't find their way into products that will be sold here in the Yukon.

Another aspect we would draw the minister's attention to is the impact of cannabis on young adults that her statement references. We do know that both the Canadian Medical Association and the Yukon Medical Association have raised concerns over the health impact of cannabis for people under the age of 25. While we understand that 19 years old is

practical and makes sense from a responsibility standpoint for legalization, we want to ensure that Yukon, along with our federal, provincial and territorial counterparts, puts in place measures to closely monitor the health impacts — particularly with respect to mental health issues that may disproportionately affect younger adults.

As more detailed legislation and regulations are put in place, we want to caution this government about potential challenges down the road. The inherent contradiction of legalization of marijuana without decriminalization of the same will need to be faced squarely by this government along with our federal, provincial and territorial counterparts. It makes no sense that people will be left with criminal records for possession of a substance that is soon to be legal. The government plans to restrict recreational consumption of cannabis to privately owned residents. This raises many questions for landlords and tenants alike. The minister will need to strike the right balance between the rights of tenants and of landlords.

People who use cannabis for medical reasons also need to be considered in this process. We would not want to see a situation where patients are not allowed to take medication they need because they live in a rental unit. As far as the eventual role that private distributors can play, we think the government is making a responsible choice by taking the time needed to develop appropriate regulations. We would certainly like to see local production and it makes sense that local producers would be able to distribute local products, but we would caution the minister to look at the shortcomings of Yukon's off-sale system that has clearly shown its limits over the last few years and led to the proliferation of private liquor stores with little consideration for social responsibility.

We thank the minister for her statement and we look forward to hearing more about this issue in the year to come.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I thank the members opposite for their thoughts on the proposed framework for legalized cannabis. I also appreciate the emphasis that it is a framework. All the questions that were asked are certainly questions that we've been asking ourselves and that the amazing team of people who are working on this issue have been asking themselves on a daily — if not daily and nightly — basis. They're working very hard on these topics.

I should mention, however, that it's not correct that multiple responses were not taken into account, Mr. Speaker. In fact, it's one of the first questions that the Minister of Health and Social Services and I asked ourselves when we saw that the response numbers were very high with respect to the survey. In fact, we are assured that those things can be taken into account and that individual responses in the over 3,000 numbers were what happened here in the territory.

We are very interested to hear from the opposition parties in this House on this framework and, more generally, on our government's plan to move ahead with the legalization and the legislation to regulate cannabis here in the territory.

Members of the House will remember that we brought forward a motion last month urging the Government of Yukon

to work with the Government of Canada to legalize cannabis use by the summer of 2018. We appreciated the opportunity to debate that motion in this House, but members will recall that we received mixed messages from the Official Opposition. While many members of the Yukon Party voted against this motion and against the initiative supported by the majority of Yukoners, one member in fact of the Yukon Party voted in favour of that motion and we thank that member for the support.

The Third Party offered their support for cannabis legalization through the motion that was put forward last month and again, we thank them both for their comments here today and for their support of this initiative.

We look forward to hearing from both parties on the framework as we move toward the legislation here in the territory. I would once again like to take the opportunity to thank all Yukoners who participated in the survey and made their voices heard. The proposed framework we released today reflects their priorities and values and we welcome their feedback on the framework as well. It's another opportunity for that to happen, as I noted earlier.

I mentioned some of the highlights of the framework in my opening ministerial statement here today, including the minimum age of 19 — which has been referred to by the Leader of the Third Party — and the allowance of possession of up to 30 grams of dried cannabis in public. I would like to add that the Government of Yukon will own and operate at least one retail store and provide an e-commerce option as well by July 2018.

Once again, I want to emphasize that the framework represents a starting point. The new legislation will allow for future changes that reflect Yukon's interests and values, and our system will be designed to be able to adapt as we learn more about the best approach for our territory.

I encourage all Yukoners, stakeholders and those who have interest in this area to review the framework online, engage Yukon and provide comments through e-mail until December 20. Thank you again for this opportunity.

**Speaker:** This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: School replacement

**Ms. Van Bibber:** The Minister of Education's annual report mentioned the completion of the school revitalization plan in the summer of 2017. This plan, as we understand it, was to prioritize renovations and rebuilds of existing schools.

Earlier this session, we asked the minister about this plan and we didn't get a clear response. As I indicated, the minister's annual report mentions the plan was to be completed in summer 2017. The minister did provide a legislative return on the topic of school replacements; however, it made no mention of the school plan.

Can the minister tell us if, in fact, this report was completed this summer as outlined in her annual report?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I appreciate the question from the member opposite. As indicated in the department's 2016

annual report, which has been referred to, the departments of Education and Highways and Public Works are responsible for the planning, monitoring and maintenance of Yukon school buildings. The Department of Education's 2016 annual report contains several examples of recent work that has been completed to maintain and improve school buildings and that work is ongoing. It doesn't stop. That list is a continually changing and dynamic example of how we must approach dealing with our schools.

The annual report lists a number of older school buildings that need to be replaced and renovated in the coming years, and that the government is working on this long-term plan to spread the cost of school upgrades and replacements over a reasonable period of time.

The schools that are currently being considered for renovation or replacement include: Whitehorse Elementary, Kluane Lake School, Selkirk Elementary School, Takhini Elementary School, Wood Street Centre, St. Elias Community School, and Christ the King Elementary School.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** I will just remind the minister that it was her own annual report that stated that the school revitalization plan was to be completed in the summer 2017, which is why we are asking this question. In the legislative return the minister provided, she did list the number of schools, as she just stated.

Would the minister be able to tell us what criteria she will be using to prioritize which of these schools she decides to renovate or replace first?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** The process of determining the criteria is ongoing work between the Department of Education and the Department of Highways and Public Works because we work in concert together to determine which projects can go ahead.

I appreciate the opportunity to answer this question because renovations are not something that have always been considered with respect to these kinds of projects. I certainly don't consider myself an expert in building, but I have lots of questions about the need for these kinds of projects. Simply taking down a school and replacing it with a different school is certainly what we need to do sometimes, but it may not always be what we need to do, so we have asked the departments to work together to determine what the priorities are, what criteria they are using, and to report back to Cabinet, to me, as minister, and to the Minister of Highways and Public Works so we can actually attack this problem, look at it as a big picture, figure out how it should fit into the capital planning for the territory, determine which matters can be dealt with first and what the need is in each community where the schools exist.

**Ms. Van Bibber:** Regarding the list of schools that are being considered for renovation or replacement, we notice that Ross River School is not on the list. I'm just wondering if the minister could explain why the Ross River School is not included in the government's list of schools that are being considered for renovation or replacement.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Thank you very much; I certainly appreciate the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to answer this

question. It is certainly not because Ross River isn't a priority; it is actually because it's a different kind of priority. Ross River has issues that we are well aware of. The Minister of Highways and Public Works continues to work on that on a regular basis. Assessments are being done, reviews are being done, and engineering assessments are happening with respect to the Ross River School and, as a result, it is in a separate category.

It's not on the revitalization plan or list because we know that it's an urgent need. We're working with the community to determine whether the building can be maintained as a school, whether there needs to be renovations, whether there are adjustments that are happening with respect to the permafrost issue, et cetera — all things that are ongoing on a regular basis so it doesn't sit on a revitalization list or on a list of schools in the same assessment for those priorities.

#### **Question re: Francophone high school**

**Mr. Kent:** I have some follow-up questions for the Minister of Education on capital planning in her department. We know, of course, that the minister had \$8 million in her budget this year that has now been pushed to next year when it comes to building a new francophone high school. The minister has indicated that due to contamination at the site, they weren't sure if the land was appropriate.

Can the minister tell us when she will be in a position to tell the francophone community that the land is okay for the building of a new school and are other sites under consideration at this time?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I appreciate the question. I can indicate that the most recent information that the Minister of Highways and Public Works and I have been given is that testing of that site after the remediation is ongoing and that we'll have some test results in December 2017, so within the next four to six weeks. At this time, no other land is being looked at or considered for the site of that school. We are very hopeful that the remediation has been successful, but those tests will indicate so in December 2017 and that the project will be able to go forward.

**Mr. Kent:** I thank the minister. I appreciate that response.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this Sitting, we asked the minister how many students the new school will accommodate. Her response at the time — and I'll quote it here: "With respect to the design of the French first language high school, it is still underway. There are still ongoing discussions with respect to that school, so I can't indicate the final numbers of occupancy or how many students that facility would accommodate at this time."

If that is the case, and the minister still does not know what the size of the school will have to be, we're just curious as to if the minister can explain how she decided \$8 million would be required for construction of the school this year. Was that number based on any sort of plan?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Surprisingly, it was based on some sort of plan because the total budget for that school project is \$20 million on behalf of the Department of Education and

Department of Highways and Public Works — the Yukon government — and that should accommodate in the range of 150 students. It is not finalized — although I did mention the other day when we announced that there was some federal funding coming for community spaces — about which we were very pleased — for that same project of \$7.5 million from the federal government. That fits into a plan to accommodate a school of 150 students in addition to the community spaces that are coming there.

The reason that I cannot say that it's finalized at 150 students is in fact that there are still discussions ongoing with the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon with respect to the needs at the school and the details of the design, and those conversations are happening as we speak.

While 150 would be my best guess at this point — I think it is fairly appropriate, based on the budget for this project for which it is bound and based on the submissions that I have made previously with respect to the budget and with respect to the forecast going forward with respect to this school.

**Mr. Kent:** We appreciate the minister getting those numbers for us since we asked the question. So 150 students — a \$20-million contribution from the Yukon government and a \$7.5-million contribution from the federal government over the next two years — obviously the cost estimates for the new francophone school and the community spaces will be \$27.5 million. We look forward to monitoring that going forward.

The news release that was put out last week referencing the Government of Canada's contribution said that the \$7.5 million would be valid over the next two years. Can the minister confirm for us what the date of occupancy for the new school will be?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** Unfortunately, I cannot confirm it, any more than I can confirm when we will start construction. The plan is to go forward as soon as possible with respect to testing the remediation of the land, with respect to final concept design and going forward with the tender for the design, with respect to beginning the build, with respect to completing the campus model for Riverdale and surrounds, and all of the details and elements of that program — as soon as possible.

As noted by the member opposite, I think the guideline given by the federal government with respect to their funding over the next two years — the fact that this government has put in its budget money for this project this year, which will now be deferred, and then next year — should be a good indication to the public and certainly to the discussions we have had with the CSFY that this project is a priority and hopefully will be completed within the next couple of years.

#### **Question re: Canadian Free Trade Agreement**

**Ms. Hanson:** The *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* regulates commerce between Canadian provinces and territories. Yukon negotiated an exemption to the agreement that allows up to 10 government contracts worth \$1 million each to be reserved for local Yukon companies. Local contractors welcomed the exception, and even the Minister of

Economic Development celebrated it in a news report last April.

Yet last week, the Minister of Highways and Public Works had some bad news for Yukon businesses. He said that his department has yet to develop guidelines to determine which contracts would be subject to the local exception. He added — and I quote: "... more than likely it will be for next fiscal year before we start to use these exemptions."

Does the Premier believe that it is fair that Yukon contractors — Yukon businesses — will potentially lose out on up to \$10-million worth of contracts because his minister can't develop guidelines in a timely manner?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** I thank the Leader of the Third Party for the follow-up question. We did discuss this last week and I'm happy to come back to it today.

The Canada-European Union *Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement* — CETA as it is sometimes called — entered into force on September 21, 2017 — two months ago — and the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* — CFTA, as some people call it — entered into force on July 1, 2017 — four-and-a-half months ago. Those agreements were negotiated through the hard work of our government and, through that hard work, we, along with seven other provinces, actually obtained 10 \$1-million exemptions.

Now, as I noted to the member opposite on Thursday, this government is not going to hand out money willy-nilly to whoever comes forward first with a recommendation. First of all, the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* came into force well into this procurement season, well into this fiscal season, after contracts had been let. We are now looking at developing some rules around how we are going hand out the \$1 million so that it's actually done in a consistent and fair process to all businesses in the territory.

This is not a government that deals with friends and family. This is one that deals with fair and transparent processes.

**Ms. Hanson:** Guidelines are obviously needed. Obviously consultation has to happen, but somehow this government is managing to get it done on cannabis legalization but, when it comes to supporting local businesses, it takes more than a year to come up with guidelines. There is up to \$10 million on the line for Yukon businesses this year.

Last April — nearly eight months ago — this government celebrated the exception as a win for Yukon. As I said to the minister last week, when you have negotiations, you anticipate success. Clearly the government anticipated success, yet they haven't managed to use it and they are not planning to do so until next year.

The minister said last week — and I quote: "We don't want to" — as he just said — "employ these exemptions on a \$350,000 contract and then find one later that might be better..." Well, how is the minister maximizing the yield when he's wasting the opportunity to award up to \$10 million in contracts locally?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** This regional economic development exemption for 10 procurements of up to \$1 million in value each means Yukon has specifically

tailored powers for increasing local employment, supporting small firms and developing our rural economy. We are developing a process to identify and select projects that may be eligible to ensure that we are choosing to spend strategically where it will have the greatest effect and maximize economic benefits to Yukoners.

Yukon does have a great variety of procurements. We are working on specific details over the next few weeks to determine how eligible projects will be chosen so that the Yukon gets maximum value out of this exemption. We expect to have a working document in a few months that aligns with our five-year capital plan.

I will as well add to this that seven other jurisdictions have these exemptions. Of the seven, two are in the very early stages of planning on how to use these exemptions. Three have not yet begun any work yet at all and two do not have a plan at all to use the exemptions except to react to unique situations and have not planned anything. This exemption does not apply to federally funded procurements that are above the CETA thresholds.

Regarding larger projects, the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* states that if a procurement meets the requirement of a — I'll come back to that later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister just demonstrated exactly why I questioned him last week and again today about why he cannot act in a nimble way to do something that he knew was going to be approved — he knew this in April. This government has to put its money where its mouth is. The minister can't keep talking about supporting local businesses if he is about to pass on the opportunity to award up to \$10 million in contracts to local businesses this year.

There is no amount of spin that can make this contradiction less glaring. If this was a priority for government, Yukon businesses wouldn't have to wait for over a year to get some guidelines. This government was talking about this in April 2017.

Will the minister commit to do whatever it takes so that 10 \$1-million contracts per year that this government can reserve for local companies will be used prior to the end of the fiscal year?

**Hon. Mr. Mostyn:** Again, the agreement actually came into force after much negotiation in July. I wasn't even clear if the agreement would be passed. We were working on that and negotiating very hard. The staff at Highways and Public Works, Economic Development and others within government were working very hard to get this agreement in place.

We are happy that we have these exemptions. We are, like other jurisdictions, working very hard to come up with a plan to actually execute on them in a fair and transparent manner. We're just not going to throw the money around — willy-nilly, here and there — without any plan. It seems like the member opposite is advocating that. I'm not going to do that.

I think it's fair that we will have a process that businesses can apply through, that the departments will actually allocate the money fairly among themselves and come up with a way to maximize that benefit. It's going to be done in a methodical

manner. This is a deal that we have in perpetuity. It's a deal that started in July when the deal was passed — but, of course, that's well into the procurement season.

We're looking at getting rules in place and when we do, we will hand it out in the business community and the community of Yukon will benefit greatly from these exemptions. It will be done in a fair manner, where people know what the rules are, how to apply for the money, what criteria are used — we'll have all those things worked out in a manner that is fair to the territory's business community and that actually maximizes the benefits of this great trade deal.

#### Question re: Species at risk

**Ms. White:** I've been asking about species at risk legislation for a few years now, but I've never received a clear answer that would alleviate the concerns of Yukoners waiting for Yukon-made species at risk legislation.

In 1998, when national species at risk legislation was being put into place, Yukon committed to implementing its own complementary species at risk legislation that would reflect Yukon's unique interest in biodiversity. The government has been presented with draft species at risk legislation numerous times since then, but has not acted to bring forward species at risk legislation.

With a year under its belt, what work is this government doing to meet its commitment to bring forward Yukon's own species at risk legislation?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The Yukon government actively participates in the national assessment work led by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Yukon has 35 native species that are considered at risk. We track the status of all the species of concern to Yukon and we manage and monitor the wildlife that is at risk.

With exception of the changing climate, Yukon species do not experience the same threats as they do in the rest of Canada and we still have large tracts of undisturbed habitat. So we are working and we remain committed. Yukon, as I indicated, is the only jurisdiction without a species at risk act. We are working on that as we speak.

**Ms. White:** On October 31, 2017, the federal government released a document, entitled *Report on the Progress of Recovery Strategy Implementation for the Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou), Boreal Population in Canada for the period 2012 to 2017*. This was a report card on actions taken by the federal, provincial or territorial governments on recovery efforts for this species at risk. Provinces and territories have the primary responsibility for management of lands, natural resources and habitat where boreal caribou live.

The Yukon did not receive a passing grade. In the report, it states that research and monitoring on these caribou in Yukon has not occurred since a 2003-04 study led by the Government Northwest Territories. The boreal caribou in Yukon may have low numbers, but they do inhabit the Peel watershed.

What has been this government's response to this federal report, and how will this government fulfill its legal obligation

to protect boreal caribou, including creating species at risk legislation?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I can confirm that at the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment meeting two weeks ago in Vancouver, this subject came up at the national table. Also, I had a direct, face-to-face meeting with the minister responsible in the Northwest Territories. We had a discussion about the boreal caribou. We had a discussion around species at risk, speaking about the two percent of the land mass in which the caribou occupy. We do have to enter into a bilateral discussion with the Northwest Territories around a co-management regime.

In July, we had a meeting with the Ross River Dena Council as well around co-management on the caribou that migrate across the NWT border.

So we are making efforts, we are doing the work, and we will continue to do that and put together a plan for the Yukon and also collaborative management and legislative tools that directly affect and address the species at risk in the Yukon.

**Ms. White:** Mr. Speaker, the federal government has committed to effectively uphold the legal obligations and ensure compliance with their laws around the protection of endangered species. Yukoners take pride in our wilderness and in the biodiversity of our home and believe that we should do the same. With a new government, Yukoners had hoped to see results on this issue. Unfortunately, this government has yet to act to create legislation that protects Yukon species at risk. The latest information from the Department of Environment identifies species at risk — those threatened and those of special concern — but there is still no timeline for species at risk legislation in Yukon, nearly 20 years after our commitment.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister please tell Yukoners when we can expect to see the creation of species at risk legislation that protects our vulnerable species now and into the future?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I wanted to just note that the identified species at risk in Yukon are not so sufficient and that we don't experience the same threats as the rest of Canada. So the boreal caribou being discussed has great effects in other jurisdictions. What we are doing is we are working with our partners in the Northwest Territories and working with the nations that are responsible — that impact on the Peel, the two percent of the land mass. We are looking at a collaborative approach in co-management and that will come out in due course, Mr. Speaker.

Now we do manage the species of concern with many of the government's existing tools and planning processes, and we will continue to do that, and we will continue to work with our partners through the Department of Environment.

#### **Question re: RCMP funding**

**Mr. Cathers:** In the last year, Yukon has seen an increase in major crimes, including homicides, drug-related and organized crime, as well as deaths related to the opioid crisis. The RCMP have publicly stated that their resources are stretched very thin, and they have stated publicly that they need increased support from the Government of Yukon.

Front-line officers do dangerous work and they need the resources to do so and need to know the government has their back. The Official Opposition has asked the Minister of Justice many times to take action in this area. Her response has been that she will analyze the request for funding. We have been waiting patiently. It has been almost four months since I wrote to the minister about this first, and the RCMP have confirmed publicly that they have requested more support from the government.

Can the minister tell us if she will be supporting the request and when we can expect that assistance?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I am happy to answer this question, but I don't think I can give the degree of detail that is being asked. I am in regular discussions with the RCMP, as is the Department of Justice, Mr. Speaker. Whether they publicly asked for it or not, or whether they supported it publicly, Mr. Speaker, is irrelevant, because what needs to happen, and has happened, is that requests from the RCMP to address policing needs here in the territory for the purposes of dealing with, not only issues mentioned in the preamble to this question, but in fact a number of issues that are outstanding here in the territory involving the police — not only the items that were mentioned, but the policing priorities that have come out of the Police Council here in the territory, as well as other priorities that we have discussed together.

The reason I can't give the level of detail is because in fact, Mr. Speaker, there is a process under which these kinds of requests come through the department, into the process in the executive arm of the government and in through to Cabinet. Whether or not I support it is not what we need to know here; it is whether or not that process is playing out.

**Mr. Cathers:** Unfortunately, while we hear the minister talk about platitudes related to process, there is a problem going on that needs action from the minister.

We have already outlined the increase in major crimes — including homicides, drug-related and organized crime, and deaths linked to the opioid crisis this year — being major new pressures on the RCMP, which affect them this fiscal year. Starting next summer, the RCMP will also be required to enforce new cannabis-related legislation that the minister announced earlier today.

The minister's announcement was weak on details — we know that — but has she actually done any assessment of the pressures that enforcing new legislation will place on the RCMP and what additional resources they may need to face their current pressures and the new pressures that the minister is putting on their shoulders?

When will she provide the RCMP with additional resources to meet both of those needs — both the current problem and the one that she is about to dump on their shoulders?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I take issue with the concept of dumping things on their shoulders, Mr. Speaker, but I am happy to answer the question, nonetheless.

Yes, we have done an analysis of what this will mean for policing resources here in the territory, but that analysis isn't finished; it is ongoing. It is a conversation that is being had

with the federal government, which has committed additional funds for policing resources across the country, and those additional funds will also come here to the territory for the purposes of implementing and enforcing the cannabis legislation that is coming through initiation by the federal government.

I have indicated that I work closely with the Department of Justice as well as with the RCMP and that the analysis is ongoing. I will leave my answer there because that specifically deals with the issue of cannabis.

**Mr. Cathers:** The minister may not like being questioned on these issues, but these are important questions. We know right now that front-line RCMP members are facing a lot of strain due to the increasing pressure, and the minister has been very slow to act on this and responded today, again, only with platitudes. In addition to those operation and maintenance pressures on the RCMP, the RCMP also have capital needs that we have asked the minister about and have yet to receive a response.

Last week, I asked the minister for an update on some of these, including the replacement of the Faro RCMP detachment, and the minister didn't answer the question at the time. I will ask her again: Can the minister confirm whether or not the government still considers replacing the Faro RCMP detachment a priority? When is she going to take action on addressing yet another of the RCMP's needs?

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I guess I should clarify that I have no trouble answering any questions and I don't mind answering them at all. It is my job to answer those questions, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, just because the member opposite doesn't like the answers to those, he accuses me of not answering and that is not the truth.

The Faro detachment question is a —

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

#### Point of order

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

**Mr. Cathers:** Characterizing another member's comments as "not the truth" as the Minister of Justice just did, has been ruled out of order, contrary to Standing Order 19(h), many times in this Legislative Assembly.

I would ask you to rule her out of order and require that she retract it and apologize for that misstatement.

**Speaker:** Are there any further comments on the point of order?

Minister of Justice, on the point of order.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** I'm happy to retract and change my words, Mr. Speaker.

#### Speaker's ruling

**Speaker:** Thank you. In my view, the words uttered by the Minister of Justice were not clearly an accusation of deliberate falsehood. However, I accept the Minister of Justice's submission that she will rephrase it.

Minister of Justice, please.

**Hon. Ms. McPhee:** If I said something was untrue, I apologize. It's more appropriate for me to say that the member was not correct.

Nonetheless, I will try to go back to the answer by saying simply that the Department of Justice does work closely with the RCMP throughout any fiscal year to maintain the appropriate levels of policing and make sure that they are properly funded to protect the safety of all Yukoners. We have done that. We are doing that. We will continue to do that.

**Speaker:** The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

#### Bill No. 12: *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*.

Is there any general debate?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I'm here today to speak to Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*. I want to thank the Yukon Hospital Corporation for their collaboration in partnership on this bill.

As mentioned previously, the purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure that the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees is better positioned to perform its work in an effective and efficient way.

I would like to move on to talk about the details of the bill. Section 2 amends the legislation to authorize the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board to make bylaws regarding

competencies required for board members. As mentioned, the Hospital Corporation is working hard to offer the programming and services required to help Yukoners well. With an expanding scope and mandate, it is important that we empower the board members to support the corporation's patient-centred operations. This legislation update will provide the board additional tools to complete its work in an efficient and effective manner.

Section 3 of the bill amends the current legislation to reduce the size of the board from 15 to nine members. Through the proposed amendments, board members include the following: three members nominated by one or more Yukon First Nation or the Council of Yukon First Nations; one member nominated by the medical staff at the Yukon Hospital Corporation; four members from the public, including at least one member each from Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse; and one member from the Yukon public service. Demonstrated research shows the benefits of smaller boards and I am confident that this change will have the same effect. These changes include more effective oversight, increased swiftness in decision-making and greater ability to respond to complex and changing trends.

Proposed amendments also require the minister to consult within the appropriate municipalities in seeking the members from the public and to report to the Commissioner in Executive Council on the results of the consultation. Additionally this section requires the government when making appointments to consider whether the membership of the board reflects the gender and cultural diversity of the territory.

Section 5 of the proposed amendments removes section 32 of the old act, which is no longer relevant as it deals with details of devolution, and section 6 of the proposed amendment deals with the transition of the board, as well as some housekeeping matters. The proposed transition provisions related to the board work like this: upon assent of the Commissioner, the amendments now before the House come into force and all appointments to the board end. The transitional board, composed of members drawn from the previous board appointees, will be appointed by an order-in-council, so as government appoints each member to a seat on the new board by the order-in-council, a transitional board member's term ends.

A member of the current board may be appointed to the transitional board and may also be appointed to a position on the new Yukon Hospital Corporation Board in accordance with the application and review process proposed in this bill.

Mr. Chair, we are confident that this proposed legislation will better position the Yukon Hospital Corporation and the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees to complete their work. More importantly, we believe that these proposed changes will enable the Yukon Hospital Corporation to continue work with a focus on patient outcomes. The ultimate goal of these changes is to ensure that Yukoners continue to have access to the programs and services they deserve.

As such, I trust that members of this House are able to support the proposed amendment.

**Ms. McLeod:** I wonder if the minister could tell us how the chair will be picked.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would be happy to respond to the question. Historically, my understanding is that the decision of the board appointment was done by way of the ministerial process and that is still in effect — the minister makes a decision. However, the last round of selecting the board chair was really done with an attempt to look at a neutral approach, so looking at the competencies rather than looking at it as a political appointment. Our objective is really to stay true to that and look at ensuring that the person who comes forward is competency based and it is done by way of a call — an expression — and not done by a political appointment.

**Ms. McLeod:** So if I understand the minister correctly, the minister will still appoint the chair — or minister and Cabinet — is that correct?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** That is correct, yes.

**Ms. McLeod:** When we look at this bill as a whole, I'm wondering who the minister consulted with before preparing this?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The department worked collaboratively with the senior leadership of the Yukon Hospital Corporation to modernize the hospital governance structure and the suggestions regarding the board's size and compensation were incorporated into the new board structure.

Prior to tabling the amendments, letters were sent out with the proposed changes to the board and, as well, the board worked with the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nations, all municipalities and the Public Service Commission.

**Ms. McLeod:** So there was no broad public consultation as we might understand it. I am wondering why municipalities were unaware of this bill.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** It is my understanding that all municipalities were notified. In fact, the department received a response from Watson Lake with a few specific questions about where public members will come from and how municipalities may provide potential candidates for public membership.

**Ms. McLeod:** I am aware that Watson Lake has provided some comments; however, that was after the bill was tabled.

I wonder if the minister could just briefly explain the provisions of the amendments on page 3 of this bill, title number 4.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** If I may, I would like to ask the member for a little clarification as to which section on page 3 she is referring to. Do I understand it to be Section 6, paragraph 4?

**Ms. McLeod:** That's correct.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The revised wording in this section is to remove the word "worker", previously "First Nation Health Liaison worker program", so that was the objective there.

**Ms. McLeod:** The current bill says "First Nations Health Services" and it has been altered to: "(a) the First Nation Health Liaison program" and "(b) the First Nation

Child Life program” — just some clarification around why the change is necessary and what it means.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** My understanding is that the objective of the change in the words is intending to be a broader objective, rather than being honed in specifically on the worker.

**Ms. White:** Merci le Président. J'aimerais prendre un moment pour introduire deux invités à la galerie aujourd'hui. Angélique Bernard qui est la vice-présidente de l'Association franco-yukonnaise, et Frédéric Nolet, qui est le directeur de développement économique. We have two guests today in the gallery — Angélique Bernard, who is the vice-president of AFY and Fred Nolet, who is the director of economic development — I guess in English that is how I would say it — also from AFY.

When we spoke last about these amendments, it should come as no surprise that I have concerns, especially because they were definitely spoken of the last time. I highlighted that on March 7, AFY sent a letter to the Yukon government, asking for francophone representation on the hospital and the college boards. On April 20, they received a reply from the Premier that his government wasn't planning to modify the acts — neither the *Yukon College Act* or the *Hospital Act* — and they would have to be opened in order to make those required changes.

In August 2017, there was a meeting between AFY and the Premier, where there was a conversation about reviewing the makeup of the committee and board and, at that point in time, it appeared that the Premier had indicated that language appears as a relevant factor for representation. So when the minister just talked about how it was important for the boards to represent the cultural diversity of the territory, it is important to note right now that I think 13 percent of the population identifies as being francophone. It is also important to recognize that it is not only a language issue, but it is about cultural identity. As a born Yukoner, I would never pretend to be able to represent the cultural wishes of First Nation people and, as a francophile; that is, an anglophone who is bilingual, I could never pretend to represent the cultural identity of a francophone.

Did the minister take into account the request by the francophone community to be included on the hospital board when these changes were discussed?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Referring to the letter that was sent to Premier Silver on October 30, I am going to respond to representation. The proposed representation on the hospital board — Health and Social Services has been working closely with the Association franco-yukonnaise and the francophone health organizations to determine and address the health care needs of French-speaking Yukoners. The hospital corporation provides important aspects of health services to all Yukoners and the efficient and effective operation of the board of governance. The focus of the amendment to the act is really to address that now.

There has been an increase in public representation from three to four positions and vacancies from these positions are advertised. Those applying for the board may choose to

highlight their relevant skills and connect to Yukon's francophone cultural community. The information will be considered as part of the selection process, but there is no specific seat assigned to the franco-yukonnaise.

**Ms. White:** Why isn't being a francophone highlighted like it is for a First Nation member, for a member of the public service, for a representation of the hospital or for a member from Whitehorse, Dawson or Watson Lake? Why has the government chosen not to identify francophones as a cultural representation? Why is that not an individual criterion?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Reasonable efforts will be made to select a board that reflects both Yukon's cultural and gender diversity and the competencies required.

**Ms. White:** Is the minister familiar with the *Yukon Languages Act*?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Yes, I am.

**Ms. White:** How is government taking into account the *Languages Act* in the formation of this board, particularly after requests from the francophone community to be included?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The competencies — really, I think that what we're attempting to do is provide support and services to all Yukoners regardless of their gender, ethnicity or the language they speak. We have seven distinct languages in the Yukon, as well as French, and we try to provide competencies based on that so that the best services as possible are the priority for the Hospital Corporation and, of course, for Health and Social Services — that reflect the cultural diversities.

**Ms. White:** I'm just going to read both section 1(1) and 1(2) of the *Languages Act* just to put this into context.

Section 1(1) says: “The Yukon accepts that English and French are the official languages of Canada and also accepts that measures set out in this Act constitute important steps towards implementation of the equality of status of English and French in the Yukon.”

Section 1(2) says: “The Yukon wishes to extend the recognition of French and the provision of services in French in the Yukon.”

The reason why I highlight the *Languages Act* — and I can go to the Constitution of Canada too if we think that's going to be relevant to the conversation — is that in 2012, when I was asking questions in this Chamber in French about access to French services at the hospital, it highlighted the incredible need to be able to offer services in French. In response, there were changes. The reason why that is important is because, with 13 percent of the population identifying as francophone, it is important to be able to have access to those important services. That means that there are translation services at 2:00 a.m. on a Sunday because it can be done via Skype. That means that, when you go to register at Yukon Health, you can get services in French because that's important.

We can go back to even further. In 2011, the French Language Services Directorate was in Highways and Public Works, and it wasn't until it was highlighted that it was maybe a little bit crazy that things started to change.

What I'm trying to highlight right now is that there was a request by l'AFY to have representation on both the college and the hospital board, and the reason that request was made is because they were decision-making boards. They set out the expectations and they set out the requirements for those two institutions. When they were told that those acts weren't going to be opened and, until they were opened, there couldn't be that discussion, they accepted that as an answer. You can imagine the surprise when they saw the press release on October 10 that said that the *Hospital Act* was coming up for debate.

Can the minister highlight why we haven't included the importance of the French language and representation as identified in the *Languages Act* with respect to cultural diversity and respect to those things. It is certainly not saying, Mr. Chair, that a francophone will not have the background or the criteria that are being looked for by the board, but an anglophone will not have the language skills to communicate with the francophone community.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The language, clearly, is a barrier for a lot of people in our territory. We are looking at ensuring that we provide language interpretation wherever we can and wherever it is needed, where it is necessary. Language is considered, along with cultural and gender diversity. The new hospital board composition includes fewer positions; however, the increase in numbers chosen from the public at large will include some competencies, and we are looking at appropriate consideration of a broad, wide range of applicants, and French-speaking Yukoners can apply. The option is there.

The Government of Yukon is working with l'AFY and others, including our department and the Hospital Corporation to address some of the key issues related to health services in French. The recent agreement that was referred to is a 24/7 help line. We have French-speaking individuals and employees who are there to provide supports to Health and Social Services, Public Service Commission, and through our partners.

**Ms. White:** What I was trying to highlight with those changes that have happened is that government has had to adapt, to grow and to be more fluid in its response. What I am highlighting right now is that this new government that has been in power for just over a year was approached in March 2017 by l'AFY to ask about representation. It is important to note that representation is different than translation services. Representation on the board is — when we highlight the importance of cultural diversity, which the minister has — the reason why, in the act, it highlights that there will be representation from one or more Yukon First Nations or from the Council of Yukon First Nations. So it does identify the importance of having three members who are nominated by First Nations; it highlights the importance of having a person nominated by the medical staff; it highlights the importance of a person being nominated from the public service.

What I'm highlighting right now is that importance that the francophone community be included in this process. When those conversations happened earlier this year, l'AFY was told that the reason why there couldn't be an ongoing

discussion right now about them being included is because the acts weren't going to be opened. So when the press release went out on October 10, there was a surprise there and, maybe to a certain extent, a little bit of relief because then it means that the act is open and the changes can be made.

If we are talking about the diversity of the board and we are listing those groups that I just listed, why are our francophone Yukoners not included? Why are they not viewed as being an important representation of their own cultural group — as Yukon First Nations have been included?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I do want to note that, clearly, it is important to all Yukoners that we work with the French community. Something that I can commit to doing is to work with the hospital board to look at language being considered as one of the competencies for board appointments. The First Nation language — and why First Nations' representation — the devolution transfer agreement of health transfer of obligations defines a relationship with Yukon First Nations. It says that we need to have a relationship with Yukon First Nations. It says in there very specifically that First Nations' health authority and health supports are defined very clearly in the agreement.

**Ms. White:** Merci monsieur. Le point que j'essaie de faire, c'est que moi-même, je suis bilingue, je ne représente pas la culture francophone. Je peux parler en français, je peux m'exprimer en français mais moi, je ne représente pas la culture francophone. C'est important. C'est la différence que j'essaie de m'exprimer ou exprimer ici, l'importance de ce que j'apporte à l'Assemblée, c'est la représentation culturelle. C'est protégé dans la *Loi sur les langues*, c'est protégé au Canada pour l'importance culturelle.

The reason why I am trying to make this statement in French is that, even though I speak French, I do not culturally represent francophones. When we talk about cultural diversity and we talk about the importance of representation — and I will go back to the *Languages Act*, because the *Languages Act* in Yukon is very clear that both French and English are viewed as official languages. It is the reason why I am bilingual — because my parents recognized that importance.

So what we have the opportunity to do here is to make the change now to the *Hospital Act* to include francophone representation on the board. Is the minister open to that? Is the minister open to including — in clause 5(i)(c), it says that “four members from the public at large, including at least one resident of each of Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse...” — that is the opportunity. That is the clause that could be changed to include a person nominated by the francophone association. Is the minister open to that idea?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I don't deny that French and francophone — and diversity is really important. It is important to all of us. It is important that we provide services in the language of choice. That is part of the cultural diversity selection.

Also, I want to note that the board structure — the objective here is really to move away from the board selection based on selecting individuals — and now based on

competencies and skills that best align with the direction that the hospital is going in the future. It's increasingly complex.

As we heard in Committee of Whole from the hospital board CEO and chairperson, it's a complex arrangement and our attempt is really to provide them with the guidance they need to better align with service delivery and relevant skills and connections to Yukon's cultural communities. That ensure that, perhaps, the competencies — and, as I have stated, I will work with the hospital board and look at perhaps that being one of the competencies that is required.

**Ms. White:** It's not about a competency of being bilingual that I am asking for. What I'm asking for is representation, as nominated by the francophone community. It goes back to the conversations that l'AFY had with the Premier. In the letter that was sent on October 30 — I'm going to quote from that. This is a quote from the letter that they received. It says: "Vous avez également suggéré la création de postes permanents réservés à des candidats proposés par l'Association franco-yukonnaise. Comme vous l'avez indiqué, il faudrait alors apporter des modifications à la *Loi sur les hôpitaux* et à la *Loi sur le Collège du Yukon* pour accomplir cette démarche. Pour l'instant, nous n'envisageons pas de modifier les dispositions relatives aux nominations continues dans ces lois."

So in this letter that AFY received from the Premier, it says that, at this time, there is no intent of opening up the *Hospital Act* where these changes would need to be made — so imagine, on October 10, seeing that press release that talked about how the *Hospital Act* was coming forward to change the makeup of that board. What I'm asking is: Is the minister open to fixing this mistake by amending the proposed legislation by including a person nominated from the French community?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The letter that was written to the president of the Association franco-yukonnaise on November 20 speaks quite clearly from the Premier. I believe that letter is forthcoming to highlight the rationale — and I will state that here — that we are committed to encouraging the francophone representation, and we encourage them to apply to the membership when the call for application goes out.

Clearly, this will be factored into the consideration of the cultural and diversity criteria — and noted that the letter — I'm referring actually to the letter of October 30 — where the seat of the hospital board — that was sent to the Premier of the Yukon. It highlights for certain that there are some questions regarding requests to create a permanent position for nominees from the association of the Yukon francophone community and will require amending the *Hospital Act* and the *Yukon College Act*, as noted.

It's not something that we're prepared to do at this moment in time. What we are looking at doing is we will commit to encouraging participation and that individuals from the francophone community can apply to the membership when the call goes out for nominations.

**Ms. White:** Will the minister table the letter from the Premier to l'AFY and the letter that was received from the Hospital Corporation that she just quoted?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I don't have a letter from the Hospital Corporation. I have a letter that was sent to the Hon. Sandy Silver, Premier of Yukon, on October 30.

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

#### Point of order

**Chair:** Mr. Cathers, on a point of order.

**Mr. Cathers:** I just note this is the second time the minister has made reference to the letter and stated the name of a member, in this case the Premier, which I believe is contrary to our Standing Orders.

#### Chair's ruling

**Chair:** So Ms. Frost, on the point of order — are you clear? The issue is the use of the Premier in your comments.

Thank you. Continue, Ms. White.

**Ms. White:** Now there is confusion from my side as to whether you are referencing one letter to the Premier or a letter — there was reference from a letter from the Premier to l'AFY. Was there also reference of a letter from the Hospital Corporation to the minister?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** There were no letters to me from the Hospital Corporation. The department is working with the Hospital Corporation and has worked with the Hospital Corporation around the amendments to the act.

**Ms. White:** Did the minister reference a letter that the Premier sent to l'AFY?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The letter that I'm referring to is the October 30 letter and our response to the letter has still yet to go out. We are looking at drafting a response and my objective today is really to respond to the notes and requests from the Association franco-yukonnaise and we are working with Hospital Corporation. We have representation on the Hospital Corporation. Health and Social Services is working closely with the association to determine and address the needs and questions that are defined in this letter. The results reflected in the amendments are really to — what I want to highlight is the reflection on the cultural and gender diversity and that's what I'm trying to highlight. There will be a letter forthcoming. I guess what I'm trying to do is respond to the points that are being raised today and reflect the letter from October 30. I would be happy to share that.

**Ms. White:** I thank the minister for that clarification. The paragraph that I just read was from that October 30 letter to the Premier and it restates that the association was told that the suggestion of including a candidate for the hospital board couldn't happen until the *Hospital Act* was opened.

I am just going to state the obvious, Mr. Chair — which is to say that Bill No. 12 is *An Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*. Right now, today, the *Hospital Act* is open. We are in the process of amending the *Hospital Act*, so this is the spot where we would add representation from the francophone community. Again, I am going to ask the minister if she is agreeable to making an amendment that would include a person nominated by the francophone community.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I can state today here and now that we are not amending the act. The act, as it is clearly written, speaks about culture and gender diversity of Yukoners — of all Yukoners — and the objective of that is to include French-speaking Yukoners. It is an objective to ensure inclusivity of all Yukoners.

**Ms. White:** The board, prior to these amendments, had 13 people and we are looking to move it down to nine people. The minister continues to say that the reason that it is being written out this way is to make sure that we reflect the cultural and gender diversity of the Yukon.

Does the minister recognize the importance of the francophone culture in Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I apologize if I misspoke. The board has been reduced — or is proposed to be reduced — from 15 to nine members. Yes, I do recognize the point that the member opposite is making.

**Ms. White:** Thanks; I stand corrected. I forgot the briefing — so 15 to nine. It doesn't change the question, which is: Does the minister recognize the importance of the francophone culture in Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Yes, I do recognize the importance of the francophone culture in the Yukon.

**Ms. White:** Does the minister recognize that by changing the number from 15 to nine that it is an amendment that we are making to the *Hospital Act*?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Yes.

**Ms. White:** Does the minister recognize that when the francophone association was told that until the act was opened for amendment that there would be no changes to include them in the board, but right now the act is open and we are making changes to the structure of the board?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Yes, Mr. Chair.

**Ms. White:** Does the minister understand why I am talking about the importance of including cultural representation of a francophone on the board — not in the competency aspect of being bilingual, but as being a clause similar to the ones I mentioned before, so that of a person nominated by First Nations, a person nominated from the medical staff of the corporation, a member from the public service — does the minister recognize the importance of having a member that would be nominated by the francophone community?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Under the proposed amendments, prior to making the appointment, every reasonable effort will be made to ensure membership of the board reflects the cultural and gender diversity of Yukon, so that is why that was included in the act.

**Ms. White:** Again, I can't restate enough that being bilingual doesn't represent the cultural aspects of being francophone. Forty years into being on the edges of a community doesn't allow me any more ability to speak for the francophone population culturally than it would for anything else. The importance of having a person nominated by the francophone community is the importance of why we have the *Languages Act* of Yukon. French and English are recognized as official languages in Yukon.

C'est la raison que moi je peux parler en français à ce moment sans faire ma propre traduction.

After it was brought forward by a francophone member last year, there was the importance of the ability of being able to speak on the floor in the official languages without having to submit my own translations. There is a reason why that happened, and that was in section 6 of the *Languages Act*. In section 1, we talk about the importance of French and English as the official languages of Yukon.

Mr. Chair, you understand why I'm perplexed when l'AFY was told that when the *Hospital Act* was opened, this discussion could happen. Can the minister please explain why the Premier told l'AFY that there would be an opportunity to add a francophone-nominated member when the act was open, and why is it that now that the act is open, the opportunity no longer exists?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I'm not going to, at this point, speak for the Premier, but what I will say is that nowhere do we say that members who are bilingual represent or do not represent the francophone community — much like it would say that someone of a First Nation who speaks one of the seven languages will represent their community. What we will say is that francophones will be free to put their names forward for consideration under the cultural diversity clause of the agreement, and we will work with the Hospital Corporation Board to ensure that there is representation and that perhaps, with the competencies that I stated earlier, that language can be included as part of the cultural diversity.

**Ms. White:** Thank you, Mr. Chair and I thank my colleagues for allowing me to speak in circles here, because I'm trying to reconcile what the minister says about the importance of cultural and gender diversity and trying to understand that in reference to my request for having a person nominated by the francophone community — how those go together — and I'm struggling with that, Mr. Chair.

I guess one of the important points that we talk about often in this Chamber is that government has a responsibility as a leadership role. When government makes decisions, it broadcasts the importance. There are interesting things because, at times, organizations can try to work toward that with government — which is what I believe we have seen with l'AFY, starting from March of this year and going all the way to the October 30 letter.

Again, I am struggling to understand how the minister can say that — I mean, on a sheet, when you fill it out, it might ask if you speak French or English, but it doesn't ask you to identify your cultural group. As a matter of fact, I believe you're not allowed to do that. You can't actually ask me those questions. So when we highlight the importance of this board — again, I'm going to stress that it is a decision-making board. It sets out the priorities of the Hospital Corporation as to how it's going to include the citizens of the territory. It is the reason why we have highlighted Dawson City and Watson Lake because they have community hospitals. It is the reason why we have highlighted those others.

Can the minister explain how she can reconcile telling me that there is importance of cultural diversity and cultural representation on the board, but not acknowledge that francophone Yukoners represent a cultural group in Yukon?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Well, they do and they will be considered as part of the cultural diversity. The point is that Yukon government recognizes the French-speaking community as an official language community as part of the cultural and diversity community. We also recognize that French is an official language. There is an act that reflects that. We certainly understand that, but it does not require members to make up representation. What we are attempting to do is reflect that, by way of the language, we have included cultural diversity and gender diversity in Yukon.

**Ms. Hanson:** I just find this conversation quite circular and frustrating because it's clear that l'AFY had an understanding from the Premier that the matter that they had raised with him about representation on the board — as my colleague has said, it wasn't possible to do it as late as this fall because the act wasn't going to be opened. The act has been opened. What I believe we are simply saying and asking the minister and this government is to reflect the particular nature of the bilingual, bicultural country that is reflected in both the Constitution and in our own act with respect to francophones.

There is growing cultural diversity in this territory and in Canada, but we have enshrined in our law a specific and special relationship with the francophone community. So it's one thing for the minister to say, "Oh, we will rely upon the board to develop competencies, and that will include the opportunity for perhaps having the francophone community considered or recommended" — that is faint assurance for anybody.

What we are simply saying is that the minister can direct the board that, as there are other designated members, to use one of those seats for a representation from the French community of the Yukon Territory. It's nothing revolutionary; it's simply reflecting the reality — the duality of our language in the territory and in the law. The opportunity has been presented by this government. For whatever reason, they chose to open the *Hospital Act* for this minor incision. They have an opportunity to make that incision meaningful, both in reflecting a decrease in the number, a reflection of the governance structure that the board anticipates moving toward, and in reflecting that they respect and understand their obligations under the *Languages Act*.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Clearly, there is no doubt that there is a special relationship with the francophone community. As highlighted by the member opposite, we have a growing cultural diversity community in the Yukon. We have various cultures in our Yukon. Part of the culture and gender diversity language in the act is really to reflect the diversity. Francophones are part of that cultural diversity and they will be considered under this provision.

Now, the point that was made around the restructuring was really about efficiencies and reducing the board size to ensure that the complexities of the hospital management and the hospital board and the delivery of services — I think we

realized, and so did the hospital board, that it is a bit unruly with 15 people working collaboratively. Trying to work with a board that size is a bit problematic.

**Ms. Hanson:** I think the minister just repeated what I said. We didn't argue against the purposes of the opening of the act. The simple statement was made that the act has been opened. The minister and this government have the opportunity to make a small change in this opened act. You opened it up for an amendment to reflect some changes to the structure, governance, et cetera, of the board. We are suggesting that the minister use this opportunity to also reflect the opportunity to have an appointment made that reflects the francophone community in this territory. Will she do it or not?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** At this point in time, I would say no. We are looking at the inclusion of the francophone community in the cultural diversity section of the amendment.

**Ms. McLeod:** I just wanted to return to the topic of the chair appointment for just a minute. The minister has said that she didn't want the appointment of the chair to be seen as a political appointment, yet she has retained the ability to appoint that chair. I am wondering a couple of things. Does the minister think that this is a major board for the Yukon Territory? Would she voluntarily allow the all-party committee on appointments to major boards and committees to make appointments to this board?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The objective around the competencies — the decisions around board selection will be based around competencies and a public call for an expression of interest. My desire and my hope is that we would go out for a public expression of interest for the chair position and that it would not be arbitrarily made by a political party or anyone who is in power — that we represent the community well and we find a chairperson with those skillsets and who can run a board of this complex nature. That is what we did in this go-around. We went out and we attempted to find someone on an interim basis. We will continue to do that and look at the skillsets required.

**Ms. McLeod:** I am not sure that the minister understands the board makeup. It is an all-party board, and I assure you that this committee makes appointments to major boards in the Yukon territory and is quite qualified and competent to do so. I am just asking if the minister — I know this matter is before SCREP at this time — if the minister will voluntarily do this in the best interest of Yukoners.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I will take that under advisement.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*?

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

*On Clause 1*

*Clause 1 agreed to*

*On Clause 2*

*Clause 2 agreed to*

*On Clause 3*

*Amendment proposed*

**Ms. White:** I move:

THAT Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*, be amended in clause 3 at page 2 by:

(1) in paragraph 5(1)(c), adding the phrase “including one member from persons nominated by the Association franco-yukonnaise” after the word “Whitehorse”; and

(2) in subsection 5(3), replacing the phrase “under paragraph 1(a) or (b)” with the phrase “under paragraph 1(a), (b) or (c)”.

**Chair:** The amendment is in order.

It has been moved by Ms. White:

THAT Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*, be amended in clause 3 at page 2 by:

(1) in paragraph 5(1)(c), adding the phrase “including one member from persons nominated by the Association franco-yukonnaise” after the word “Whitehorse”; and

(2) in subsection 5(3), replacing the phrase “under paragraph 1(a) or (b)” with the phrase “under paragraph 1(a), (b) or (c)”.

**Ms. White:** Merci monsieur. Je vais dire quelques mots en français puisque l’amendement que je viens de présenter est au sujet de la représentation francophone sur le Conseil d’administration de l’hôpital.

En mars dernier, l’AFY a fait parvenir une lettre au gouvernement demandant la création d’un siège pour les francophones sur les conseils d’administration de l’hôpital et du collège. Quelques semaines plus tard, le gouvernement a répondu à la lettre en disant qu’il ne planifiait pas modifier les deux lois qui encadrent l’hôpital et le collège alors il ne donnerait pas suite à la requête.

C’est donc assez surprenant, moins d’un an après ces échanges, de voir la *Loi sur les hôpitaux* être modifiée — spécifiquement pour modifier la composition du Conseil d’administration — sans que la revendication de la communauté francophone soit reflétée dans la loi.

L’amendement que je présente, permettrait qu’un des quatre sièges ouvert au public soit alloué à une personne dont la candidature a été soumise par l’AFY.

Dans le projet de loi actuel, le gouvernement nomme des personnes d’une façon similaire sur recommandation des gouvernements des Premières nations et sur recommandation du personnel médical de l’hôpital. C’est donc un changement qui serait facile à faire de simplement inclure un siège nommé sur recommandation de l’Association franco-yukonnaise. Cet amendement cadre parfaitement avec les obligations du Yukon en matière de langues officielles et permettrait d’atteindre un objectif de représentation de la communauté francophone au sein des instances décisionnelles.

Je tiens aussi à noter que mon amendement n’ajoute pas une personne de plus au Conseil d’administration. Nous sommes d’accord avec l’objectif du gouvernement de réduire le nombre de sièges au Conseil. Mon amendement fait seulement qu’un des sièges désigné pour le grand public soit choisi parmi des candidatures soumises par l’AFY. Alors j’espère que le gouvernement va appuyer ce changement.

The amendment, Mr. Chair, that I brought forward is definitely about French representation.

The amendment, Mr. Chair, that I brought forward is definitely about French representation.

It is the reason why the first statement I made was in French. I believe that this amendment will go far in helping the government not only recognize, but honour, the *Languages Act* and honour the cultural diversity of the francophones. It does not add any more to the proposed makeup. It would still be nine. What it is doing is recognize, in the same way that First Nations can nominate people — and so can the hospital staff and so can the public service of Yukon also be included on that. My hope is that this is viewed in a collaborative way.

This is not meant to be combative. This is meant to look toward the inclusivity of the community. It is to look forward to the importance and recognition of the cultural diversity represented by the francophone population. So I look forward to discussion. Of course, I am ever hopeful that the amendment will pass.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** So I’m going to just reiterate that, at this point in time, we aren’t considering amendments. We are going to stick to the language that is proposed with respect to cultural diversity. We will work with the hospital board around the competencies. We will ensure that, as part of the competencies, we are really — as eloquently defined by the Member for Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, who is responsible for the Association franco-yukonnaise — looking at our partnership as Government of Yukon and our commitment to continue to work with the French community around service delivery. We will continue to do that.

An important aspect of health services to all Yukoners is — essential and relevant to all Yukoners — that we look at efficient services in languages of choice and the cultural diversity. We have multiple languages. Clearly I’ve stated that there is a special relationship — most definitely — but we also have growing cultural diversity in Yukon. So at this point in time, I would say that we are not proposing to accept the proposed amendment.

**Ms. Hanson:** Well sadly, I think what we are doing is we are seeing yet again a replay of “It’s our way, or we’re not doing it.” The government and this minister yet again had an opportunity to listen. They campaigned on you will “Be Heard”. The francophone community thought that they had been heard. They clearly got a communication from the Premier that indicated that you can’t do this sort of out of the blue. You would have to wait until the act is opened up. So the act gets opened up and now we’re saying, “No, we didn’t want to do that. We want a special relationship with you, but we don’t want to reflect it in our legislation.” That’s disappointing, to say the very least.

It takes a minor bit of legislative flexibility for the minister to recognize that perhaps this is an oversight by the government — that, perhaps in how it was communicated since last spring and through the fall, it would be reasonable for the francophone community to expect that, when the act was open, the opportunity would be taken — not simply to make a statement of fact that it could be done — but it wasn’t indicated that it could be done but you wouldn’t ever do it. That’s not the implication of what I heard being read into the record.

It's really unfortunate, because at some point, this government is going to have to demonstrate that it actually listens to the communities that it says it represents. Yes, there is a special relationship with the francophone community. Yes, it's reflected in the law. Yes, it's reflected in the Constitution of Canada. Wouldn't it be nice if this government actually did say that we're not just talking about it but we're actually going to make sure that our board structure reflects that relationship, and we will make sure that there is at least one nominee on that board, and we won't do it through some sort of yet-to-be defined competencies? It sounds very much like legislation that we talked about last week — "Well, just wait" — and so if it was intended that we were going to wait until there is an opening of the act yet again — this is another one of "Let's defer it" — so in maybe six, eight or 10 years from now, another government has to open this act to allow this to happen? It makes no sense. It's a simple ask.

I'm wondering if the minister could explain precisely what her objection is to doing this. What is the objection of this government to making this simple amendment?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I don't think the objective here is to argue the point or debate the point that we need to include all of the cultural diversities of Yukon, and that is the language we included so we're not excluding anyone. The appointment process in terms of cultural and gender diversity in the act is to reflect the diversity of Yukoners, and francophones are part of that cultural diversity.

Yes, this will be considered under the provisions, as will other language groups. I absolutely appreciate and recognize that we need to consider that and we've committed to doing that. We will work with the Hospital Corporation. We will work through that process and define and allow that opportunity.

**Ms. Hanson:** With respect, the purpose of what we're doing here this afternoon is debating, and we're trying to ascertain what impediments this minister and this government see to making this simple amendment.

I am reminded, sadly, of a scenario in 2009 when I went to a meeting of the francophone school board. I will have to admit that my French is pretty rustic. I can comprehend fairly well, but I can't speak worth a whatever. I wasn't too sure if I had understood the context of what was being said at that meeting so I asked to meet with the president of l'AFY and the director of the school board at the time. What it boiled down to was that the government of the day was being incredibly stubborn and, for some bizarre reason, chose to ignore their special relationship with the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon — CSFY — and they denied that board a full seat at Management Board, denied that they are actually a board in terms of real management powers.

You know what, Mr. Chair? It kept going, and then, guess what? We ended up in court. Guess what? We ended up in the Supreme Court of Canada. Guess what? We ended up building a francophone high school, and if you had asked the people in 2000, when I met with them, if that was the intended outcome of that discussion — that was not what they were looking for. They were simply looking for respect. They were simply

looking for the respect that is due to them according to the Constitution of Canada and according to the laws of this territory.

I don't understand — and I am still looking for the minister to explain — why this government is rejecting this simple request.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** What we are doing is we are looking at competencies. I think that previously the board was made up of select groups from our community representation. In fact, we had the CEO as a member of the board, and the recommendation is for us to look at current best practices, which is to move to a smaller skill-based board, looking at specific competencies with the complex nature of the hospital and the pressures that we are currently undergoing. What we are doing here is adding culture, and we are adding gender diversity to reflect the culture of Yukon, and that includes the francophones.

**Ms. Hanson:** Can the minister explain why this government would suggest — or believes, perhaps — that having a nominee from the francophone community would obviate or would somehow make it not possible to have that diversity — that you would have that gender diversity? You certainly would have the competencies in terms of having people representing the francophone community. I don't think there is anybody who is familiar with competency-based approaches to things and who would suggest that a nominee from the francophone community wouldn't be able to achieve the competencies that the minister anticipates the board establishing for its internal governance — or is she suggesting that?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Clearly, I would not suggest that. I would suggest that what we are doing, as I stated, is looking at finding the opportunities and looking for the opportunities to better align service delivery. In the act, it speaks currently to making reasonable efforts and that is what we intend to do. We want to look at the diversity of Yukon's culture — and that is reflective of the board and reflective in the board's structure.

**Ms. Hanson:** Among the other nominees, it is quite possible to reflect the diversity that the minister speaks to.

We are not talking about how that board acts in this amendment. We are not talking about the business, the strategic planning or any of that work that the board will do. What we are talking about is how, in this specific issue of the amendment that has been proposed, one position would be filled if this amendment was accepted. One position would be filled by a nominee from the francophone community of the Yukon. Once on that board, all the matters that the minister has been describing around competencies and how they are going to operate and how they are going to talk about the kind of activities or the business of the Hospital Corporation — that is a whole separate issue from the issue that we are speaking to in this amendment. I would ask the minister to speak to the amendment, which is suggesting a nominee from the francophone community. Why does this government reject that offer?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** We absolutely agree that francophone Yukoners have the skills and competencies required and we encourage them to apply for board membership. That offer is there. We have a number of seats available and open. The clause speaks to cultural diversity and that includes the francophone community.

**Ms. Hanson:** To quote a good friend of the minister's and mine: "That and 50 cents will get you a cup of coffee." Mr. Chair, the point is that not that everybody can apply. The point is, why? My question to the minister is: Why is the minister refusing to accept the idea that the francophone community would have one position guaranteed on the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board? What principle underlies the view of this government that the francophone community should not have that guarantee of one seat?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I am going to go back to what I said before. I don't deny — we don't deny — the importance of French language and cultural diversity. We have moved away from willy-nilly board representation. We are trying to find competencies in a complex state of affairs and a complex situation. Nowhere did we say that bilingual representation or francophone communities don't meet those competencies. They most certainly can apply. There are four seats available. We did not specify any other group, other than the First Nation and the public-at-large seats — and we mean that; it is the public at large.

The reason we have identified First Nation seats is because we have a legal obligation under the self-government agreements and devolution agreement.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister will recall that, in fact, there are other designated positions for the staff of the corporation and for the public service of Yukon. The numbers of that position have been reduced, but there is a designated one.

The question, Mr. Chair, remains: Upon what principle does the minister rest the government's position that they will not designate a francophone position — a nominee — from the francophone community of the Yukon? What is the principle? I don't want to hear, Mr. Chair — with respect — anything more about competencies and willy-nilly, or whatever — it seems to be a phrase that the ministers opposite are quite fond of. We're not talking about haphazard appointments here; we're talking about a designated appointment from the francophone community. I'm looking for the principled approach and the principled reasoning for the government to take this position. I haven't heard a principled reason.

What I keep hearing is the minister going back to a whole bunch of speaking points about competencies of the board. That really is not a good line to go down because you're starting to invite the question that I asked earlier about are you suggesting that the francophone community wouldn't be able to put a nominee with those competencies — that's not the issue. I'm avoiding that, Mr. Chair.

What I am asking the minister to say is: What principle underlies the position of the Government of Yukon that, in opening up the *Hospital Act* to change how appointments are made — or the numbers of appointments to be reduced and

then how those appointments will be made — why they didn't take this opportunity to extend the opportunity for a nominee from the francophone community to be appointed to this board? There's no principle that has been stated that would explain what the resistance is to having a nominee from the francophone community. I'm simply looking for a government statement of principle around this matter of a nominee from the francophone community — one designated position.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Clearly, I have stated and I will state again that we are looking at opportunities. We have considered all of the possibilities and we are attempting to ensure inclusivity in the services and supports we provide to Yukoners.

The act — rather than going ahead and just taking nominees or taking a bunch of names from Yukoners and appointing them to a board, we have started to look at, in conjunction with the board and speaking to ensuring that we have representation — bilingual representation in services there; that I am assured will continue — and that the best quality services are there and that the act is set out to reflect cultural diversity of Yukoners. We'll consider the francophone appointments under the provisions that are defined for us and that the competencies will be there.

What the member stated earlier is that the structure of the board is intended to provide an opportunity for four public members at large of the board, and we encourage all francophone community members to apply for one of the four seats.

**Ms. Hanson:** It wasn't too long ago that you would see things and people would say, "Oh yeah, well, we encourage women to apply, but good luck."

Again, that is not — what I have been asking from the minister is the principled reason for this government to reject a simple amendment that would see the francophone community nominating one member of that board. The opportunity is there now. The act has been opened.

We're not talking about bilingual services. If we were talking about services — which we are not talking about at this point; we're talking about French language. We're looking for somebody who can represent the interest of the French community — not the bilingual community; the French language community — and that's what we're talking about in terms of the legislation, the Constitution and the language rights. I'm looking for that principled reason. The minister still has not given the principled reason of this government, other than, "We didn't think of it" or "We didn't want to do it." If that's what it is, just simply say so and that can go down on the record — but right now, we are going around in circles about: "You know, well it's possible that a francophone might get one of those four positions; maybe, maybe not".

We've seen how long it has taken to get equity positions in place. My colleague talked about as recently as four or five years ago — in terms of how the French Language Services Directorate was treated in the Government of Yukon. We have heard the history and we know the history of how the French

school board has been treated and the consequences. We can either treat each other with respect — and those relationships that are constitutionally defined with respect — or we can deal with the consequences. We're simply saying, here is a simple give — a simple give.

I'm looking for the principled reason from this Government of Yukon and from the Liberal government as to why they refuse to designate a seat on the hospital board for a nominee from the francophone community.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The principle is really based around flexibility. It's the flexibility. The only guaranteed seats we have on the hospital board are the First Nation seats.

**Ms. Hanson:** Perhaps I will give the minister a chance to restate that. What is the one member from persons nominated by the medical staff of the corporation — that's not a designated position? Including one resident each from Dawson City, Watson Lake and Whitehorse — those aren't designated positions? There is one member from the public service of Yukon — that's not a designated position?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I think I'm going to go back in time. What we've heard publicly and what we've heard in this House is that we've heard consistently that the representation and the services provided in the communities with the regional hospitals reflect a Whitehorse-centric model.

The services — the direction came out of Whitehorse. The communities wanted to see that we open public seats. It is not designated to say that we are going to have francophone community members, or any other members, in those communities. That is an opportunity to reflect what the needs are of those communities that have the two hospitals. We have Watson Lake and we have Dawson City.

It made sense that the board appointments and the new structure reflect the needs of those two communities — where the hospitals are, where we have services. The nomination by the First Nations — the language around the First Nation representation is really that. We have a commitment to ensure First Nation representation and we will ensure that the cultural diversity of other Yukoners is considered in that appointment process, whether they reside in Dawson City, Watson Lake or Whitehorse.

**Ms. Hanson:** The minister did not answer the question I asked, and instead went off on a tangent with respect to the regional representation. My illustration of citing those sections was to simply say and to point out to the minister that she had said that there was no other designated representation, other than First Nations. In fact, the act is quite clear about that. What I was asking the minister is: What principle guides this government to come to the conclusion that it will not allow an amendment that would allow the designation of one position on the board — one of the nine positions — to be a representative of the francophone community of Yukon?

Now, perhaps the francophone community of Yukon will identify someone who lives in Carmacks or somebody who lives elsewhere. I am not talking about where they are from geographically. I am talking about a Yukon francophone individual who would be nominated by whatever process the francophone community uses to make that nomination.

I am looking for the principle that is driving this government to be so resistant to this inclusive proposal.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I just want to bring us back a bit to talk about the First Nation seats, and why the First Nation seats are — the nominations. The member opposite will know this very well, given that she was there during devolution and during the self-government agreements. It is the spirit and intent of implementing the full aspect of the self-government agreements to ensure that equity and fairness for Yukon First Nations are considered. We are not looking for — what I want to say is that the francophone community can apply for the public seats. The point made earlier about the medical appointment is really to ensure that we provide the expertise and ensure that the representation of the medical community on the board is representative of the hospital, given that it is a hospital. What we heard from the public, and what we heard from the feedback, and what we heard from members here is that there had to be representation. We wanted to see representation from the municipalities in which we have the hospitals.

**Ms. White:** The minister hit it on the head again. We are talking about representation — the importance of a person nominated by the medical staff being representation of the medical staff of the corporation. I imagine it is the same as the public service. Again, it is the same as the three nominees from First Nations and, again, it is the same as the representation of both the Watson Lake and the Dawson City hospitals.

One thing I want to highlight is that the nomination from the francophone community would have to follow 3(1)(a) as well, which is making sure that they have the competencies, that they have the suitability that is required for the board. We are not talking about an omission of a francophone who doesn't meet the requirements of the board. It's no different from the First Nation representation or the medical staff representation or the public service representation. The reason why we are highlighting the importance of having a francophone member is because of the *Languages Act*, is because of the Constitution of Canada and, again, reflects that diversity of the community. So saying that a francophone can apply — it is very true that a francophone can apply.

Mr. Chair, you are not allowed to ask certain questions. You can ask the question: Do you identify as a visible minority? But there is no requirement to ask. You can ask if you are representing the disability community, but you do not have to answer that.

At this point and to the best of my knowledge, there is not an application that says: Are you a francophone? Do you identify as francophone? There are at times questions that ask if you are bilingual, but that is not the same as being a francophone. Francophone is a cultural representation. It is defined in the Constitution. We are not making it up. It is different from being bilingual.

Can the minister explain again why there is this reluctance to make an amendment to 3(c) to take that fourth member, who is not designated as being anyone specifically,

and having that person be nominated by the francophone association?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The point made around revealing your identity is not something respecting public interest, respecting interests of individuals. We are hoping to look at — members applying will highlight their relevant skills. That is up to the individuals. You either choose or choose not to. We are looking at the competencies of the board. The appointments, really, going forward — looking at the competency-based decision-making.

Now, applying for board appointments — we have four vacancies, four seats available. Certainly the department will look at the competencies and will make the decisions in terms of the governance structure.

**Chair:** Is there any further debate on the amendment?

**Some Hon. Members:** Count.

### Count

**Chair:** Count has been called.

### Bells

**Chair:** Would all those in favour of the amendment to clause 3 please rise?

*Members rise.*

**Chair:** Would all those opposed please rise?

*Members rise.*

**Chair:** The results are seven yea and eight nay.

*Amendment to Clause 3 negatived*

**Chair:** Is it the wish of the Committee to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

### Recess

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

The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*.

Is there any further debate on clause 3?

*Clause 3 agreed to*

*On Clause 4*

*Clause 4 agreed to*

*On Clause 5*

*Clause 5 agreed to*

*On Clause 6*

*Clause 6 agreed to*

*On Title*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. Frost that the Chair report Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*, without amendment.

*Motion agreed to*

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

**Chair:** The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*.

Ms. Frost, you have 18 minutes and 39 seconds left.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Chair, these amendments will serve the purpose of dissolving the Health and Social Services Council. This government recognizes and appreciates the efforts and contributions of the current and past members of the Health and Social Services Council.

As members of this House know, this decision — the purpose of which is to dissolve the Health and Social Services Council — was made in the interest of respecting the resources of both government and the public while maintaining a firm commitment to be inclusive of our public responsibilities. This government recognizes and appreciates the efforts and contributions of current and past members of the Health and Social Services Council.

As I mentioned previously, the Health and Social Services Council was established nearly three decades ago to provide an open process for review of health and policy issues. Today our government has ways and means to engage Yukoners that did not exist when the council was established. Advancements in technology and an increased commitment to public consultation allow our government to easily engage with people in all Yukon communities on a wide range of subject matter. It is now more efficient to seek public input and views on matters directly — and, in fact, the public demands that we do. Dissolving the council will provide opportunities for greater diversity of voices to be heard, thus giving us input, but more of a representative cross-section of Yukon's population. Our government's new approach to public engagement aims to make it easier for Yukoners to provide ideas and advice to inform the best possible decisions for Yukon.

It is important to remember that, as per section 37 of the *Health Act*, the minister responsible for Health and Social Services would still have the power to establish issue-specific committees to act in an advisory and investigative or administrative capacity. Our government intends to further develop advisory committees that focus on strategic areas of Health and Social Services business plans and that are aligned with the mandate given to me by the Premier along issues of great importance to Yukoners, like aging in place, collaborative care and housing for vulnerable populations.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, I will reiterate our government's commitment to continually seek Yukoners' input on the issues and decisions that affect them. Yukoners' perspectives are essential to building a thriving Yukon community and helping Yukoners lead healthy and productive lives.

I recognize that not everyone will be happy with these changes. Some will say that we have taken away an opportunity for Yukoners' voices to be heard. Of course there is more work to be done to improve the way we do public engagement and we will get there. We will ensure that we take into consideration all that we hear from Yukoners and the advice we received in our decisions in the future and in our discussions through various committees, advisory boards and processes that are defined in this amendment.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate on Bill No. 11?

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

**Ms. White:** Let me make this easy. Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all clauses and the title of Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, read and agreed to.

### **Unanimous consent re deeming all clauses and title of Bill No. 11 read and agreed to**

**Chair:** Ms. White has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all clauses and the title of Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, read and agreed to.

Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Clauses 1 to 10 deemed read and agreed to*

*On Title*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. Frost that the Chair report Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, without amendment.

*Motion agreed to*

### **Bill No. 203: Second Appropriation Act 2017-18 — continued**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*.

#### **Department of Health and Social Services**

**Chair:** Is there any general debate?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Mr. Chair, I would like to introduce my officials. I didn't do that earlier and I apologize for that: Brenda Lee Doyle, Assistant Deputy Minister and Stephen Samis, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services.

I am here to speak to the Department of Health and Social Services supplementary budget for fiscal year 2017-18. The bill we are discussing here today is guided by this government's enduring priorities. Just to remind everyone what these priorities are: our people-centred approach to wellness help Yukoners thrive; our strategic investments build

healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities; our strong government-to-government relationship with Yukon First Nations foster reconciliation; and our diverse growing economy provides good jobs for Yukoners in an environmentally responsible way.

With these priorities in mind, my department and I thrive and strive to ensure that access to and delivery of health services is available to all Yukoners in a timely, appropriate and respectful manner. This is what I have been asked to achieve with a mandate letter by the Premier that was provided to me a year ago. Specifically, in that letter, I was directed to enhance the long-term well-being and quality of life for Yukoners. This required a comprehensive and coordinated range of programs and services that provide effective responses to all stages of people's lives.

Working toward this, I'm happy to report to this House that, under my direction, the department has made significant progress on all of the actions that were set out in the mandate letter. It's important for me to remain transparent and accountable to my colleagues in this House and to Yukoners and most importantly to my constituents, so I want to quickly list what the Premier instructed me to do in the near term: work with the Minister of Community Services to regulate and fund midwifery to provide safe and affordable childbirth options in the communities; improve the provisions of mental wellness services in the communities; work with Yukoners to create solutions to promote aging in place and a full spectrum of care, both public and private; examine options to improve front-line health care services to a collaborative care model through cooperation between Health and Social Services, Yukon Hospital Corporation and Yukon Housing Corporation; look at providing services to our vulnerable populations; work with Yukon Housing Corporation to increase housing for vulnerable populations; we work with the Minister of Justice, the Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and community partners to improve services for victims of violence and sexual assault in Yukon.

I'm happy with the progress to date on these actions and would like to thank the staff of the department for their hard work. I've challenged them to continue their efforts to ensure that we're able to achieve these goals in a timely manner, improving health access and outcomes for all Yukoners.

Throughout my notes today, I will be mentioning this government's enduring priorities and the sections of my mandate letter from the Premier that are guiding these investments because it is important to this government to be fully transparent and clear. While this may seem tedious and repetitive to some, it's an important part of my responsibility and accountability as the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and officials from the department, the Minister of Justice and officials from her department, and the officials from Health and Social Services for preparing all of this today. The Department of Health and Social Services requests \$1.35 million in O&M and an increase of less than one percent of overall \$1.647 million for capital for a total of \$3 million. This brings

the 2017-18 budget to \$459,859,000. I am pleased to speak to the department's O&M request.

Corporate Services in the department is seeking \$275,000 for four additional human resource personnel to staff the Whistle Bend continuing care facility. This funding will ensure that there are appropriate resources in place to provide adequate, significant, dignified and safe aging-in-place programs and services for Yukoners in the Whistle Bend continuing care facility.

Mr. Chair, under e-health, the department is seeking a transfer of \$524,000 in the budget and two FTEs, or full-time equivalents, for e-health to Insured Health and Hearing Services for personnel system maintenance related to the costs of e-health. Additionally, the department is seeking to transfer \$245,000 — to transfer funds from e-health to the Yukon Hospital Corporation for system maintenance costs related to laboratory information systems, or LIS. It is an important part of modernizing access to information in the health sector and it can contribute to improving the access to, and delivery of, quality health services to Yukoners while protecting their information.

In my community of Old Crow, I'm more than familiar with the challenges of receiving timely and confidential services that can make all the difference in a person's life. I am pleased that my department and I are able to continue to work and make strategic investments that will ensure rural Yukoners have the support and services they need. We're all here to represent our constituents, and we have continued access to health services with some innovative practices in the Yukon. By continuing our investment in e-health, we are delivering on our promises to Yukoners to create an enhanced people-centred approach to wellness that helps Yukoners thrive.

Mr. Chair, improving access to health services in rural Yukon is also a key piece of my mandate letter from the Premier. Among other things, it directs me to invest in people, in alternative methods of care in people's mental health and the healthiest living possible. E-health will help rural communities thrive, and that is something that everyone in this House can be proud of and support.

Mr. Chair, you can see how these investments are guided by our government's overall mandate and individual mandates that my Cabinet colleagues have. This is our one-government approach in action — delivering for Yukoners and making a real impact in the lives of people across the territory.

Family and Children's Services — under youth justice, the department is seeking \$100,000, fully recoverable from Canada, for an increase in expenses for one of two agreements that the Government of Yukon has with Justice Canada regarding youth justice programming. Under one of these intensive rehabilitation and custody supervision agreements, the department is eligible for an additional \$275 a day — again, fully recoverable from Canada. This opportunity will always provide increased services to youth in need and, when this additional funding was made available, the department and I were more than happy to realize that in the budget before us today.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to the positive impacts that this additional funding will have on the lives of Yukon youth who need it most.

This funding allows us to continue our efforts to find solutions to local challenges and enables our government to provide appropriate programming for our youth — both promises that we've made to Yukoners over the past year. \$869,000 is being requested to adjust programming to better reflect normal operations under the residential youth treatment services, commonly referred to as RYTS. The department and community partners realize that they need to work toward a time when no children require this kind of care in our territory.

Mr. Chair, I want to take a moment to provide some context to this budget item because it's an important piece of my understanding, and indeed this government's approach in this area.

We are working in a variety of ways, including through the Family and Children's Services five-year review, which this government is happy to undertake. It's long overdue to create an environment where we, as a community, are providing a full spectrum of care to families, communities and children. By doing this, we are hoping to foster a climate where communities can work in the ways that they feel are best to serve their families with the guidance and assistance of government and other organizations as required and requested.

Another way we are moving forward — but trying to ensure will one day not be needed — is through the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder plan being developed by community partners and our government. I look forward to seeing both of these items as well as the change that I am speaking to now as part of the overall solutions to improve the lives of all those affected when this kind of care is required.

Under the Health and Social Services item — on April 1, 2017, the Government of Yukon and the Yukon Medical Association reached a five-year agreement totalling \$6.9 million over five years. We were so pleased to see that our positive relationship with Yukon physicians was able to result in a new five-year deal.

The Yukon Medical Association recently held their annual general meeting. Several of my officials attended the meeting to further our commitment to work closely together. The agreement maintains a focus on collaborative care and greater access for patients, retains a collective care initiative working group, and targets the creation of a multidisciplinary team that includes further integration of nurse practitioners into the care system and discussion on the regulations of midwifery.

Mr. Chair, my mandate letter directs, and our government promises to deliver, on enduring priorities that are reflected in all the areas above that I listed, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Yukon Medical Association and the department staff for their hard work on this agreement. This type of collaboration that Yukoners expect in their health care system is one that we will strive for — a health care system that focuses on patient outcomes, access to programs and care,

while respecting government resources and the hard work of physicians, not only in Yukon, but across the country.

As I move forward, some will argue: How is this representing resources while we're spending more money? Mr. Chair, I'm happy to provide additional context to answer that question.

The agreement will reduce some fees paid to physicians and repurpose underutilized funds to ensure better use of the money. A new initiative under the agreement that I am particularly excited about is a new pilot program that will match patients without a family doctor with a physician who will accept them into their practice. Unfortunately, every member of this House has constituents who have had, or continue to have, trouble securing a family physician. We are happy to finally be undertaking the process to find a solution to that problem.

This pilot program is anticipated to begin in September 2018, and I look forward to watching its impact closely, and I know all members of this House and indeed the territory will be doing so as well. That is included in the agreement that was just signed off with the physicians. I hear quite often that Yukon families experience challenges finding a family doctor. I am optimistic that this pilot project will be part of the solution. To cover part of this item, the department is seeking an additional \$517,000. I'm happy to be balancing the need to increase access to care and respecting the resources that are available to government and the good work of doctors.

The department is seeking to transfer \$67,000 to the Yukon Hospital Corporation for a non-invasive prenatal testing program at the Whitehorse General Hospital. This program will ensure that expectant mothers receive prenatal screening for Down syndrome, or trisomy syndrome. Each of these tests is approximately \$400. The benefit of these tests is also being able to offer them here closer to home, instead of having to send the pregnant mothers out of the territory.

I look forward to these projects and the positive impacts on Yukon families, and the department and I continue to work on providing a comprehensive and coordinated range of programs and services that provide effective responses at all stages of people's lives.

I'm also pleased that this initiative will continue this government's action on investment in children and our people-centred approach to health. The department is requesting an additional \$466,000 to support the transition of clinic operations in Dawson City to the Department of Health and Social Services upon the retirement of a long-time resident physician, ensuring continuity of care for the residents of Dawson City. This amount includes four staff who were part of the clinic for many years and assistance to the overhead costs. Community Nursing has assumed the management of the clinic and will coordinate the delivery of a collaborative medical practice within the clinic.

This government will continue to prioritize strategic investments that build healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities with resilient populations that have access to programs and services they deserve. These investments are particularly important in rural communities that serve a wide

geographical area and are often asked to deal with a variety of challenges.

Dawson City is a hub that serves many Yukoners and we are pleased to have the opportunity to ensure that they continue to have medical options closer to home.

One further note, Mr. Chair — without mentioning any names, I wish the best to the retiring doctors in Dawson City. They have done a lot for the community and the number of lives that have been impacted, and their time in Dawson City has been much appreciated. We only hope to continue that through this new process. Thank you to the doctors who chose to live and become part of the rural Yukon communities.

Mr. Chair, the department is requesting permission to allocate an additional \$100,000, which is fully recoverable from Canada, to cover costs associated with signing a new agreement with the quitline. This agreement will build on the department's commitment to ensure that Yukoners have comprehensive and coordinate programs and services that meet people's needs at all stages of their lives. We all know the damages and the dangers of smoking. I don't want to get into too much detail, so I will keep moving along. I encourage all members of this House to read the health status report that will give more information.

With respect to Continuing Care, we are seeking \$231,000 for the recruitment of a residential care manager for Whistle Bend. We are looking at — under the Hospital Corporation, the lab information system and prenatal testing, the further transfer of \$312,000, and, under the Hospital Corporation, there is a reduction of \$1.22 thousand, and we will see a total transfer of \$910,000, bringing up the total of the transfer — and Corporate Services will see \$417,000 carried forward for e-health.

Continuing on, carrying forward \$408,000 — an additional \$337,000 associated with landscaping and security of the Salvation Army Centre of Hope, and the department is seeking \$69,000 for various system upgrades, including software for X-ray operating systems.

This also delivers on many other government commitments to Yukoners, and I would be happy to respond to questions from the opposition on the supplementary budget. I am happy to be part of the debate and discussion and there are some highlights from the department that perhaps I would like more time to respond to.

**Ms. McLeod:** We have had many discussions about health recently, and there have been many references made by the minister to an aging-in-place model. According to the minister's mandate letter from the Premier, the minister was to work with Yukoners to create solutions to promote aging in place.

Can the minister tell us what consultation has taken place with Yukoners to look at options for aging in place?

Now, as I mentioned this spring, there was only \$210,000 in the mains from the federal funding for home care, which is out of \$6.2 million. I asked the minister where the rest of it was and how that total amount of funding will roll out, and I did not receive an answer.

Has the agreement with Canada been signed? If not, why not? Hopefully the minister has some answers for us today on this.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Aging in place — as noted previously — is a conversation that is continuing to occur in the communities on a home care and expanded home care model. We are having and we will continue to have that conversation. The national agreement is still pending and we're hoping to have that in the coming weeks.

**Ms. McLeod:** So no agreement, no idea yet on what money is coming to Yukon — or when and how. I gather that there have been no consultations with the people in Yukon regarding aging in place. That's good to know.

So since our last discussion on health — we had a discussion about home care and how much seniors are receiving in their communities and the minister didn't quite believe me. I think that most seniors in Watson Lake were receiving one hour a week of home care services. So I'm wondering if the minister has checked on this, because seniors still have concerns.

I asked the minister for the total dollar amount that was spent on home care in 2015-16 and what the budgeted amount was for 2016-17. She did say that she would most certainly get those numbers to me, but did not. Recently, the minister released this year's budget amount to the press, but we have not heard anything from her as of yet regarding the 2015-16 figures.

So does the minister have those figures today? Incidentally, I want to thank the Minister for Community Services for confirming that about 25 percent of the home care budget is spent in rural Yukon. The Minister of Health and Social Services didn't seem to know that, so I thank him for helping out with that information.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would like to thank my colleague, the minister who provided that information. I can do that as well. So what I'm going to do here today is provide some clarity. I provided the information previously around the annual budget for home care. I would be happy to do that again.

We spend, on an annual basis, \$6.8 million, and approximately \$1.7 million is spent providing services in rural Yukon. Yukon's home care program has — really, I think what we have addressed and what we're attempting to do is identify home care needs throughout the Yukon. That is part of the consultation process. We're looking at conversations occurring in Yukon communities. That is our commitment — that we will move toward consultation with Yukoners and start looking at home care and expanded care in our communities so that the seniors can stay at home, in their own residences, in their communities.

Home care currently is supporting between 572 and 629 clients in their own homes. We are looking at — we just signed a 10-year agreement with the federal government dedicated to spending in home care, and we will continue to have that conversation with Yukoners around supporting an aging-in-place model and the aging population in Yukon.

**Ms. McLeod:** I do acknowledge the minister for providing those 2016-17 figures which you released to the press — but still looking for those 2015-16 — trying to do a comparison year over year.

The minister has previously pointed out the 5.5 new full-time employees, who are all situated in Whitehorse, as the reason for the additional funding for home care this year. Have these positions been staffed? I guess the question is: How have they been deployed — whether or not they were home care assistants in the homes of Yukoners or whether they are administrative staff?

I am wondering, given the additional investment to home care, what has actually taken place in other Yukon communities this year? Because the minister, during debate on the mains, said that home care services in rural Yukon were going to be assessed so that government was providing the best possible care — and that was going to happen over the coming months, not the coming years, as I think the minister just alluded to.

Will the minister please let us know a little bit more about this commitment and whether or not it has been met over the last few months, as was promised? What kind of forward steps is the minister planning to improve the lives of seniors in communities outside of Whitehorse?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Clearly what we are doing is advancing the services, looking at providing the supports that are needed in Yukon. We need to do that in collaboration with our partners. I will hit that in a minute, but for now — the 2015-16 numbers, I don't have in front of me. I have the supplementary budget in front of me, and that's for 2016-17. The information for prior years, I don't have, but I would certainly be happy to provide that information to the member opposite so that she can do her comparison on what was spent historically to where we are going in the future.

Recognizing that continuing care, home care, and the changing demographics in Yukon are going to put added pressures on the department, I've noted that previously — the statistics reveal that by 2030, in excess of 25 percent of our population will be over 55. We have to be geared toward a long-term plan for rural Yukon. The numbers I noted previously — and the member opposite was quick to perhaps highlight that — the supports that were put into place previously were to look at putting resources into additional beds — so the funding to Birch Lodge and Thomson Centre is there — that continues to be funded. We are looking at the McDonald Lodge in Dawson City — looking at providing the supports there. As well, we are pushing and working hard toward the Whistle Bend continuing care facility. We are also looking at and working with the Yukon Hospital Corporation in partnership to address core and care needs of our frail Yukoners, our elderly population and our aging population. What we've worked quite hard on is the continuum of care and the transition from the hospital into a care facility or into a home, or back into their homes. That has been the focus and that is what we will continue to focus on to alleviate the pressures in the hospital and alleviate the pressures that we're seeing.

There are several joint projects currently underway involving multiple health partners.

**Ms. McLeod:** I did not get any answers to my questions. I had been talking about home care and I was asking about the 5.5 new full-time employees who were funded. My question was whether or not they were staffed and how they were deployed — whether in the administrative field or in actual home care.

Further, I asked the minister what steps she was taking to improve home care in other Yukon communities. I'm particularly looking to find out what community consultation and engagement has taken place and what the plan is for that because I hope that the minister fully intends to engage Yukoners in this discussion.

Not that long ago, the minister told the House that the department had nurse practitioners in our communities — that they were on the ground and supporting the families. That's what was told to us in the House.

Can the minister tell us a little bit more about that, such as how many are there, and in which communities?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Just for clarification: the member opposite wanted to know what the five positions were identified for. Management Board approved the funding for four full-time recruitment officers associated with the Whistle Bend continuing care facility and we have one residential care manager. Those were the five positions assigned to fulfill our obligation under the Whistle Bend continuing care facility.

The other information around the community — the nurse practitioners — we will get that back, specifically the information on where they're located. But we do have nurse practitioners on staff. We have four supports — four specific programs. We have a collaborative care model and we have nurse practitioners around those models. We also just signed a negotiated agreement with the physicians. Historically, we have not seen nurse practitioners considered in the conversation around collaborative care and collaborative health models, so I'm really excited and pleased that we were able to tie that language into the agreement and work with the physicians and the Yukon Medical Association to expand that scope — expand that care — and include midwifery in that.

So we are working toward a broad continuum of care model. We have practitioners in the continuing care facilities in Yukon. We will hopefully continue to bring more nurse practitioners on throughout the Yukon.

**Ms. McLeod:** Perhaps the minister just misspoke that day that she said that we had them in the communities and on the ground — point taken that they are working in Whitehorse.

Now the increase in the home care budget this year was to fund 5.5 new full-time employees — and these are words from the minister. This is what she said the money was for. Perhaps there has been some confusion over home care versus continuing care because I understand that hiring the people who are needed for staffing at Whistle Bend is about continuing care. I guess what I am hearing the minister say is that the \$771,000 additional spending in home care is not actually going to home care.

I just have an odd question that might not have anything to do with home care just this second, but we are running out of time. With regard to the 2017 snow removal contract at the Watson Lake Hospital that was recently awarded, will the minister tell the House what the value of the contract was and the length of the term?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I don't have that information, but we would have to follow up with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and get the details that the member opposite requires.

**Ms. McLeod:** I am going to take that as a commitment on the part of the minister to get us that information.

As the minister knows, the Watson Lake daycare closed on November 10. The minister committed to working with the Watson Lake Daycare Society to look at options to help them with their recent closure.

Can the minister tell us what form those discussions are that are taking place and whether or not she has been in contact with the Little Blue Daycare in Dawson City to determine if they are experiencing the same problems.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Yes, we have reached out to the Watson Lake daycare and we have spoken in the past to the Little Blue Daycare in Dawson City as well.

**Ms. McLeod:** I guess I will check with the daycares to find out what's going on there.

We have had questions in the House recently about the Yukon government's contribution agreement with the Salvation Army Centre of Hope. Will the minister tell us what the split is covering the cost of operation? The minister has confirmed that the value of the contribution agreement from Yukon government is \$1.2 million each year. The question is: How much is the Salvation Army's portion of the operating costs and is any of the Yukon government's portion recoverable from Canada?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** The overall O&M contribution to the Salvation Army is \$3.1 million over a three-year period and they are contributing several hundred thousand dollars toward the O&M costs. I don't know what that is right off the top, but that is what we have right now.

**Ms. McLeod:** I would ask the minister to get back to us with the actual numbers and whether or not any of that is recoverable from Canada. So now, we note that the soup kitchen which ran a great service to the Whitehorse area — and did a very good job of it — is now housed in the Centre of Hope. My question is about whether or not the costs have been folded into the operation of the centre.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** Just a note on the previous question: The money is not recoverable from Canada.

Yes, to the last question.

**Ms. McLeod:** I am wondering if the government will now reconsider requests from the Watson Lake soup kitchen for assistance, since the story before was that government did not fund this sort of operation and clearly now they do.

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** We would be happy to have a conversation with the Municipality of Watson Lake. In fact, I had that very conversation on the weekend with the Chief of the Liard First Nation around a collaborative care arrangement for Watson Lake. We don't specifically fund the soup kitchen.

We look at the programs and services delivered out of the Salvation Army to ensure that it is inclusive and that it provides services to all of its clients. Historically, the arrangement with the Salvation Army didn't focus on that. It was just a funding transfer agreement. So the department has worked quite hard and diligently to partner with the Salvation Army and our partner communities to look at services that utilize all of the facilities.

So what we did was take the housing action plan, the Safe at Home models, we looked at establishing — looking at future demands and pressures — and really designed the scope of the program around that. It's not specifically to say that we're now funding soup kitchens, because that's not the objective. We're looking at an expanded emergency shelter and a larger kitchen and dining area that is going to be a day-use program that delivers services and programs outside of that facility. It's not just a dining/kitchen area for that purpose. We want to be able to see enhanced programming space.

We're looking at the transitional units in the Salvation Army for both men and women. So we are looking at developing a more holistic approach to addressing the needs of Yukoners and our vulnerable populations. I will commit to meeting with the Chief of the Liard First Nation, as I committed to him on the weekend, and I will go back to Watson Lake to meet with the community at some point in the future. But at this point in time, we will look at the whole community and we will look at what the needs are and we will do it in collaboration with all of our partners.

**Ms. McLeod:** Just a reminder — the soup kitchen and food bank is not about Liard First Nation. It is about those people who are less fortunate in the Watson Lake region.

We understand from the minister that the government now has 30 locations where naloxone kits can be picked up. To date, how many of the kits have been distributed and what has been the cost to government?

**Hon. Ms. Frost:** I would be happy to provide that information but seeing the time, given that it's 5:25 p.m., I would like to move, Mr. Chair, that you report progress.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Ms. Frost that the Chair report progress.

*Motion agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

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

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

## Chair's report

**Mr. Hutton:** Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 12, entitled *Act to Amend the Hospital Act (2017)*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 11, entitled *Act to Amend the Health Act (2017)*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 203, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

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

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

## The following sessional papers were tabled

### November 20, 2017:

34-2-38

*Yukon Electoral District Boundaries Commission Interim Report — November 2017* (Speaker Clarke)

34-2-39

*Yukon Teachers Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2016-2017* (Mostyn)

34-2-40

*Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2016-2017* (Mostyn)

## The following legislative returns were tabled

### November 20, 2017:

34-2-84

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Mr. Cathers re: issue raised during general debate of Bill No. 203, *Second Appropriation Act 2017-18* (Mostyn)

34-2-85

Response to oral question from Ms. Van Bibber re: highway safety (Mostyn)

34-2-86

Response to oral question from Ms. McLeod re: immunizations for out-of-territory students (Frost)