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BLUES

Thursday, November 22, 2018 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

NOTE

This document, referred to as the "Blues", is the preliminary issue of the Hansard of the Yukon Legislative Assembly and has not been edited fully for errors, omissions or accuracy. It may be used as a reference only with the understanding that it will be superseded by the final, edited version, entitled "Hansard", at a later time.

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, November 22, 2018 — 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 Helen Fitzsimmons' 40th
anniversary with Government of Yukon**

Speaker: At this time, I have the distinct pleasure of providing some congratulatory words to Helen Fitzsimmons, our Director of Administration, Finance and Systems for the Legislative Assembly Office on behalf of the Legislative Assembly. These are words that have been drafted to you in the form of a congratulatory letter. I see that you have a number of family and friends here today who I will introduce afterwards.

"Dear Helen:

"Re 40 years of dedicated service with the Yukon Government.

"I am delighted to congratulate you on having achieved and surpassed your fortieth anniversary of employment with the Yukon Government, the last sixteen of which have been with the Legislative Assembly Office.

"On the topic of your service in the Legislative Assembly Office, I would like to thank you, on behalf of myself, all Members, past and present, the Clerk and the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Ombudsman, Information and Privacy Commissioner, and Public Disclosure Commissioner, the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office, Elections Yukon, and the caucus offices for your extraordinary commitment and dedication. Your indefatigable energy, efforts, and go-the-extra-mile ethos have many times achieved the remarkable and not infrequently, what many would say, the impossible. To hear you say, "Don't worry, leave it with me" inspires confidence, conveying the peace-of-mind that the given project will be done, and done well.

"Many moons have passed since that auspicious 26th day of June in 1978, predating Yukon party politics, when you started as a 'Clerk/Typist 1' in Vital Statistics in the Department of Health and Social Services. I understand that you owe your good friend Jodi Richardson "big-time" for encouraging you to apply for that position. I am further advised it was also Jodi who encouraged you to apply for your first job in the Legislative Assembly Office. I can say with a strong degree of confidence that the Legislative Assembly Office owes Ms. Richardson a large debt of gratitude. It was a fortuitous day for the Legislative Assembly in June 2002 when you came on board as the Manager of Administration, Finance and Systems. Having excelled in and grown that initial role, in July 2008, you became Director of Administration, Finance and Systems in the Legislative Assembly Office. Our current Clerk, Mr. Floyd McCormick,

says that the best decision his predecessor Patrick Michael ever made was to hire you.

"A recurring theme over your work life has been that the initial job responsibilities just aren't enough for you. A predictable pattern emerged in which your managers, if anyone could be said to "manage" you, recognizing the treasure they had in you, would reclassify your position and promote you. Ms. Richardson observed that you do "the hard work of your average bear", and when you ultimately moved to another position, a significant operational void was left.

"You are an invaluable part of the Legislative Assembly Office. I am most grateful for the contributions you have made, and for those that I know you will undoubtedly continue to make in the future."

The Legislative Assembly and I thank you so much.

Applause

DAILY ROUTINE

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Speaker: I will just briefly introduce Helen's friends and family. If I miss anyone, I apologize. We have her husband, Roger Heikel, her parents, Ralph Sr. and Ruth Fitzsimmons, her brother Donnie Fitzsimmons, her niece Harmony and her husband Richard Gorczyca, her niece Kayla, as well as friends Rick and Liz Gorczyca, Jodi Richardson, Donna Letang and Terri McLeod.

Once again, thank you so much for coming, and thank you, Helen.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Silver: I would ask my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to help in welcoming to the Legislative Assembly the Chief of the Ta'an Kwäch'an Council, Chief Kane.

Applause

Hon. Ms. Frost: I ask everyone in the Legislative Assembly to please help me in welcoming those in attendance today for the National Housing Day tribute. We have Wenda Bradley and her team of supporters from the FASSY, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon. Welcome. We have Viola Papequash here as well from the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, and Lisa Spencer is here. Kim Atkinson, Steve Tapp, Chris Howard, Kim Green and Natasha Rumsey — with folks from the Yukon Housing Corporation, Hannah McDonald, Sarah Murray and Kim Corothers. We also have, I believe, Christopher Tessier here in the Legislative Assembly. Welcome.

Applause

Mr. Gallina: I would like all members to join me in welcoming a number of important visitors to the Assembly today for our tribute to the Northwest Festival of Trees. Philip Fitzgerald is chair of the Yukon Hospital Foundation

and a constituent of Porter Creek Centre. Karen Forward is the president of the Yukon Hospital Foundation. Arjay Hill is a foundation volunteer.

Andrew Anderson is the director at the Yukon Hospital Foundation and director of communications at Northwestel. Curtis Shaw is here with Northwestel — he is the past chair of the foundation and president of Northwestel; Krista Prochazka is here — she is the past president of the foundation and director of government relations at Northwestel. Jason Bilsky is here, with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and is the CEO there. Kim Brown with Air North, Yukon's airline, is here and they are sponsoring the Air North raffle and cookies with Santa. Finally, Marni Delaurier is joining us here today. She is a good friend of mine and a constituent of Copperbelt North, and I welcome her and the other folks to the gallery here today.

Applause

Ms. Hanson: I would also ask my colleagues to join us in welcoming Kristina Craig from the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Francis van Kessel from the Yukon Association for Community Living, and Charlotte Hrenchuk, recently retired after a very long career of contributing to our community, particularly with the Yukon Status of Women Council.

Applause

Mr. Kent: I would like to welcome a constituent of mine — I believe he is here to join with Helen in her celebrations — Darrell Irwin from Skookum Asphalt is with Helen Fitzsimmons here today. Thanks Darrell.

Applause

Ms. White: This is an incredible opportunity because we have members of the HCOS team in the House. I'm not going to get all the names, but I know that Steve Tapp was missed and, of course, we have Chris Howard and others. It is just fantastic to see you just because of what you're doing. So thank you for being here on such an important day when we talk about housing.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of National Housing Day

Hon. Ms. Frost: Today I rise to give tribute to National Housing Day. It is the 20th anniversary of National Housing Day, which was started because of the Big City Mayors' Caucus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which identified homelessness as a crisis in this country. The Big City Mayors' Caucus asked for a national housing strategy, and November 22, 2018, marks the one-year anniversary of the release of the first-ever national housing strategy. This 10-year commitment to housing in Canada has a focus on housing vulnerable Canadians. We know that housing is a key

component of healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities, especially for vulnerable individuals.

From the point-in-time count, completed over 24 hours on April 17 and 18 this year, we know that there are at least 195 Yukoners who are experiencing homelessness in Whitehorse. There are also individuals in our communities who are homeless or under-housed. Fortunately, there are organizations, businesses and individuals in our communities who are working hard to give people a roof over their heads and addressing this essential service. Our non-profit community works tirelessly to do the good work of their staff as well as all the housing navigators who help our most vulnerable citizens gain and maintain housing.

One remarkable example is the progress Blood Ties Four Directions is making on their innovative housing project to build tiny homes on a downtown Whitehorse lot at 6th Avenue and Jarvis Street. I applaud the work that Blood Ties Four Directions does for their clients and, in particular, their housing navigator work with their tiny home community, which will secure housing with supports for our vulnerable citizens in Whitehorse.

I am also pleased at the progress of the very first Housing First project being built in Whitehorse, which will see occupancy in the late summer of 2019. The building will provide barrier-free housing to the homeless as quickly as possible. It will offer affordable, permanent housing to those who require ongoing support and care in addition to a place to a live.

It is important on this day that we recommit to housing and housing with services work underway through the housing action plan and the Safe at Home plan. Housing affects all of us. We all want a roof over our heads to shelter us from the weather, a place for privacy and a place to make memories with friends and family. The Yukon is facing housing pressures, and each step we take is important to finding a solution. Many of our local organizations are addressing Yukon's housing needs — non-profit organizations and the private sector. All levels of government are striving to make homes available to Yukoners to meet their needs wherever they are on the housing continuum.

On this National Housing Day, I am pleased to be working with our many partners to ensure all Yukoners have safe and healthy housing with supports that they can afford.

Applause

Ms. Van Bibber: I am pleased to rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to National Housing Day. A place to call home is a basic human need for shelter, but since 1998, when homelessness was first recognized as a national disaster, we have been talking about the issue and have declared this day as National Housing Day.

I read one report done many years ago speaking to a one-percent solution — it piqued my interest. A one-percent solution means that all levels of government — federal, provincial, territorial and municipal — agree to contribute one percent of their budgets to invest and build social housing. Canada is the only G8 country that does not have a housing

strategy. We must insist that this sad fact be changed. It was easy for the federal government to shift the responsibility to the regional governments; however, it has proven not to be the best solution. Just this month, many meetings are happening to speak to the housing crisis, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Assembly of First Nations. The CMHC — Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation — is holding a first-ever national housing conference in Ottawa yesterday and today.

We will soon see more reports. We already know that the cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. The many issues that befall citizens who are marginalized due to lifestyle, mental illness or social issues currently dictate their accessibility to adequate, or even below adequate, dwellings. Once housed, there are costs that go with living in a dwelling that can often cause more angst than living on the street. What does a home mean? Is it just a place to eat or sleep? Is it under a bridge or in a tent? Is it a shelter or a safe home on a night-night basis?

As we continue to work on helping those less fortunate to find adequate, affordable homes — especially for those with children who live in poverty — I look forward to seeing what can be done throughout the Yukon to address housing issues and solutions.

As we come to the Christmas season and we help others in need — whether giving through the sock and mitt drive, giving money for gifts and food for families in need or dropping money into the Salvation Army kettles — remember that each act of kindness does make a difference.

Applause

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP caucus to acknowledge National Housing Day. Everything begins with housing. Without it, no one can truly live with dignity. Food, water and shelter are some of the most fundamental human rights, yet Canada is facing an affordable housing crisis and homelessness crisis. Nearly 30 years ago, the federal government walked away from the business of making sure that Canadians were housed, and today, after years of waiting, the federal government finally released a national housing strategy — something that experts and advocates had been calling on for decades.

We fundamentally believe that our national housing strategy should guarantee everyone the right to safe, adequate and affordable housing, because if you, like us, believe that housing is a human right, then you understand that everything begins with a home.

In Yukon, we are lucky to have groups like the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, Blood Ties Four Directions and Habitat for Humanity Yukon, which recognized our local need and have responded with action.

The point-in-time count from April confirmed what many of us have understood for a long time. Too many of our neighbours, friends, family and loved ones are living shorter, extremely unhealthy and difficult lives; 195 people experienced homelessness on that day. The ongoing housing crisis is impacting First Nation people, who continue to be

overrepresented in the homeless population in Whitehorse. Our youth are struggling; 17 children under the age of 18 reported as being homeless that night in April.

Mr. Speaker, when we see a person who is homeless, we need to understand that this is a result of a system gone wrong — not a person gone wrong. Knowing that, 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? Why isn't the right to housing in our municipal, territorial and federal laws and legislation where it belongs? It should be.

The need for action in Yukon continues to be urgent. We look forward to a day when homelessness is a thing of the past across Canada and especially right here at home.

Applause

In recognition of the Northwestel Festival of Trees

Mr. Gallina: Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to recognize the 16th annual Northwestel Festival of Trees.

Mr. Speaker, it's fitting that this tribute be presented today on the last day of the Fall Sitting. As I walk through the main administration building and see all of the beautiful trees being decorated and prepared for display, I am reminded of this time of transition as we move into the holiday season and strengthen our focus and attention to our friends, families and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, the Northwestel Festival of Trees launches this evening with the Goldcorp BAH Humbug cocktail party right here in the main administration building. Over the last 16 years, Yukoners have come to know that the festival marks the unofficial start of the holiday season. Each year, the trees are auctioned off to raise money for the Yukon Hospital Foundation, and we witness the true generosity of Yukoners.

Since 2006, the Northwestel Festival of Trees has raised over \$5 million. Last year, the festival raised over \$500,000. Mr. Speaker, there are significant milestones, and I know that many Yukoners are proud of these accomplishments. The Yukon Hospital Foundation uses these funds to purchase important medical equipment to improve access and quality of care in our hospitals. Past contributions have allowed the foundation to purchase a fluoroscopy machine, heart stress testing equipment, a CT scanner, ultrasound machines and the first MRI scanner north of 60.

This highly anticipated event would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of Northwestel, the Yukon Hospital Foundation and local sponsors and volunteers. This year, 17 trees will go up for auction. Each tree has been donated by a local company or organization, and I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the local businesses that donate trees to this worthy cause. Once donated, the trees are decorated by a dedicated team of volunteers. Each year, over 20 spectacular Yukon volunteers volunteer their time and their creativity. On behalf of many Yukoners who will view and enjoy your work, I thank you.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Yukon Hospital Foundation, and in particular, Karen Forward and her

team, as year after year they do an outstanding job organizing this event. The Yukon Hospital Foundation is currently at the halfway mark of a two-year \$1-million campaign to create a Yukon medical simulation centre. Together we can help them meet this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the members of this house and all Yukoners to head out to one of the festival events. Skookum Asphalt is hosting breakfast with Santa this Saturday here in the administration building. On the 27th, you can join Air North for Cookies with Santa. The 30th is the Save-On-Foods Senior Soirée, and I see that Alan Kaarsemaker with Save-On-Foods, also a constituent of Porter Creek Centre, is here in the gallery, who I neglected to introduce earlier. And finally, the festival ends on December 1, with the Alkan Air Grand Ball. I hope everyone is able to come out to see some of these great events and support the Yukon Hospital Foundation for this worthwhile cause.

Applause

Mr. Kent: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party and the Yukon New Democratic Party to pay tribute to the 16th annual Northwestel Festival of Trees. The current campaign goal is to purchase a \$1 million medical simulation centre. This festival, of course, is marked on so many social calendars, but we all need to remember the reason that it exists: to help purchase much-needed diagnostic equipment for our Yukon hospitals so we provide the best care right here in the Yukon.

The signature fundraising event for the Yukon Hospital Foundation actually predates the foundation itself. In 2003, Vanessa Innes and Amanda Leslie, with support from former Yukon Hospital Corporation CEO Ron Brown, began pitching the idea to local businesses, and the initial response was amazing. The Close to Our Hearts campaign was launched and the first Northwestel Festival of Trees Grand Ball took place at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre with former MLA and Commissioner Doug Phillips as the chair of the campaign and CBC's Dave White as the first auctioneer. That two-year campaign helped purchase heart-monitoring equipment for our hospital and led to the 2005 establishment of the Yukon Hospital Foundation.

Since then, the festival has moved to the Yukon Convention Centre and the Yukon government main administration building and has added other fundraisers like this evening's Goldcorp BAH Humbug, Save-On-Foods Senior Soirée, Air North Cookies with Santa and Skookum Asphalt's breakfast with Santa, all of course, culminating with the Alkan Air Grand Ball.

Northwestel has been the title sponsor for the entire time, contributing over \$2 million to the various campaigns. A special thanks is owed to former Northwestel president and CEO Paul Flaherty as well as current CEO Curtis Shaw for their unwavering support.

Other sponsors that have been there from the start deserve mentioning as well. Alkan Air — from Barry Watson to Hugh Kitchen, to now Wendy Tayler and her team; Pelly

Construction and the Byram family; Nuway Crushing and the Adams family; Marsh Lake Tents and Events with, of course, Ray Chaykowsky and Helen Smith; and the Yukon Convention Centre — the late Barry Bellchambers and now the new owners, Northern Vision Development.

The MRI machine, CT scanner, digital X-ray and operating room equipment are among the items purchased with these funds over the years. Of course, we also need to thank the 17 tree sponsors that have come forward this year to make this event so special. I am going to quickly run through them: Northwestel; Alkan Air; Whitehorse Motors; Goldcorp; Air North, Yukon's airline; Pelly Construction; CIBC; RBC; Angellina's Toy and Children's Boutique; EDI Environmental Services; Yukon retired teachers and the Yukon Teachers' Association; Northern Vision Development; Yukon Brewing; Pine Dental; Yukon doctors; Lumel Studios; the Yukon Hospital Foundation board of directors; Tyler Olson from West Coast Auctions; and Coeur Silvertip. So a big thank you to all of those individuals and businesses who are sponsoring the event.

Some of the early volunteers who built this event and who I would like to mention include Elaine Smart and Frank Curlew and the "tree-mendous" ladies who helped out: Penny Ferbey, Diane Loewen and Val Stockdale.

Before wrapping up, I wanted to share one of my favourite memories from a number of years ago. It's a bad-news story turned good. In one of the first years at the convention centre, there was a break-in and a number of gifts were stolen, including a snowmobile. That's the bad news. The good news is that Yukon Yamaha and Jason Adams stepped up right away and provided a replacement, as did many other businesses in town, to ensure that the fundraiser would happen.

Also, Good Samaritans Carson Schiffkorn and Tony Ciprani from Inn on the Lake were driving into town after the news broke of the theft and spotted a snowmobile with a couple of young riders on it. They became suspicious, contacted the RCMP and initiated what I'm sure was a low- to medium-speed chase through Riverdale until the culprits were apprehended.

This unfortunate event, of course, led to the hiring of overnight security for future festivals. One year, one of the trees had an entire bedroom set as the gift associated with it. Every morning, Amanda and Elaine would go in and have to make the bed that had obviously become a resting spot for one of the guards. As an aside, the tree and its gifts were purchased by a former member of this House — no harm done, and it certainly provided some much-needed laughs for all those who worked so hard to pull off this event.

This is just one of the stories from this annual fundraiser that has become such an important part of what we do to make sure we deliver quality health care close to home.

We wish everyone involved a successful year and thank them for what they are doing to improve the lives of Yukon residents.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Pursuant to section 15.3 of the *Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act*, I have for tabling the 2017-18 annual report of the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to table a response to a question raised by the Member for Watson Lake on November 7, 2018. I would also like to table a response to a question raised by the Member for Watson Lake on November 20, 2018.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I have for tabling a letter addressed to the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I have for tabling a legislative return in response to Written Question No. 30 tabled by the MLA for Lake Laberge on October 31, 2018.

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

Are there any reports of committees?
Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 3 — response

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I rise today in response to Petition No. 3 tabled on November 7, 2018.

Mobile-homeownership is an important part of the housing spectrum, in particular affordable homeownership. Most mobile homes in the Yukon are located in the largest five mobile home parks in the greater Whitehorse area, containing upward of 350 mobile homes. We recognize the importance of this housing option in the Yukon.

The *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* aims to strike a balance between the rights of tenants and the rights of landlords, recognizing our need for mobile homes as an affordable option for Yukoners and also the sustainability of mobile home parks. The act does recognize mobile homes as a particular and important group. While the act does identify the relationship between a park owner and the owner of a mobile home as a relationship between a landlord and tenant, it deals with this unique situation by setting rules specifically for mobile home tenancy including: requiring park owners to provide at least 12 months' notice before ending a tenancy without cause; prohibiting termination of a tenancy to take effect during the months of December, January and February; and requiring 18 months' notice to end tenancy for the closure of a mobile home park or a change in use and giving mobile-homeowners the right to contest the notice.

Mobile home pad tenancies are also subject to the other requirements of the *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* including: prohibiting rent increases in the first year of a tenancy; limiting the frequency of increases to one time per

year; requiring three months' notice of a rent increase; providing access to dispute resolution through the residential tenancies office; enabling tenants to contest notice to end tenancies; and specific protections for those who receive notice because they have exercised their legal rights.

All Canadian jurisdictions allow landlords to end mobile home tenancies for various reasons unrelated to a breach by the tenant. Many jurisdictions have timelines for this type of notice ranging from one to eight months. Yukon's without-cause notice provisions for mobile home tenancies — 12 months — is one of the longest notice timelines nation-wide. If the mobile park owner wishes to repurpose a mobile home pad, then the notice in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Nova Scotia is 12 months. In the Yukon, it is 12 to 15 months as you can't ask someone to leave in the winter months. If it is the whole park being repurposed, then the time is 18 months. In the other territories, this notice is three months.

If we were to drop the without-cause provision, it would have to be done in the context of revisiting the with-cause provisions to make sure that we maintain the balance of the mobile-homeowners and the mobile park owners.

It is important that mobile home parks and mobile-homeowners work together to make the tenancy relationship work. To that end, the act also includes the tenancy expertise and dispute resolution resources of the residential tenancies office that are readily accessible outside of the courts and are legally binding on all parties.

I have asked about the frequency of mobile home eviction unrelated to breach by the tenant, and it is my understanding that it is not common. Rent — and rent control — is probably a more pressing concern for mobile-homeowners. We appreciate that mobile-homeowners do not want their rent to increase. Just over half of other Canadian jurisdictions limit both the amount and the frequency of rent increases. We understand that the general practice in Whitehorse has been to increase the pad rent after a number of years. In other jurisdictions where rent controls are established, landlords often utilize the prescribed maximum yearly increase regardless of whether or not they have made improvements to the property or there have been increases to operating and maintenance costs.

In the Yukon, many mobile home parks are located on property which has become increasingly scarce and more valuable. Some owners have indicated that should rent controls be instituted or the cost of owning and operating a park become too much to recover, they would be more likely to close their business and/or convert the park to another use. In other words, rent control could lead to mobile-homeowners losing their homes — not the solution we want.

We would like to thank the mobile-homeowners for raising this issue. While we don't support the specific requests of the petition, we do support the desire to work on mobile home affordability and security and remain willing to work with you on these important issues.

Petition No. 5 — response

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I rise today to respond to the petition presented by the MLA for Lake Laberge on November 20. I would like to thank the member for bringing the petition forward to the Legislature.

As a government, we are committed to a people-centred approach that builds healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities throughout the territory. We are committed to improving our transportation infrastructure to serve all citizens. These are the roads that bring us home, to school and to the doctor, and we must ensure they meet current highway standards. As the Member for Lake Laberge knows, we have shared several letters on this very issue.

At issue is a stretch of highway from kilometre 197.4 to kilometre 200.3 in the Hidden Valley area. Residents are concerned that safety improvements made to the highway actually detracted from its safety.

I would like to thank those constituents who signed this petition and realize that this is an issue of concern for the area. More specifically, residents are concerned about the Couch Road, MacPherson Road and Two Mile Road intersections and access to the Klondike Highway.

As I have said, Mr. Speaker, road safety is a top priority of this government. Our crews design, build and maintain more than 4,800 kilometres of highway in the territory with the ultimate goal of improving the safety of motorists, wherever they are. In September 2016, the Transportation Engineering branch repainted traffic lines at the Couch Road and MacPherson Road intersections. This new layout is based on best practices and is part of an effort to make intersections throughout the territory more consistent, which improves road safety for all road users.

The department also continues to monitor lighting in the area, and based on traffic volumes, there is no need for additional lighting at this time. As the area continues to grow, the Transportation Engineering branch is looking to design roads for the future.

In an effort to make roads safer for all Yukoners, the department does prioritize its work based on safety, traffic and budgetary constraints.

Further improvements would be considered at the Two Mile Road intersection in a future fiscal year. We appreciate these changes often force drivers who have lived in the area for years to adjust their driving habits. Fortunately, we know Yukoners are always looking out for each other and are aligned with our efforts to protect people who use our roadways every day.

My department is always looking to hear from residents who live, work and play in the area. Those Yukoners provide valuable insight and help inform the work we do. This government remains focused on making sure travellers get to their destinations safely and efficiently.

Speaker: Are there any petitions to be presented?

Petition No. 6

Mr. Cathers: I have for presentation the following petition:

“To the Yukon Legislative Assembly:

“The Petition of the undersigned shows:

“THAT the 30 lots in the first phase of Grizzly Valley subdivision are “rural residential”, and the quiet, rural character of the area is important to many property owners in the neighbourhood;

“THAT the plan to develop 11 lots in the subdivision as ‘rural residential dog-mushing’ is based on public consultation that was done 12 years ago, and the community has changed significantly since then;

“THAT the potential number of dogs which would be allowed under the current zoning could have a major effect on the peace and quiet of the neighbourhood, and a negative impact on both quality of life and property value of the current ‘rural residential’ lots;

“THEREFORE the undersigned ask the Yukon Legislative Assembly to recognize the concerns of area residents by urging the Yukon government to rezone the 11 dog-mushing lots as “rural residential” before releasing them for sale.”

Speaker: Are there any other petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure that the permit hunt authorization is being audited by an independent body separate from government and that the following considerations are made:

(1) any technical changes that are recommended by the independent audit be implemented in time for the 2019 hunting season; and

(2) any regulation changes that arise through the audit be submitted to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board through the regular regulation process and be implemented in time for the 2019 hunting season.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to recognize the fact that a majority of the residents of Grizzly Valley subdivision have signed a petition urging the government to change the zoning of 11 lots currently designated “rural residential — dog mushing” and to rezone them as “rural residential” before releasing those lots for sale.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to recognize the ongoing concerns of residents of Grizzly Valley subdivision due to a number of near accidents at the southern intersection of Ursa Way and the

Mayo Road by taking steps to have a turning lane and a slip lane installed at this intersection during the 2019 construction season.

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Speaker: Just prior to Question Period, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my mother-in-law, Elizabeth Lee, who is visiting from beautiful North Vancouver, and my wife, Janet Clarke, who might look a little bit like her mom. Welcome to the Assembly.

Applause

Speaker: This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Public service engagement survey

Mr. Hassard: As we saw from the leaked public service engagement survey, the Premier and the Liberal's inability to make decisions has given the Premier a failing grade from his own department. Confidence in senior leadership in the Premier's own department has plummeted from 80 percent in 2016 to 49 percent in 2018. The Liberals, I'm sure, were embarrassed by this and hid this report from the public until we brought it up in Question Period.

It's this type of reactive governing that is frustrating Yukoners. It's clear that the Liberals have no plan. They just sit here and then react to the news stories or the coverage, and you can be sure that they always do one of two things — either flip-flop or throw public servants under the bus.

Look at the sole-sourced contract from the Liberals to a Northwest Territories firm. The Deputy Premier blamed public servants from a department that isn't even his, so will the Premier show some leadership and apologize for blaming public servants for his government's lack of leadership?

Hon. Mr. Silver: It didn't happen, for one, and, Mr. Speaker, we had this question yesterday, so I guess the Yukon Party is now just regurgitating questions. We did deal with this question yesterday. These internal reviews are exactly such and I will take it on the chin. I will take it as a whole-of-government approach and a change in government. There are lots of changes going on and this is evidence moving forward. I will take it — I will definitely take it, and I will say to the public servants that we will work as hard as we possibly can to make sure that we have a transparent government, that we will do our utmost to turn around the fiscal situation of this government and that we will make sure that we listen to the public servants.

We want to hear more from the public servants, not less, and that's why we're changing ATIPP, that's why we're having a more progressive legislative session than we've seen in a decade. We're willing to work with the public servants if they're willing to work with us.

Mr. Hassard: Yesterday the Premier said that the reason that the confidence in his leadership has plummeted is

because he's asking public servants to do — and I will say these in his own words: "... to do more with less — and that is a hard thing to do."

Ironically, the Premier is correct, because according to the results of the survey, he's asking them to do more work with less leadership. It is backed up with evidence that confidence in the Premier's leadership from his own department has plummeted, as I said, from 80 percent to 49 percent. I won't say that's a failing grade because I know the report cards have changed, but I think with the new system, this would be classified as "doesn't meet expectations".

We know why this is happening. The Premier and the Liberals just can't make a decision. Just look at the health care review. They've punted any improvements to our health care system to at least the end of next year. Will the Premier show some leadership and fix medical travel today?

Hon. Mr. Silver: There was an awful lot to unpack in that preamble, but again, we are doing a lot and we are doing a lot with less. We're trying to reduce the growth. We know that the Yukon Party built up to spending \$1.50 for every \$1 earned, and now we're putting forth lots of progressive legislation — 10 pieces of legislation this session — a whole-of-government approach, more fiscal responsibility and an actual Department of Finance as opposed to a budgetary consideration.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I said it yesterday and I will say it again today: We are asking for the government — for the officials and for the public servants — to do more. A whole-of-government approach takes a lot of time and it takes a lot of effort. It is a lot different from doing things in silos. In that, it is a lot more work.

I want to say to the public servants from the bottom of my heart: thank you — thank you very much for helping us in this pursuit — because I believe Yukoners want us to do the best job that we possibly can with their money and we can't do this without the public servants. I want to thank them. I will take this and we will hopefully see these numbers increase.

Mr. Hassard: It is clear that this government is suffering from paralysis because of the lack of leadership from this Premier. His own department has lost confidence in his leadership. Again, it is because he can't make a decision. We are headed into year 3 of this government and they still can't share a single detail on how the carbon tax rebates are going to work.

While they have been asleep at the wheel on this file, other premiers have literally convinced Ottawa to exempt dirty coal plants and offshore oil and gas. Meanwhile, our Premier won't even commit to getting our trucking industry exempt — or to having home heating fuel exempt for that matter. The Premier just sits here waiting and hoping that someone else is going to answer these questions for him, but Yukoners need a Premier with a backbone, not a wishbone.

Will the Premier finally show leadership, tell Yukoners how the carbon tax rebates will actually work? Will it be a cheque or will it be a tax credit?

Hon. Mr. Silver: Paralysis, I wouldn't say, is how we can characterize this session. We have 10 pieces of

progressive legislation: The *Lobbyists Registration Act*; *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that was clawed back from the Yukon Party; *Equality of Spouses Statute Law Amendment Act (2018)*; a new *Coroners Act*; and a modernization of the *Societies Act*.

Before coming in, I took a look at year 2 of Yukon Party 2.0 on the last day of their session: court case, court case, court case. What we have right now is a government that is willing to work with other governments, whether they are First Nation governments, federal governments or municipalities. What we have is progressive legislation in front of us. What we have is more open government — not less. We are no longer working in silos; we are working with a whole-of-government approach.

This is a lot of work, Mr. Speaker. This is a lot of leadership, and it is hard for the core disciplines of the departments to get used to a new direction from a new government. We will continue to work with the public servants and we will continue to work with Ottawa, regardless of which government is in Ottawa. We will continue to work with municipalities, regardless of who the mayors are. We will work with the chiefs and we'll work with all these governments because Yukoners want a more open and transparent government. They want a leader who will actually work with other governments as opposed to fighting them in court.

Question re: Procurement Advisory Panel recommendations

Mr. Istchenko: The Liberals promised to implement all of the recommendations of the Procurement Advisory Panel by 2018. One of those recommendations was to update the definition of a Yukon business. CBC has reported on documents from the Procurement Business Committee that state the government will not meet the deadline to update the definition of a Yukon business by the end of 2018. Instead, they will just use the old definition and punt the decision down the road to March 2019. This inability to deliver and make a decision is obviously one of the defining characteristics of this government.

Can the minister confirm that the Liberals will not have an updated definition of a “Yukon business” by the end of the year?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for the question this afternoon. It's an important question and one that I was anticipating, to be honest with you.

The members opposite were frightened of leaks, Mr. Speaker. They talked about them often. They talked about how information in the public domain causes confusion and sows discord and confusion. The member opposite made these statements on the floor of this Legislature when discussing the draconian rollback of the ATIPP legislation back in 2012.

Today, Mr. Speaker, he's relying on information that he heard in the media and is asking if I am going to confirm that we are not going to meet the deadline. I know I am not going to confirm that. In fact, I am going to say that we have received input from our business counsel with a suggested

rewording of the definition of a “Yukon business.” I am going to take a look at that definition, and then Cabinet will make a decision on what the definition of a “Yukon business” is. If this definition that we have received is an improvement on the one that we are currently using, we will adopt it. If not, we are going to look at other improvements to the definition of a “Yukon business” before the end of 2018. Then, Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to work on this, because procurement improvement is a journey; it is not a destination. This is something that is going to keep going and we are going to work with our business partners, with the chiefs of the Yukon First Nations and with the citizens of this territory to make sure that —

Speaker: Order.

Mr. Istchenko: Just to quote from the document, at a recent meeting with industry and First Nation development corporations, the Minister of Economic Development said that the First Nation procurement policy would not be separate from the new general procurement policy. The document further goes on to state that this was new information to the deputy minister of the actual department in charge of procurement.

Not only is there a problem with a lack of leadership in this government, it looks like there might be another minister in the Liberal Cabinet who is trying to insert himself into other files and lead other departments that aren't even his. That is definitely a very interesting development, but I am going to leave that for now.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: Will the First Nation procurement policy be announced as part of the new general procurement policy?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Thank you to the member opposite for that journey and preamble.

I think that I did get a question at the end. There were a couple of different points, but I think the question was: Is the First Nation procurement policy part of the general policy? It is.

What the members opposite didn't have was — I think they referred to documents that were widely shared from October 5. What normally happens is that you actually are having constant dialogue with your partners in First Nation development corporations — something that we didn't see previously. I know in my experience working with multiple development corporations, there were no meetings with the previous government.

On October 19, my colleague the Deputy Minister of Highways and Public Works and I went in and met with the executive director, the chair of the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce, and talked about the process that was in place. I thought it was a very good meeting. I know that my colleague since then has e-mailed and reached out to almost every First Nation in the Yukon to continue to set meetings up and continue the dialogue.

Although the members opposite are getting very worked up about it, what we are seeing is real partnership. I can remember back to a meeting that I actually had with the individual who was asking me a question on this very topic.

Without getting into what happened, we'll just say that there was one meeting. I believe the other individual knew what happened. We are going to continue to have good dialogue and continue to work on these particular things.

Question re: Forest fire management

Ms. Hanson: A group of forestry specialists, scientists and concerned Yukoners are raising an alarm about the fire danger for the City of Whitehorse. Dave Loeks, a member of this group, describes Whitehorse — and I quote: "... sitting at the edge of a blowtorch..." Anyone not aware of the devastation caused by forest fires need only look to California or closer to home in Fort McMurray or ask the residents of Telegraph Creek, who are just now slowly returning to what is left of their community three months after wildfires hit. The city, neighbourhood association and homeowners are doing their part to firesmart, but it's clear that more needs to be done.

What is this government doing to address the real danger posed by wildfire in Whitehorse and all Yukon communities?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Wildfire is a risk to all of our communities. I thank the member opposite for her question. I happened to attend the city council meeting where Mr. Loeks gave his presentation. I have actually met with Mr. Loeks as well, and we have had good discussions about what we can do and how to be proactive on this file.

Following that meeting, I sat down with the Mayor of Whitehorse, and we discussed setting up meetings between his emergency planning folks and ours to review the work that is in place and to talk about how to address the risk. I'll try to get deeper into this response in further responses, Mr. Speaker.

There is work that is ongoing, but I don't want to shy away from the notion that there is a lot of risk to our communities, and it's important that we address it.

Ms. Hanson: In 2006, a report was published by FireSmart recommending that more than \$2.5 million — in 2006 dollars — be spent firesmaring around Whitehorse. It was pointed out then that the greatest risk is the wildland-urban interface, where the wilderness meets our neighbourhoods.

The City of Whitehorse is doing their part by spending \$700,000 over the next four years to carry on their firesmaring program, but the reality is that it's not enough. More money is needed, and it just so happens that much of the land at risk is the responsibility of the Yukon government.

Mr. Speaker, will the government increase the money that it allocates to fire abatement in Whitehorse and Yukon communities prior to next year's budget to allow essential work to be done over the winter?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We are investing in FireSmart, but I think the point that I want to make here is that this goes way beyond FireSmart. We need to get much further than FireSmart. Firesmaring is what we do around our homes and along our streets. What we need to be doing is a broader, deeper look at the issue of the risk of forest fire. I know that it has been exacerbated by climate change. We have more

seasons where we have less rainfall; it goes up and down. We have longer shoulder seasons. We have more wind and we have more lightning strikes, but we have also have a history where fire has been suppressed, and that has left a legacy of risk.

It needs a deep look. The department is doing that right now. We have been sitting down in these conversations with the federal government around — I'm going to get it wrong, Mr. Speaker — the disaster mitigation fund. Sorry — I have the wrong phrase there, Mr. Speaker. But we are looking at doing a deeper look.

The member asked whether it's going to happen this winter. That I'm not sure of. I'll have to turn back to the department. The work is going to take several years, so I just want to say that we will continue to work together on this project.

Ms. Hanson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker — 2018, 2006 — it is a long time that we have all been talking about this really serious issue. The deputy fire chief of Whitehorse has called for a committee to be formed with representatives from the Yukon government, First Nation governments and other stakeholders to prepare for catastrophic wildfire and to come up with an actual strategy that is shared.

Every Yukon community, including Whitehorse, needs more support from both territorial and federal governments to make meaningful inroads into fire abatement that will protect communities. There are few citizens who aren't keenly aware of the risks posed by wildfires in our community.

Can the minister clearly describe what proactive steps this government is taking to actually address fire abatement and to minimize the risk of and respond to catastrophic wildfire in all Yukon communities?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I agree that it is 2018. I agree that we do need to work and do more. I appreciate the question. I think it is spot on.

The work that the federal government is doing is called the disaster mitigation and adaptation fund. I apologize that I couldn't remember the name of it before. I have been in meetings with the federal minister, with our director of the Emergency Measures office and with our ADM of Protective Services. We are working on this. We agree that we need to do more. There is a significant risk here in the territory. We need to look across all of our communities, and we will work in partnership with our municipalities. We will work in partnership with our volunteer firefighters who work on the interface of this. We will work with Wildland Fire Management and continue to work with the First Nation development corporations on this issue.

It is going to take a deep look, and I have instructed that we work on this issue. If you want a specific thing that we are doing, I have asked that the Joint Task Force North, when they do their exercise this coming year, focus on wildland fire leading to an interface fire with the City of Whitehorse. I know that planning work is underway right now. That is a first step in many steps that have to happen.

Question re: Yukon grant

Ms. White: For some time now, Yukon College has been offering an environmental monitoring certificate. The program prepares students to do a variety of fieldwork for First Nation or other governments, industry, field researchers or environmental service companies. Students have to complete 10 courses over a period of two years. The courses are offered in the form of two-week, intensive modules at camps in various locations across the country. This program is a great opportunity for Yukoners to get trained and develop skills that are in demand in today's local economy. Yet, because of the unique format of the course, students who enrol in this program can't access the Yukon grant, and that is despite the heavy tuition fees required that total \$12,500.

Does the minister believe that it is fair to penalize students in the environmental monitoring certificate program by denying them access to the Yukon grant simply because of the format of this program?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I appreciate the question. Thank you to the member opposite for the question. This is not something that has been brought to my attention. I will leave it at that. It is not something that has been brought to my attention.

On a number of occasions, the members opposite have brought something like this to my attention, and we have an opportunity to look into it. I have not received any correspondence about it or any complaints that I am aware of from students who are trying to access the Yukon grant.

Clearly, I need to look into this and I will endeavour to respond to the member opposite's question. It is a specific one. What I can say about Yukon College is the dedication to Yukon learning, to post-secondary education in all of its forms throughout the territory — and the Yukon College is growing — is an important factor in post-secondary education and upgrading for Yukon individuals and Yukon students. It does an amazing job, and it is being recognized nationally and internationally for doing so and will be the first university in the north.

Ms. White: I believe that if the minister had a conversation with her department, she would realize that this was an issue last year, but I was just told about it this morning.

Yukoners who choose a career in environmental monitoring should not be penalized because of the structure of the courses offered. With tuition fees for this certificate over \$12,000, many students can't afford to enrol in the environmental monitoring certificate offered at Yukon College without financial aid. Not only do these students not qualify for the Yukon grant, but they also don't qualify for the student training allowance. This allowance requires students to be enrolled in classes for three weeks in a given month. With this program offered in the form of 10 intensive two-week modules, students don't qualify for the training allowance.

Will the minister commit to reviewing eligibility criteria for the Yukon grant and the student training allowance to make sure that students enrolled in non-conventional

programs, like the environmental monitoring certificate at Yukon College, can access financial aid?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I appreciate the support of my colleague the Minister of Education, who has also given me an opportunity to work under a one-government approach where we both have dialogue with Yukon College — going to be Yukon university. The work that I do with my officials is more focused on the Centre for Northern Innovation and Mining. One of the things that we have really focused on is ensuring that not only does the centre look at production, but also reclamation. There is a tremendous amount of opportunity in the Yukon at this particular time — hundreds of millions of dollars — as we move forward on our projects in Mount Nansen and continue to see Yukon companies win contracts, now in the Faro area. We are always discussing with these companies the opportunity to bring in Yukon students and students, of course, who are taking part in these environmental studies programs.

I know that I will take it upon myself, in my discussions with the leadership at CNIM — we were with them last year, of course, during Yukon Days, having discussions with the federal government to enhance their capacity to deliver these strong programs and for my work at that institution. Yes, there are some times where we have programs that are delivered through the advanced education model, where it is modules versus a curriculum that would be delivered in a certificate diploma model, so that is the criteria that we will have to look at, and I will work with my colleague to have those discussions.

Ms. White: Although I appreciate the thoughts from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, this was a very specific question, so I am going to ask again.

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Education commit to reviewing eligibility criteria for the Yukon grant and student training allowance to make sure that students enrolled in non-conventional programs, like the environmental monitoring certificate at Yukon College, can access financial aid?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I think I heard my colleague just say exactly that. Yes, we will look into the categorization of programming at the college. What is critical to us and our government, and I know to Yukon College, is to make sure that individual students have the resources they need to take advantage of the amazing programs at the college and the amazing programs that train individuals here in our territory for the purposes of working here and contributing in our territory.

It is education in the north, for the north, and all barriers must be addressed with respect to resources and the permission for students and access for students to those kinds of programs that are so important to our economy and to our education community.

Question re: Non-government use of government highways camps

Mr. Hassard: Contractors provide living accommodations for employees through a number of different avenues when working on government projects. This is a cost

incurred by the contractor and could be expensive, particularly at this time of the year if the contractor is running a camp. We do know that currently there is a southern contractor who is housing their employees at a Government of Yukon highways camp. I am curious if the Minister of Highways and Public Works feels that it is fair to allow a company to use government highways camps when the tender document does not specify this as an option.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the member opposite for this question, because I know that there are many people in the community who have concerns about this very issue. It is unusual for a highway company to utilize a highways camp as their base of operations — to pay for accommodation there — but it is not unheard of. I was briefed on this earlier this week, and it turns out that it comes back to some of the fees and the fee practice in this government that dates back decades to the early 1990s at least, where companies that want to use a highways camp can pay \$45 a night and have access to the camp.

Now, that fee was set in the early 1990s and hasn't been changed since then. So here we are now, after the Financial Advisory Panel, taking a look at our fee schedule so that we can actually start to address some of these long-standing problems and prevent this type of unfairness — because it is unfairness. We have said that we want to get out of the business of doing business, and that is certainly being a subsidized lodging for companies up in remote Yukon places.

So yes, we are addressing this concern, and I look forward to more questions from the member opposite.

Mr. Hassard: We have heard that the reason that this particular company is using the government highways camp is because they didn't like the price of the local hotel. Does the minister feel that if a contractor doesn't like the price of the local hotel, the contractor should then be allowed to live at highways camps, even if the tender document doesn't state that as a possibility?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: That is a simple question, and it is a simple answer I can give. No, I do not think that is fair. I do not think that is right. I really think it's about time that we start to address the fee schedules in this government to make sure that this type of inequity doesn't happen in the territory. We support business; we want to make sure that we support local hotels, of course. To actually have a policy that I was just made aware of this week — I found out that companies can actually rent our highway lodges and pay \$45 a night, a fee that was set back in 1995. That is not acceptable.

As the Financial Advisory Panel has said, we are going to review our fee schedules and have a look at that and hopefully remove some of these strange inequities that have grown up after years of neglect in this government. That's what we're going to do, and we're going to make sure that this is addressed.

Mr. Hassard: I will remind the Minister of Highways and Public Works that he is in his third year of government here, so he really needs to stop blaming the others.

The other thing is that this question isn't about the fee schedule. I'm not saying that the government should charge

more to make it more equal. I'm asking if it's fair that they are allowed to do it.

Other companies that bid on such a project would build into their price a camp for their staff, so if the government just allows one southern company to use a highways camp and did not include that as an option in the tender document, it doesn't seem fair to local companies.

Can the minister tell us why he is allowing this to happen and why he thinks it's fair?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I don't understand why the member opposite didn't hear my last answer. The fact is that I said that I did not think it was fair. I certainly do not think this is fair. When fee schedules get grossly out of whack, Mr. Speaker, then you can actually rent a highway camp —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Minister of Community Services, on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I know my colleague is trying to hear; I'm trying to hear. It's just challenging to hear the response.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: I'm having some difficulty hearing the Minister of Highways and Public Works. I will certainly allow some latitude, but in any event, let's keep the volume down slightly. I'll listen to the remainder of the answer now.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I have said, I don't think it's fair. Really, simple economics dictate that if you can rent a space legitimately for \$45 a night when there's a hotel room down the road that charges more than that, you are going to try to get the cheaper accommodation. The fact that government is offering this accommodation — I don't believe that it is right, Mr. Speaker.

So the department — we are now looking at our policies to make sure that this type of inequity doesn't happen again, and we're also looking at the fee schedule to make sure that we start charging enough money that there isn't this disincentive.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed. We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 27: *Coroners Act* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 27, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. McPhee.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I move that Bill No. 27, entitled *Coroners Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 27, entitled *Coroners Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: We have covered significant ground during the debate on this bill in the House and I would like to take a few moments to talk about this bill before a final vote. At the risk of concerning the Member for Lake Laberge, I will unfortunately have to repeat myself a bit from the former debate, but I think that these are important points to raise here on behalf of the House, for the House and on behalf of Yukoners — for them as well.

As we have noted previously, the current coroners' legislation is outdated in practice and process and is silent in a number of key topics. In modernizing the *Coroners Act*, we have made sure that out-of-date provisions and language are replaced and much attention has been paid to legislating a number of critical processes and coroner responsibilities. These changes include notification to, and investigations by, the chief coroner and investigating coroners of an unexpected death. Procedures post-investigation includes as well: criteria determining whether to hold an inquest; request from families for an inquest to be held; and provisions for the conduct of coroners' inquests.

I would like to thank the Coroner's Service once again for their role in the legislative process and, in particular, the chief coroner. Mr. Speaker, the chief coroner has given many hours to this priority over the years and especially during the spring and summer of this year working with the Department of Justice staff to draft this important legislation. I would also like to thank the individuals and organizations who shared their feedback and comments with the Government of Yukon through the specific and public engagement processes.

This is, of course, a trying subject matter for many, but especially for those who have come in contact with the Coroner's Service. We thank them for sharing their comments and experiences so that the Government of Yukon can ensure that compassion, sensitivity and the public interest helped to guide the processes, actions and responses of Yukon coroners.

Mr. Speaker, indeed this legislation brings Yukon more in line with other Canadian jurisdictions in a way that the Coroner's Service and its guiding legislation are administered. It also provides some flexibility to adapt to future change as best practices, processes and technology inevitably will evolve. The statute ensures that: coroners trained in modern investigatory techniques handle the initial investigation into an unexplained death; that senior lawyers or judges are tasked with presiding over inquests; and that the current contracted forensic pathologists can continue to provide medical analysis into the cause or manner of deaths that occur in the Yukon. The service provided by our partner forensic pathologists is exemplary. I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize their service to us here today.

During the work on Bill No. 27, we researched and considered all possible models for the Yukon Coroner's Service. We are pleased with the input and engagement that has resulted and led us to this updated *Coroners Act* and its retention of the traditional coroners' model, albeit with some made-in-Yukon solutions and provisions, which are here to ensure that the unique interests of our jurisdiction are met.

We have updated the fines for circumvention of the act to be more reflective of those found in other jurisdictions. We have included provisions to address the collection, use and disclosure of information where the current *Coroners Act* is silent. This codifies the existing status quo that ensures that information collected or produced during a coroner's investigation remains private in most cases, while information pertaining to the administration of the Coroner's Service will remain publicly available.

With respect to some of the questions from the members opposite during the debate of this bill, I would like to take a moment to touch on some of those issues. I would also like to thank the New Democratic Party for their thoughtful questions — the Leader of the Third Party for her thoughtful questions — that helped us all delve into the provisions and practical implications of this act.

During our previous debate, we discussed the expanded duty to report, which sets out the instances when a death must be reported to the Yukon Coroner's Service. Further to the general duty to report unexplained or unexpected deaths, we have ensured that deaths of individuals who are in custody or that occur while they are required to reside at government facilities trigger a duty to report the death to the Coroner's Service.

A third provision —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

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

Mr. Cathers: Pursuant to Standing Order 19(c), it seems that the minister's persisting in needless repetition. She's re-reading notes that she's read in some cases on several days in this House in debate of the bill and seems to be needlessly repeating herself and wasting the time of the Assembly.

Speaker: Are there any other submissions on that point of order — 19(c)?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, this is a third reading speech on a bill that I've presented to the House and that we debated at some length — at least one of the parties has debated it with us at some length — and I think I'm entitled to say what I would like to say about this important piece of legislation. Despite the fact that the member opposite might think it's somewhat repetitive, I assure you and him that these points are being made for the purposes of third reading of this bill.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: My preliminary observations are as follows — and I will return to the House a few months from now if anything more needs to be said — but I recall my discussions with Mr. Clerk with respect to speeches that occur either in second reading, in Committee of the Whole or in third reading that they are deemed to be separate, distinct and discreet speeches, and that the rules of repetition do not therefore strictly apply. So if I am mistaken in that interpretation in my

recollection of the discussions I have with Mr. Clerk over the course of the last two years, I will certainly return to the House for the Spring Sitting.

The Minister of Justice can continue. There is no point of order.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, to point out that what I'm actually referring to here in this exact part is the conversation and questions that we had in Committee of the Whole and I'm recalling those for the individuals, so I haven't spoken about this before.

We have discussed the expanded duty to report, which I have noted. We have also discussed the general duty to report and we have also noted a third provision that articulates the duty to report all child deaths that ensure that the circumstances around any death of a minor are fully investigated in order to determine the circumstances and whether or not similar, future deaths may be avoided — the critical part of that obligation.

We heard Yukoners loud and clear when they told us that there should be a process for families or other interested persons to request that an inquest take place. Section 43 allows for just that process. Under the circumstances, the Minister of Justice may direct that an inquest take place because it is determined to be in the public interest. This might be the case even if the chief coroner had not directed that an inquest take place. There will be a core of certain circumstances and case-specific circumstances that will make that provision appropriate. In the event that the minister does not believe that the public interest would be best served by directing that an inquest be held, that decision is, by virtue of this bill, final — though as we have discussed here in the earlier debate, that decision could still be subject to judicial review if the circumstances properly arose.

We have also included provisions that allow for a coroner's case to be opened or reopened should new evidence arise or be discovered as long as it is substantial and relevant to the investigation of an unexplained or unexpected death. Bill No. 27 also removes the current section 16 regarding inquests involving mining accidents and the specifics of that in the favour of an updated provision that we spoke about in this House just yesterday regarding special jury composition. While most requests will use the Yukon's standard jury selection process, the updated *Coroners Act* allows for special jury composition to be impanelled in cases where persons with specific knowledge of a particular industry or who are representative of a specific ethnic or cultural group could be advantageous. Procedures for summoning such a jury are to be articulated in associated regulations.

I would like to note that, again, the discussion we had in this House yesterday with respect to that particular point was raised by the Leader of the Third Party in a question to me during that debate. I think it was an important opportunity for us to have that conversation and to inform Yukoners of those specifics.

As I have previously noted, we will further engage Yukoners and relevant stakeholders as we begin work on the

regulations required to bring this act to life and into force. Once Bill No. 27 receives assent, we will begin immediately on that work so that the Yukon Coroner's Service can benefit from guiding legislation that is clear, modern, progressive and sensitive to our Yukon context. I am very pleased that this legislation will provide the Coroner's Service with a modern and flexible governing statute that is mindful of the public interest and that allows for the efficient, compassionate investigation of unexplained or unexpected deaths here in the Yukon. I urge all members of this House to support Bill No. 27.

Mr. Cathers: Unlike the minister, I am not going to waste the House's time spending a lot of time repeating things that I have previously said regarding this legislation. I have heard all of the minister's remarks and points previously in the Assembly, as she knows well. It is unfortunate on this last day that we are seeing time in this Assembly being taken up needlessly as she rereads her previous speeches.

I am going to just note very quickly for those who may not be aware of the position that the Yukon Party Official Opposition has taken regarding this legislation or the reasons why. We have stated from the outset that we agree that modernization of the *Coroners Act* is needed. We did make points early on in this Sitting. We brought forward questions and were concerned by the response regarding the lack of consultation that occurred with people who, we believe, should have been consulted. Those include a list of health care professionals and other partners that we listed both previously in the Assembly during debate on this legislation as well as in a motion — wherein, after we became aware of the fact that there had either been no consultation or inadequate consultation with stakeholders, including the Hospital Corporation, Emergency Medical Services — including rural EMS — and the Volunteer Ambulance Services Society, the Yukon Medical Association, the Yukon Registered Nurses Association, community coroners and former chief coroners as well as families who had had interaction previously with the Coroner's Service. Those were among the list of people and stakeholders that we believe government should have consulted with, or consulted with in more detail than they did.

The RCMP is another entity that — though the government did consult with them, officials confirmed that they did not actually allow the RCMP to see the legislation, including several sections of the legislation that actually directly affect and change whether an RCMP member or a coroner has the final authority on a scene after a fatality.

Those are the primary concerns that we had with this legislation. We also presented a constructive suggestion to government that, even if they were hell-bent on proceeding with this legislation this Sitting, they had adequate time to press the pause button on this bill and do an expedited consultation with the list of stakeholders and individuals with whom we asked them to do more consultation. Unfortunately, the government arrogantly dismissed that suggestion, and the minister — we saw her ivory tower leadership style in full

form as she explained that she knew best on this issue and didn't need to consult with the Yukoners we listed.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I just wish to clarify for Yukoners who understand why we will be voting against this legislation that it is due to this government's failure to live up to their platform commitment to Yukoners that they would be heard. They have reverted instead to a much more dismissive style that might be characterized as "be told", and it's no wonder that we are seeing unprecedented leaks to the opposition and to the media coming from within the government from civil servants who are very concerned with the way that this government is managing the affairs of the territory.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks.

Ms. Hanson: I rise to speak at third reading on Bill No. 27, the *Coroners Act*. The Yukon New Democratic Party will be supporting the passage of this legislation. We appreciate that it has been 60 years since there has been any substantive change to this legislation. We know from experience that the legislation that exists, prior to this one coming into effect — how difficult it has been for members of civil society to actually have their voices heard. Notwithstanding that there is always room for improvement in any legislation, the approach that has been set out here and the willingness of the minister and her officials to spend the time to go through in great detail the questions that we had and that arose through the course of the debate were appreciated.

I will leave it at that, Mr. Speaker. We will be looking forward to the vote.

Speaker: Is there any further debate on third reading of Bill No. 27?

If the member now speaks, she will close debate.

Does any other member wish to be heard?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I thank the members opposite for their comments. I thank the Member for Lake Laberge for repeating what he said here many times before, despite his criticism of me — to have done so as well.

I will ask and urge that all members of this House support this bill. Yukon needs this legislation. Yukoners deserve this legislation. It is progression, it is modern, and it will give the Coroner's Service the tools it needs. The debate in this House has been thorough, and I appreciate all of the questions and the opportunities to answer them.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Agree.

Mr. Gallina: Agree.

Mr. Adel: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Mr. Hutton: Agree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Disagree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Disagree.

Ms. Hanson: Agree.

Ms. White: Agree.

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

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.
Motion for third reading of Bill No. 27 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 27 has passed this House.

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

The matter before the Committee is Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Committee of the Whole will recess for 22 minutes.

Recess

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

Bill No. 207: Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19 — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*.

Department of Health and Social Services — continued

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to welcome back to the Chamber the deputy minister, Stephen Samis and Michele Goshulak, the assistant deputy minister.

Ms. White: I also echo the minister's welcome back to the officials.

Mr. Chair, I've had a lot of questions in recent days, this week for sure, about the Integrated Support for Yukon Youth — the ISYY office. I would just like to start there. I would just like to know when the closing date is. I'll start with that. When is the closing date for ISYY?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Mr. Chair, with respect to the supplementary estimates up for discussion and debate today, the department has on the table for request —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Ms. Frost: Speak louder? I apologize; I'll speak louder.

So with respect to the supplementary requests for this legislative Sitting, we have a proposal before the Legislative Assembly for an appropriated amount. I would be happy to speak to those supplementary requests and also I would be happy to answer any other questions that are not relevant to the supplementary requests and the question asked by the Member for Takhini-Kopper King with respect to ISYY and the closure of ISYY. I have stated previously that the independent supported youth program was implemented as a pilot project and the pilot project was tied around specific deliverables. There was an obligation to assess and review that and potentially close the doors a year ago. We've extended that program to take the necessary time to review and analyze as we look at efficiencies of services for our youth. As noted yesterday, ISYY is still open and the closure will not occur until we have a comprehensive backup plan for youth currently using services in this facility. We are committed to ensuring that the youth have access to the supports they need during this time. We're closing the Integrated Supports for Yukon Youth services and we're doing that until spring 2019 in order for us to get the work done and seek the feedback from First Nations and organizations, NGOs and youth to develop a more fully integrated, cohesive and collaborative services.

At the moment, we are working through the comprehensive plan and we do not have a definitive date. What we are working toward is having the plan, with our partners, designed and put together by the end of December. I will not have a definitive date until I see that detailed plan in front of me that clearly lays out the protocols and, of course, the continuum of services. I am anticipating that we won't see that until somewhere toward the end of December.

In the meantime, I understand that the department is working quite diligently with their partners to get the initiatives in place. As I stated, we extended the program; we extended ISYY. We kept the facility open and we did that in consultation with our partners. We will look at some much-needed changes in ensuring that Family and Children's Services are brought into the discussion in terms of how we better align supports and services. We will endeavour to do the consultation to ensure that we continue to nurture the opportunities for our children to grow into young successful and contributing adults of our society.

Ms. White: Initially, how many staff worked at the office and how many are currently in the ISYY office?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I'm not certain how many worked there but currently we have two staff there and we do provide alternative support. As noted, ISYY provides services to some 13 youth, but we provide day programs and day supports as well. Services that are provided out of ISYY come out of the Health and Social Services Family and Children's Services unit. Each child is assigned a case manager, a social worker who works with them, so the numbers fluctuate and it really depends on the number of youth that we have accessing the services.

Ms. White: Has someone from the department had a conversation with each of those youth about the plans to close down the office?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Thanks for the question. We ensure that we are meeting the needs of all the vulnerable youth in the best way that we can. We are doing that by engaging with the youth and taking the necessary time. Once the engagement happens — the engagement with the youth, the engagement with the families, the engagement with our supporters in the community, be it the NGO groups, or First Nation groups — we want to ensure that we, of course, listen to the youth and that we bring forward their input. We are planning the temporary closure and we are doing that in conjunction with our partners, the First Nation governments and the youth to refocus and improve the programs. We started that discussion already. We have had, since last January, ongoing discussions with the youth who are accessing the programs there.

As of yet, we have not made a formal decision to go ahead and close the doors. We have requested that the media not put any information out until we can get a detailed plan and we have the opportunity to work with the youth and give them the necessary supports that they require. Clearly, that was not respected and the notice went out, despite the efforts to look at giving the youth the time that they require.

We have not made a formal announcement. We are finalizing a plan on how to support the youth during this temporary closure. We don't want the youth who are vulnerable at this point in their lives to worry about the closure. We want to ensure that we have services and supports available to every youth, addressing their unique circumstances, because every youth who comes to the facility or to Health and Social Services, to Family and Children's Services, have different circumstances and we are trying to best align that.

We did ask that this not be reported because we care about the youth, and we don't want them to be concerned until we can confirm a plan is in place and ensure that youth will continue to receive the services and supports during this time. We are committed to ensuring that the youth have access to the supports that they need, and we will continue to do that as this evolves.

We want to provide youth with as much information as we can about the plan. We want them to be a part of the plan, and we want them to engage with us on the plan — ensuring that we provide the supports that they require.

Ms. White: To date — today is November 22 — how many conversations has the department had with youth who access ISYY services about the possible — or temporary — closure, as the language has just been changed?

Hon. Ms. Frost: The department is constantly working with the children in our care or who access the programs and services. We try to align the service needs of the individual.

With respect to how many youth we have spoken to — have we spoken to them about the plan? That plan — as I just noted in my previous response — was a plan that is being worked out. We are in the process of doing our engagement and consultation. For some apparent reason, CBC wanted to make note of this and put it out there in the public. We are still working through the discussions with the youth. We are working with our partners. We are looking to ensure that every youth who is in our care and who accesses the programs are supported, and we will continue to do that.

Ms. White: I would make the suggestion that the youth who attend ISYY are quite intelligent. They started to notice when staff numbers started to come down. To know that there are two people remaining there — it was an indication that something was changing.

When the minister says that she is engaging in consulting, who is she currently engaging and consulting with about ISYY, the future of ISYY or young people at risk?

Hon. Ms. Frost: We have been working on a supportive program. We are working on a transition program, and we have done that in consultation with the staff at ISYY. We have worked with Yukon First Nations and NGO groups in the community to look more fully at the integrated support and collaborative programs that are needed in the city that better align with the service needs of the youth that we currently see accessing the programs.

Ms. White: I have been getting phone calls. That is how this started with me. I actually got phone calls from youth whose only connection right now to government departments and services is through the ISYY office. There are obviously fears about how you have a connection with a social worker, and you have a good connection because you have worked on it, and you are afraid of that going away.

When we are having this conversation right now and I ask: Have you consulted with youth? Well, at this point in time, those youth are now going to the Yukon Child and Youth Advocate Office because they are trying to figure out what the next steps are. I asked who you are engaging and consulting with, what the plan is and so on. In Question Period the other day, the minister referenced the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre and mentioned partnerships. There was going to be additional programming at Skookum Jim's. Maybe the minister can tell me what is going to happen at Skookum Jim that is different now, in reference to the question that she answered yesterday.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I just want to take this moment to acknowledge that we have a number of partners in the community, and I want to acknowledge their contributions and the supports they have provided to this government and, of course, to supporting our youth. We are working with the

Skookum Jim Friendship Centre and we are working with other partners in the community to ensure that we provide enhanced services and supports to youth.

With respect to youth only having contact with the employees at ISYY, that is simply not the case. They have access to their social worker, they have case managers and they have other avenues in which to engage. Certainly, we are open to ensuring that every one of the children who are accessing the programs is supported.

I would invite the member opposite, if there is information that she has that might lend itself and lend value to this discussion, it would be prudent of us to have that conversation. It is important for us to ensure that every child is heard, and every child matters. If they have concerns, then we are certainly open to hearing about it, and the department and the staff of Family and Children's Services and the supportive units are very much there to do just that.

Ms. White: I want to point out again that ISYY is not only just available for youth who are accessing government services, but it is also just for any youth. When the minister tells me that it's wrong and I have been told by young people that it's not, then I guess that is just going to hang there as a question from both sides.

There has been reference in Question Period to the Costanzo report, but at this point in time, the opposition hasn't had the ability to see the Costanzo report.

Will the minister table or share the Costanzo report with the opposition?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I'm just seeking some clarification around the summary of the report that was released quite some time ago. I would be happy to share that report again.

The specific report itself was not something that we could have released publicly to anyone given that there is specific information in there about clients, and that is clearly not something that we want to do — ensuring that we protect the rights and privacy of these individuals. So we want to make sure that we provided some context to the Yukon public and, of course, to members of the opposition. We did that by way of the summary report, and I believe that, in the past, the Minister of Justice gave a summary on that. I would be happy to share that with the member opposite. I think we did that already, but I would be happy to bring that back.

Ms. White: We have a copy of the summary of the Costanzo report — the high-level summary of the Costanzo report. The issue with the high-level summary of the Costanzo report is that, when the minister says that they are doing assessments, that they have reports, that they are moving on away from ISYY and that they have other plans — well, when you can't see what the assessment was or you can't see the report and you can't understand how that decision was made, then that leaves the questions.

To be perfectly frank, Mr. Chair, when it was initially set up and it was the previous government who said that we were going to do this thing, I had concerns. I had concerns because friends who work in the youth field said that they were worried and that they weren't sure if it was going to work. I have to tell you that any concerns that I had have disappeared,

because when you talk to the young people who access those services and to the young people who go in and get the support that they need, you can understand that being able to walk into an office on Main Street that is not in another government building and is specifically designed for them — where you can go and you can have a snack or you can have a confidential conversation with someone when you are trying to figure stuff out — is really important. Although I may have been concerned initially, my concern now is the fact that we're talking about closing it, and we're talking about reports and we're talking about assessments, but none of that has been shared with the opposition.

I appreciate that the minister will give me another copy of the high-level summary from the Costanzo report, but that doesn't help me. That doesn't help me understand the position, especially when I'm having conversations with youth.

There was a reference in Question Period to Skookum Jim's and how that was going to be one of the mechanisms to cover the support, so again I ask: What is the plan with Skookum Jim's in relation to the shutting down of ISYY?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I appreciate the question and acknowledge that there are some elements of the ISYY program that worked very well, but there were some elements that didn't work so well.

With the actual report itself — just for the record — the unredacted report was provided to the PIDWA commissioner. I believe it was provided for the Child and Youth Advocate Office. We provided a summary to protect the interests of the youth, and that is not something that I am willing or prepared to share. We are looking at elements of the report that specify that we need to look at issues related to transitioning youth out of care into a facility that will better align with their needs as they age out of the system that we have established right now. We most certainly want to ensure that the good services provided out of ISYY will continue, and we will do that in partnership with service providers in our community. I stated previously that we do not have the plan finalized. We are working on that, but we are hoping to have that concluded in the coming weeks. We will do that in partnership with the NGOs, First Nations and, of course, the youth.

Ms. White: In the life of the opposition, when you ATIPP information, you often get redacted reports. In some cases, I have had entire multi-page documents come back as black because we have just changed the rules. Fairly recently, they have been coming back completely white with a little thing that says why you couldn't get the information, so I would be happy to have a redacted report that removes the names of individuals. I don't need to know the names.

The minister just referenced things that didn't work at ISYY, but we have never been told what those were. What didn't work at the ISYY office?

Hon. Ms. Frost: With respect to the good work at ISYY and the services provided to the youth, I wanted to say that there are elements of the program that work really well. We are working with our partners to better align to the current

needs of the youth as we look at the supports that they require as they transition out of the system.

ISYY was started as a two-year pilot project to conclude in August, and part of that was to link it to the Yukon mental wellness strategy. That was one of the recommendations, and we want to ensure that we provide those supports to all of our clients and ensure that we support them in their communities as well. We know that a lot of the youth accessing services come from our Yukon communities, so we are trying to look at evaluating ISYY and its evolution — what was its original intent and have we aligned with that? If not, where do we go based on the developments and also the opportunities, I guess, to look at transitioning our older youth out of the system?

The older youth who access ISYY are the children who are either not in our care facilities — they are in private facilities. They are assigned case managers. During the temporary closure of ISYY, Health and Social Services support branches will convene an advisory committee to provide input into the shaping of the future of ISYY, and we have a block of time to do that. We will ensure that we get input from our First Nation partners, our organization representatives and, of course, the youth who we are currently serving in the organization. We have already heard from some of those youth as we have gone through some recent exercises and evaluations, and we will have input on — basically, how do we provide supports and services to the population that ISYY was intended to support? What have we done with respect to our model of service delivery and how do we bring that back into our rural Yukon communities? So the structure itself, the location and the operating hours in downtown Whitehorse — we want to make sure that we provide services in other communities as well, because the input and recommendations to determine the re-visioning of the services will really look at some of these things in terms of the targeted population and then look at what services are provided and what transitioning out of the system looks like. Really, I think that the effort during this reset period will allow us to look at actively engaging but also designing an integrated service delivery hub that coordinates a broad range of service needs for the youth.

Ms. White: I appreciate all the words that were just used, but there was no reference to what did not work at ISYY. The minister said that the reason why it was being closed is because there were elements that did not work. I would like to know what did not work at ISYY.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Let's talk about what worked well and then we will talk about what didn't work well. It is obviously important to look at some of the supports that were there. We had programs that supported the youth one-on-one — and also looked at activities that better met their needs with respect to case management on case files and finding private accommodations, working them through with their supports as they ventured into the community, be it for employment or education pursuits.

I think, in terms of strengths of the program — we had our staff on-site, and the appointments that were sort of on a drop-in basis are some of the things that worked well for the

youth. We want to carry those things forward for sure — ensuring that we don't work 9 to 5. The children sometimes don't need services from 9 to 5, but perhaps they want to access services in the evening. Those are some of the important things with respect to the business hours. Having a one-stop shop or a place for youth to go to drop in and have food — those are things that we will continue to do, as mentioned by the member opposite.

Identified challenges included the lack of program availability on Mondays and weekday mornings — there were minimal staffing levels, including temporary shutdowns limiting staff ability to do outreach work and support youth access services.

As part of the evaluation, we looked at clarity of the mandate and also at the gaps and the readiness of the programs to meet the needs of the youth, and that wasn't there — as perhaps the needs required for the youth. We want to ensure that we design and deliver an integrated, formalized model for the youth, and we'll do that as we look at changing the hours to better align — implementing and monitoring the development of the process as well. What we don't want to do is create another pilot project.

We're going to maximize the supports to the Wann Road project. We will ensure that transition programs to support youth, life skills programs and educational programs, ensuring that the older youth are supported and we have family support programs, and helping them to be successful in accessing college programs, accessing trades programs — whatever it is they desire in terms of support. Those are some of the things that I think perhaps were not provided to the youth with regard to the evaluation, and we want to ensure that we take the evaluation and the recommendations and move them into a program that better aligns to the older youths' needs.

Ms. White: I thought a lot of what the minister said there sounded quite positive. It actually reflects exactly what it says online that ISYY can help you with — so accessing housing, obtaining social assistance, getting ID and applying for college. All of those things are things that were mentioned.

One of the things that didn't work that the minister mentioned was the minimum staffing availability, but isn't that an organizational problem from the department? I know that at one point in time there were definitely more than two staff members, and currently there are two staff members. If we're talking about staffing availability as being an issue, isn't what's being done to ISYY now part of the problem — which is minimum staffing availability?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I do want to acknowledge that some things didn't work and some things did. We want to ensure that we provide better coordinated and integrated services and programs that perhaps were working well out of ISYY — and some that we need to tweak. We want to look at aspects of supports with our partners, and I will continue to highlight that because recommendations and the feedback from our partners will help us to tool the programs and services as we move forward.

Ms. White: So the minister has mentioned an evaluation of ISYY that they are basing this decision on. The

minister has mentioned recommendations — and there was another word there, but we'll just go with evaluations and recommendations from partners. Will that be available to the opposition to see in order to understand why this decision is being made?

Hon. Ms. Frost: We are working with a number of the youth who were working with our partners on youth-related initiatives across the department.

We see this as an opportunity to bring all of those initiatives together into a comprehensive plan and to better understand how the services we provide out of ISYY fit into a continuum of services. We will ensure that we provide the best possible service for our youth. Is it ISYY? Possibly or possibly not, but that will be determined once we have our discussions with our youth, with our service providers and with the department and look at what was required of ISYY and what was required of this pilot project.

The reason the program was extended for the extra time was to give us a little more flexibility to work with our partners rather than shutting the doors when it was intended to conclude. This gives us that time that is required to come away with a more comprehensive plan with our partners.

Ms. White: This afternoon, the minister also mentioned at various times a "temporary closure". Can she explain what she means when she says "temporary closure"?

Hon. Ms. Frost: When I say that we are planning a temporary closure of ISYY to work with our partners and youth to refocus and improve the program, that's exactly what we're doing. We are announcing that we are closing ISYY. We are going to work on re-evaluating the services and programs with our partners. By the spring, we will have a comprehensive plan that we will roll out. Will it be ISYY? It will be an enhanced version of what we have now that better aligns with the youth who are transitioning out of the system, focusing then on supports for the youth and providing the services for them. We will ensure that, during this temporary closure, all of the services that they are currently receiving will continue. We will ensure that no youth is really left without any supports. That's a commitment that we made during this time, and they will very much be a part of that discussion.

Ms. White: There's a lot of stuff to unpack in there, including how they will be part of that decision. I guess what I am asking is: When will the youth who access ISYY right now — the minister has made reference to 13 individuals, so when will those 13 individuals have conversations with the department so that they can understand what the next steps are?

Hon. Ms. Frost: As I noted earlier, during this closure, we are convening an advisory committee and shaping the future and a vision of the programs. The youth will be a part of that process. My understanding is that as we were working through this — the question that is asked is: When and how have we consulted with the youth? The plans for service delivery and enhanced programming are being discussed right now. The youth who were not notified — the youth with case

managers — the services and supports that they are provided with will continue with them.

What I stated earlier is that we asked the media not to release the information until we have had the time and a comprehensive plan in place with the youth so that they are very much a part of the plan going forward. Those are things that we are working out right now.

With regard to the mandate of the advisory committee, it is: providing supports to our youth; looking at service delivery program partners; looking at oversight and guidance; looking at perhaps a new location; and looking at what these young people require operationally. Recommendations and reports that we received through the comprehensive review really came from the youth out of ISYY and from some of the other older youth we provide services to.

We certainly want to make sure that we listen to them as we move forward. Specific to ISYY, we have not had detailed discussions with them, but we have been meeting with them one-on-one and with their case managers around service delivery and models that better align with their service needs. Obviously, some really great discussion and recommendations have come forward in the Legislative Assembly through the public and through feedback from our partners, and we will make sure we collaborate and take all of that into consideration.

We are currently working on the plan to close ISYY and we are committed to engaging with the youth on what's next. That's an important piece and that's something we want to ensure — that we don't leave the youth behind, because my observation is that, historically, we have. The youth were not involved in discussions. We created programs for them. We had 384 youth in care, and now we have 20 in care. We have extended family programs. We're trying to provide services to our rural Yukon communities so the youth who transition into Whitehorse are supported, but what are we providing in the communities to transition the youth back?

The temporary closure identifies some of that. What I said earlier is that the two-year pilot project, as part of the mental wellness strategy — and that was never considered when we looked at service delivery in rural Yukon communities. Oftentimes we focused all our emphasis on what types of services and programs we can design and build around a Whitehorse-centred model or an urban-centred model and we don't provide services to rural Yukon communities, particularly indigenous communities that don't have any services — or have a lack of services.

We're really taking a comprehensive review and looking at that as we work with our partners. We want to ensure that we're able to maintain the services and that we engage with the youth and with our partners to develop the next stage of the plan.

Ms. White: I didn't realize it was an either/or — I thought that when we talked about working with youth, it wasn't like either in Whitehorse or the communities, or non-indigenous or indigenous. I thought that when we talked about youth, it was a whole thing. I also thought that when we talked about setting up the mental health hubs, that was one of the

reasons why we were doing it — so we could have reach into communities. So I didn't realize it was either/or, which it just sounded like there.

The minister again has referenced a comprehensive plan. She has referenced a comprehensive review. The initial idea was that the comprehensive plan will be designed and put together at the end of December. We are going to be talking to young people who were involved once we get the comprehensive plan in place so they know what the next steps are. I would suggest at this point in time — with the media attention that has been on the issue this week, I want to know what the plan is to make sure that any young person who has been accessing ISYY — the conversations are happening. Again, Mr. Chair, I will point out that it's not just kids in the care of government who are able to access ISYY; it's all young people. Any young person can access ISYY. So how is that outreach happening? I will start with that.

Hon. Ms. Frost: For the record and for clarity, what we want to ensure is that we provide continuous services for the youth who are currently accessing services through ISYY.

The development of a comprehensive plan will be worked out with the oversight or the management committee that I just described, with our partners, and that will involve the youth. That plan will come in the future. Right now we want to ensure that, as we look at the evaluation of ISYY, this transfers forward.

When I speak about the mental wellness hubs and about the services there, it is not either/or. We have to look at this as a whole. I certainly understand that the member opposite might not like the answer that I am giving, but that is exactly what we are doing. We have an obligation to the youth. We will ensure that the youth who are in our care are supported. We made that commitment, and we will continue to make the commitment — that the youth in our care and who are transitioning out of the system are supported. We have heard consistently that the supports through transition programs are perhaps not always supported by others in the Legislative Assembly, but it is imperative that we look at a different approach when we provide services to youth who are aging out of the system. We shape the programs to support them as they advance into the future. Whether it is with supported programs through Health and Social Services, through the mental wellness hubs or through Yukon College, we will ensure that we have a comprehensive and inclusive program that is supportive because we care. We care about youth.

Historically, perhaps, we didn't have services that they required or needed, and that is exactly what we have heard from the results of the Costanza report and what we have heard from some of the youth who are currently accessing the programs through ISYY. We want to ensure that they are successful, and we will certainly tie that into a comprehensive plan with the involvement of the youth.

Ms. White: Again, there was the term "in our care" used. The minister used the term "in our care". My concern is that ISYY is open to all youth, including those who are not in the care of government. Having been a teenager, like everyone in this Chamber, I continue to do work with young people. It

takes a long time to build up trust, in general, with the targeted audience of ISYY. I would suggest that, at this point in time, the trust has been built.

One of the concerns that I have is that, when we talk about the temporary closure or we talk about continuous service, and we have all of these great words — I just don't understand how. I appreciate that the youth in our care — in the care of government — will not lose services. I am concerned about the youth who are not in government care. One of the terms that the minister used again was "continuous service". So with the temporary closure, there will be continuous services. I would like to know how will there be continuous service for people who were accessing ISYY?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to thank the member opposite for her involvement with youth. A lot of us spend many years, months and days working with youth coaching and being involved with youth. I know that, as members of our society, it is imperative that we continue to engage with our youth because they are our future. We know that. It takes a whole community to raise a child. That is the teaching of our communities. We most certainly want to acknowledge that when I say "youth in our care", I don't specifically mean youth who are in the government group homes. It's youth to whom we provide services and supports. We have an obligation to ensure that the youth who access ISYY, or access any of our programs, are well supported.

What I have said — and I will make that clear again — is that we are not closing ISYY until we have a plan in place. I have not seen the plan yet. That is the plan that is being worked out with the youth, with our partners. I would be happy to have that conversation when I see the detailed plan and the department has the discussions with the youth. At that point, we will ensure that — what I have committed to and what I will continue to commit to — the supports that the youth are currently receiving out of the ISYY office are transitioned to some other venue, just not out of that downtown office. They will still be provided the same supports and services that they are accustomed to now.

Ms. White: Yesterday, in response to a question during Question Period, the minister said — and this is just quoting out of the Blues: "Well, we will look at efficient and effective services for all youth, better supported youth programming. We will continue to work with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre." I want to know: When the minister said, "We will continue to work with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre", what was she referring to? Are we referring to the emergency youth shelter? Are we talking about specific programming? Could the minister just elaborate on what she meant when she said, "We will continue to work with the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre."

Hon. Ms. Frost: I just want to acknowledge that the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre has been providing supports to youth for many, many years. I'm happy to say that their after-hours program continues to provide those supports and services. I know that because children from my community access the programming. I just want to acknowledge that.

As we look at our partnerships with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre and other entities in the community that provide supports to youth, those are the NGO groups that we will continue to work with and expand the best model forward. We will ensure that we bring to the discussion the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre and the Boys and Girls Club of Yukon, perhaps, or other organizations that provide services to youth in this city.

Ms. White: I too appreciate the work that the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre does. I was just wondering, in direct reference to the answer that I was given yesterday, what we were talking about. At this point in time, Skookum Jim Friendship Centre runs the emergency youth shelter.

Does the minister have any numbers as to what the daily or monthly uptake of the beds at the emergency youth shelter is?

Hon. Ms. Frost: No, I don't have those numbers in front of me, but I will endeavour to bring those back to the member opposite.

Ms. White: I am sure that the Member for Watson Lake would also appreciate that, so a letter is fine.

The minister has referenced multiple times how there used to be more than 300 kids in care. I think the number she has used is 324 kids in care. Can she give me a year for when there were 300 kids in Yukon in care?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I don't have that list in front of me, but I would be happy to provide that to the member opposite. I just can't find it right now, but I would be happy to provide that.

Ms. White: I also look forward to that.

I think that there is an important understanding that I would like to bring to the floor right now, which is that there can be children under the responsibility of government in many different situations. We can talk about them being in foster care. We can talk about them being in actual government-run group homes, or we can talk about kids with extended family. At this point in time — November 22, 2018 — how many extended-family agreements are there in Yukon?

Hon. Ms. Frost: As we looked at addressing the unique care needs of the children we have come in contact with — through our communities, through the First Nations or through other entities. We have looked at our partnerships and what we have seen historically is that the practice of the past was apprehension — going in and apprehending children. We know that Kwanlin Dün raised some concerns around accessing and apprehension. We also know that, in our communities, grandparents raise children through the extended-family care program or extended families adopt children through custom adoptions but are never supported.

What we have done is that we pulled together with our health commission — the Council of Yukon First Nations and through our health directors for the community — we looked at a family care supported program. That meant that we wanted to look at an extended program for supports and services for all children who are in rural Yukon communities. By doing that, we had to come up with an innovative way of

engaging with extended families and identifying caregiving needs and provide them with the same level of supports that we provided foster parents. As of today, I understand that we have somewhere between 75 and 80 of those extended-family care agreements throughout the Yukon.

Ms. White: When the minister says that there are only 20 children in government care — the reason why I am bringing this up is that maybe I wasn't clear the first time, so I want to be clearer. There are a variety of levels of care for children, including temporary care or permanent care. Some children are in group homes, some are in receiving homes and some are in foster care. Some children are placed with other family members. So when I asked about the extended family agreements — anywhere between 75 and 80 — those children are still a responsibility of government. They are still under the care of government, and I think that is really important.

Out of all of levels of care, either temporary or permanent, whether we are speaking about group homes, receiving homes, foster care or children placed with other family members — we are talking about all of these kids, so let's say from birth to 19 years old. In all the aforementioned forms of care, how many are in the care of government?

Hon. Ms. Frost: To the point of how many children we have in extended family care programs, we have 75 to 80. In the group homes, we have approximately 20. This tends to fluctuate up and down, though not by a lot. In total, we have approximately 100 children in the care program, whether they are foster homes, group homes or the extended family program. I absolutely agree that we want to provide the supports to the children that are under the responsibility of Health and Social Services; however, we work very closely with our First Nation communities and our partners to ensure that we provide the extended family care program so that we are not imposing, but we are partnering on the services that all of the children need within that program and that the caregiver is supported as well with the same level of supports that foster parents are currently receiving. Historically, this was not the case. This is something that is brand new to the Yukon.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for the answer. I have actually sent the minister a letter asking about this very thing. I don't think that any child or any caregiver caring for a child should live in poverty. Some of the concern is that sometimes, in order to get picked up, it can be a bit of a process. Sometimes, like the minister mentioned, those care agreements are informal, so you might go between mom's house and grandma's house, but if grandma has you for three weeks out of the month and is not able to collect funding for that, I have seen the effects. It means that groceries are sparse and times are tough.

The reason I was asking about the number of kids in care of government is because when the minister tells us that there are 20 in group homes, that's one number, but then the number is a lot bigger under the responsibility of government. I thank the minister for that. I would suggest at this point that the number is really much closer to 100.

In this last Sitting, for just about two months we have had opposition debates about increasing the rates of medical

travel. The answer we got to that was that it was going to be under the purview of the Health and Social Services review.

We have had conversations about other things on top of medical travel and we were told that it's going to fall under the Health and Social Services review. One of the questions I have is: Why isn't ISYY being reviewed under the Health and Social Services review and why is it a separate process?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I will maybe just say that it is because ISYY was a two-year pilot project. We extended it temporarily to allow us some transition time, and so we will continue to do that process that was pre-established. As we look at efficiencies in services and programs, we will continue to have a discussion. We have had two years in which to evaluate, as noted by the previous government. They designed and put in place ISYY for a purpose and intended it to close in two years while they transitioned into something else. Well, that something else was never considered, and we now know that we need to look at evaluating it unto itself. We will continue down that path with our youth and with our partners.

Ms. White: I thank the minister for the time and the officials as well. I do look forward to getting the information that the minister committed to getting back to us.

I'll also put out the pitch that reports and evaluations and comprehensive plans that happen in isolation — and by isolation I mean that the opposition doesn't have an opportunity to see it — it becomes really challenging to not think that something is being hidden. I do appreciate the high-level summaries that don't tell me anything, but I get that because that's what media also gets; but I'm not media. I deal with sensitive information all the time. I am able to do ATIPPs. I get redacted information. I'm happy to have a redacted report that still gives me more information than the high-level summary.

At this point in time, I think I'm going to move on. I look forward to the Yukon Development Corporation and Community Services. I thank the minister for her time.

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to thank the member opposite for the really great feedback and great discussion. I would like to thank the staff for their support as well and just will most certainly take under consideration all the recommendations and feedback as we evolve and we look at the whole operation and maintenance of our overall Health and Social Services budget, ensuring that we continue to support all our youth. That's one of the most important things.

There is a lot that's captured in the Health and Social Services portfolio. We talked a lot about continuing care, medical travel added pressures, youth and children's services, transgender policies and right through to ensured health services. As far as radon, we talked a lot about transitioning and closing down Macaulay Lodge. There is so much captured in the budget. We want to make sure that we don't lose sight of any of the initiatives and priorities that are brought forward as consideration for this government and for me as a minister.

Looking at the necessary feedback that we get on these engagement sessions that we facilitate in the Yukon, be it aging in place or the discussion that we're going to have on ISYY, I think those are really important. It's important that we

listen and that we hear what Yukoners are saying so that services align better with the needs of the people they are intended for, noting that, of course, health is one of the biggest cost drivers in government and that we have an obligation to ensure that we look at maximizing efficiencies. That's exactly what we intend to do through these many exercises.

I thank the members opposite for the questions, and I thank the support staff for being here.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Health and Social Services?

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

Ms. White: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, cleared or carried

Chair: Ms. White has, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, cleared or carried, as required. Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$3,091,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$3,828,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$6,919,000 agreed to

Department of Health and Social Services agreed to

Chair: The matter now before the Committee is Vote 22, Yukon Development Corporation, in Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter before the Committee is Vote 22, Yukon Development Corporation, in Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*.

Some Hon. Member: Question of privilege, Mr. Chair.

Question of privilege

Chair: Mr. Cathers, on a question of privilege.

Mr. Cathers: I rise on a question of privilege pursuant to section 7 of the Standing Orders. It is with regard to a press

release issued by the government under the Premier's signature this afternoon, entitled "Key legislation passes as fall sitting ends". I believe that, in issuing that press release, the Premier has violated the privilege of every other member of the Assembly, and I wish to quote the relevant section that includes listing legislation, including pieces of legislation that have yet to receive third and final reading by this Assembly. The Premier, by issuing this press release earlier this afternoon, has appeared to violate the privilege of the Assembly and indicated, presumably, an intention to whip the vote on the government side, but I believe that this is in breach of the standards of the Assembly and has, in fact, in my opinion, breached the parliamentary privilege of each and every member other than the Premier himself. So I will table here a copy of this press release, and I'll ask you to rule on that.

Chair's statement

Chair: The Chair has been advised that a question of privilege is not within the authority or the purview of the Chair of Committee of the Whole. The matter will have to be brought forward when the Speaker resumes the Chair. Thank you.

Mr. Pillai, please.

Yukon Development Corporation

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Mr. Chair, I would like to welcome back to the Assembly the senior advisor and policy analyst for the Yukon Development Corporation, Mr. Geoff Woodhouse.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I would also appreciate it if the Members of the Legislative Assembly took a moment to welcome two individuals to the gallery — two friends of mine — one I have known for awhile, and one is my new friend: Susan and my new friend Freda Walton, who are here today.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Pillai: With that, I will quickly turn it over to the members of the opposition to go through any further questions that they may have on the Yukon Development Corporation.

Ms. White: I thank the official for coming back. I appreciate the steadfastness of visitors in the gallery at this time of day on the last day of the Legislative Sitting. Thank you as well for that.

I think that the Yukon Development Corporation has the capacity to be one of the most exciting departments in the Government of Yukon. I was really lucky to actually have conversations with people who initially set it up — Mr. Alwarid and Piers were instrumental in setting that up. One of the reasons why I say that I think it has the capacity to be the most exciting is that energy is really exciting. I am not sure if the minister has picked it up or not, but I love energy. I think energy is one of the most exciting things to talk about. But more than that, initially when the corporation was set up, it dealt not just with energy, but it dealt with economic

development. YDC used to be a driving force behind, sometimes, maybe ideas that were further along the wacky spectrum and ones that actually worked quite well. My hope is that, in the future, YDC can go from just concentrating on energy and looking at economic development by moving their offices into the innovation centre. I think the ability to meet people who are really fired up with great ideas has just increased a million times.

One of my hopes is that we can see the direction of the Yukon Energy Corporation change with a letter from the minister.

Again, I thank the minister for his good sportsmanship the last time we were up when I drew attention to the website and its lack of relevance in this day and age. One of the reasons I brought that up was that so many exciting things happen underneath the Yukon Development Corporation. Even if the ideas don't work — even when the tests happen and the pilots go out and all that investigation happens — you still learn from those mistakes. Those things should be shared, because another community might look at it and say, "This biomass idea didn't work here, but maybe it will work with us because we are a little bit different. Our environment is a little bit different. Our trees are a little bit different."

I thank the minister, and I look forward to seeing all of those exciting things happening on the website. I am excited that the Yukon Development Corporation now doesn't have to work in isolation and they have people around. I am sure that coffee breaks are little more exciting than they used to be. I look forward to seeing what the future brings for the Yukon Development Corporation. I think some of the things from the past weren't bad. Economic development and being an economic driver in the territory was really exciting.

Some of the ideas were terrible, Mr. Chair. I admit that they didn't go very well. But some of the things that the Yukon Development Corporation tried were really interesting, and there is potential.

With that, I thank the minister and the official for being here. I look forward to the spring conversation about all of the exciting things that will be happening in the coming budget year. I look forward to going online and seeing a website that grabs my attention and shows me how many exciting things are happening. With that, I just thank the minister and the official for their time.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: In closing, I would just mention that the history of the Yukon Development Corporation is an intriguing and, at times, exciting one.

I really appreciate hearing that focus on the diversification of the business lines of the Yukon Development Corporation for the member opposite.

I know that we, within the organization, discuss different concepts and ideas, and moving out of just the ideas of energy is something that I think has been discussed year after year. I do think that the challenge in government or for Crown corporations, in many ways — of course, we built a culture where failure is not usually accepted, and so, therefore, it makes it difficult. Then when you get into the financial lines of business of the Yukon Development Corporation — where

they were holding significant debt instruments previously for a third party — that also becomes difficult when you are looking at the risk tolerance that the public has. I will be looking for support from across the aisle as we look at different concepts, and we will hopefully be bringing some new concepts forward over the latter part of the mandate. I will be reaching out to my colleague from Takhini-Kopper King in the spring, and we can have an opportunity to look at the new space and maybe discuss some of the things that we are undertaking that are quite exciting when it comes to storage.

I think that I will just finally say that the point is well-taken. We have had some humour around our digital footprint, but the truth is that it is one of our most important communication tools, and that is where people go to understand what we are doing and what we are accomplishing. We are proud of the work that has been executed over the last while — some things that are tangible and make real differences. I'm proud of the work that our teams have done on switching over LEDs in Old Crow, which means that 5,400 litres of diesel don't have to be flown to Old Crow each year. That is substantial. Next summer, when we get to a point where the solar project is in place — which we have had a chance to support, both financially and technically, but the work was done by that community. The new chief and, of course, Rosa Brow — key people like that. When you are trying to displace 190,000 litres of diesel — those are substantial changes. There are things happening now.

I do also respect that the member opposite has touched on storage. We know that storage is kind of the linchpin for us in many ways as we look at some of our renewables. We are going to continue to be able to focus on that and look at different third-party options to access dollars. Hopefully we can, in 2019, talk about some of the tangible concepts we are looking at when it comes to storage.

With that, I will close. I thank the Assembly. I am glad that we had the opportunity to clear up all the questions today on the Yukon Development Corporation concerning the supplementary budget, and I look forward to our Spring Sitting, where we will have more discussions on the work and finances of the organization.

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

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

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Interim Electrical Rebate

Interim Electrical Rebate expenditure of \$170,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Operation and Maintenance

Total of Other Operation and Maintenance in the amount of nil cleared

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$170,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital in the amount of nil agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$170,000 agreed to Yukon Development Corporation agreed to

Chair: The next matter before the Committee is Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: Disagreed.

Chair: We will proceed with the Department of Community Services.

Department of Community Services — *continued*

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Chair, we would ask for a brief recess so that we can get our officials in the building.

Mr. Cathers: My understanding of the Standing Orders is that a recess of the Assembly does require unanimous consent and it was not granted in this area due to the short time remaining in the day and the amount of time already taken with recesses.

We are ready to ask questions and debate this now. I am sure the minister's officials can come and assist him as the debate begins.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: In a moment, I will welcome to the Assembly Deputy Minister Paul Moore and Director of Finance Jessica Schultz. I am happy to have them back to talk about Community Services, and I am happy to respond to questions from the opposition regarding the supplementary budget.

Mr. Cathers: I am pleased to have the opportunity to return to the debate on Community Services in the remaining time in this Sitting. I am going to ask the minister a couple of questions, first of all, on two slightly different areas. One is pertaining to planned lot development in rural Yukon. Could the minister indicate what steps the government is looking at taking for rural lot development in communities outside of Whitehorse and unincorporated areas in the next year?

I know that the budget itself is in the development stage, but at this point I would appreciate if the minister could indicate what priorities for development are on the government's radar screen that are either planned to proceed or being seriously considered by Community Services. I know that my colleague the Member for Watson Lake and her constituents in the Town of Watson Lake are very interested in what steps, if any, are being taken in responding to their needs. I would also appreciate a listing of others.

While the minister and officials look for that information, the other question I would ask in the beginning stages of our short debate this afternoon is: What steps is the government looking at taking as far as the risk of wildland fires, particularly in municipalities? We know that recently a group made a presentation to Whitehorse City Council regarding this matter. I have raised this matter with some of the minister's colleagues. I believe I have raised it with the minister in the past as well. The question, again, is: What steps are the government taking, in addition to the assets that have been acquired, to look at issues around the reduction of wildfire risk in and around Yukon municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I heard two questions there; the first was regarding rural lot development and the second was regarding addressing the risk of wildfires, especially with respect to our communities. If I got either of those wrong, I will ask the member opposite to clarify when he gets back up.

First of all, with respect to rural lot development, we have recently done some development in the member opposite's riding in Lake Laberge around Grizzly Valley. We have also done some north of Mayo. Those are recent activities. We have some planned work coming up in the communities of Carmacks, Haines Junction, Teslin, Watson Lake and Whitehorse — and I am talking beyond Whistle Bend as well.

I can answer further questions on that. I will also say that in meeting with municipalities, all of the municipalities have expressed some interest. I think that is an ongoing dialogue at all times — just one second, Mr. Chair.

If I can just take back what I just said — what I was reading was about available inventory. I will have to just check with my officials to find out where that dialogue is happening. I have had the dialogue with Watson Lake. I have had the dialogue with the City of Dawson. I will just confirm with my officials regarding other developments and where they are happening. I was correct when I said that when we go to talk with municipalities, we have conversations with them at all times about whether they have a desire to have lot development and to work on that with them.

The second question was about specifics regarding wildland fire management. Here are a few things that I can talk about — I wasn't sure that I heard the question specifically from the member opposite. I think he asked about — and I'm responding to — what specifically we are doing right now. To make our Yukon communities more resilient and to defend them from uncontrolled wildfire, the Government of Yukon works on firesmarting every year. Each year, the Yukon invests close to \$1 million to space trees and clean underbrush in the forests surrounding our communities. Approximately \$300,000 of this fund is used to firesmart Whitehorse annually. This is all in an effort to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Wildland Fire Management continues to work with the City of Whitehorse to develop plans and implement forest fuel management initiatives. I mentioned that earlier today in this Legislature in response to a question from the Leader of the Third Party about work that we are doing with the city. I said that I had met with the mayor this week to give a response.

Wildfires are typically started by lightning and/or humans. We can't control the lightning; however, we can reduce the amount of human-caused fires, so it is everyone's responsibility. I will always ask when I stand up that we work to make sure that we are extinguishing campfires and only burning brush with a permit, especially when there's a risk of fire at a certain time of year.

We continue to work with our partners to identify hazards and work on solutions. Vegetation management is an important component to hazard reduction plans. I will also say, as I said earlier in response to the question during Question Period from the Leader of the Third Party, that I

have met with the Joint Task Force North folks under Operation Nanook. From my very first meeting that we had with them — they asked me if there were any priorities that we should work on in terms of dealing with emergency response here in the territory, and I said that definitely it was a wildfire that would impact a community. I know that they have been in preparation for probably a year now on that issue, and I know that they're doing an exercise — I believe it's a fire that will start in the area of Kookatsoon Lake and will then move north toward the City of Whitehorse. That has been in the planning stages so that we can practise coordinating all of our teams around the emergency response, whether that is the local volunteer firefighters, Wildland Fire Management, the Emergency Measures Organization office, search and rescue, the RCMP, et cetera. It's to coordinate all of those groups and to see it as a real exercise to help us to prepare in case it happens someday.

I'll just turn back now to the earlier question asking about work in our communities that we see on the horizon. I have work in Dawson City — for example, at the north end of town and also some feasibility work on the Slinky mine parcel. Additional future residential and industrial parcels have been identified, and we're working with Dawson City to ensure that they are captured as future development areas in their official community plan. A number of potential areas for future urban/country residential/industrial development have been identified in the Carmacks area. The Rural Land Development unit will conclude feasibility work this winter and finalize development project schedules.

I know as well, in talking with the community there — both the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation and the Village of Carmacks — that there is an interest in the Gateway project and the bypass. If or when the bypass road goes in, then there is an opportunity for lot development, and they have flagged that to us. I have certainly flagged it across to the Minister of Highways and Public Works.

Finally, there are a number of parcels for future urban, residential and industrial development that have been identified in the Watson Lake area. Geotechnical and other work is being completed, and the Rural Land Development unit will finalize development project schedules this fall.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the list from the minister, and I'm sure that he may not have some of the information that I'm going to touch on immediately at his fingertips, so I would just ask him, rather than waiting until the Spring Sitting anticipated in March, to do a legislative return if he could commit to getting back to me afterward with information in a more detailed manner regarding anticipated lot development. I know that my colleague, the Member for Watson Lake, as well as my colleague, the Member for Kluane, are very interested in knowing what the government is looking at doing in their ridings in response to community interest in land development.

As soon as the minister is in a position where he can provide information about what developments are currently being discussed, that would be appreciated by me and my colleagues so they can share that with their constituents in the

spirit of openness and accountability, but also in recognition of the fact that, if people are considering purchasing a lot — whether in rural Yukon or in Whitehorse — it does require some planning and some effort to have your finances in a situation where you're capable of buying a lot and advancing the development of it. With the summer season being short, as early as government is able to indicate what's being contemplated, it does help the private sector and individual citizens do that.

If the minister could commit to getting back to me with more information about rural land development in a letter between now and the Spring Sitting, that would be much appreciated.

I would also like to note that I do welcome the minister's indication that Joint Task Force North is again looking at doing Operation Nanook activities here, specifically with regard to a potential wildfire situation. As the minister will know, this isn't the first time an exercise of that type has occurred. I would note that — while I believe an exercise of that type definitely has value — as the minister will know from his officials, the risk, if a wildfire occurred in the wrong spot in a municipality — and probably most especially in the City of Whitehorse — in the wrong conditions and the wrong wind conditions, a wildfire could get out of hand quite quickly.

I'm not saying that to be alarmist; I'm simply saying, as the minister knows, that there have been some situations to the south of us — in Telegraph Creek, Fort McMurray and California — that have been very stark and tragic reminders to society as a whole that the boreal forest that we all prize so greatly can be a problem if there's too much fuel load in urban or municipal areas. If a fire occurs during dry conditions, it may quickly outstrip the ability of state governments, provincial governments and territorial governments to actually address it.

I would just encourage the minister to identify this as a priority area for working with the City of Whitehorse and with municipalities across the territory on realizing that we do need to have some serious — and, in some cases, probably tough — conversations about this. This is an area on which I often philosophically disagree with our colleagues in the NDP. I do agree with many of the points raised by the Leader of the NDP earlier today regarding it, and I would just encourage the minister to make this issue and planning for what steps need to be taken to reduce the risk of wildfire, especially around municipalities — a high priority for work with municipal governments, as well as First Nation governments and the public.

I'm going to move on to another area related to forest firefighting, and just ask two specific questions regarding the government's capacity to respond. As the minister knows, both the Whitehorse air tanker base and the Ross River air tanker base are in need of upgrade. Could the minister indicate what the government is looking at doing in those areas and indicate whether this is a priority for moving these projects forward in the near future?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, the air-tanker base in Whitehorse is one that is on our radar screen. I will have to turn back to check with other department officials regarding the Ross River air tanker base; that is not one that I know of offhand, but I am happy to find that information.

My understanding of the work that needs to happen at the airport tanker base is that it will be a project over several years and that it had to be coordinated. Part of this was working with Highways and Public Works and their work around airports, including the work on the *Public Airports Act*. That was one of those things that we saw and identified as a necessary piece, or an important piece, to move forward. We also wanted it coordinated within the capital plan. I agree with the member opposite that it is important that we let the private sector know when these projects will be happening so that they can take as much advantage of the projects as possible.

I don't have any information or announcement today about the timing of it. I do know that it is in the planning stages and that we should expect it in the coming years, but I don't have a date as of yet. I know that we will be working it into the five-year plan. I will leave it there for the time being and I will see if there are supplementary questions, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the answer from the minister and I would just encourage him to make both of those air tanker base projects a priority, because they are both in need of work. I know — having personally toured the Whitehorse air tanker base — that facility is quite small and it does not adequately meet the needs we have to support planes at this time — it just does the job. I would encourage the minister to look at that. I know he has to seek approval from his Cabinet colleagues as well.

I'm going to ask a few more specific questions — which I expect the minister may need to get back to me by letter on a specific date, if he would be so kind as to do that. After this, I'm also going to provide an opportunity for the Member for Takhini-Kopper King, who had a question that she wanted to ask before we wrap up debate on this budget, so I will provide her with the opportunity to do so.

If the minister could provide me, again — I would ask him by letter, if he doesn't have that information immediately at his fingertips — what the total number of projects funded under the rural electrification program this year was and how many of those projects were for on-grid renewable energy projects that, as the minister may know as his officials will know, was enabled through the changes that were made in the legislation a few years ago in what was then Bill No. 80.

I would also ask the minister if we could get an update via letter on the rural well program, both in and out of municipalities — how many projects were approved and funded this fiscal year, both in and out of municipalities and broken up by community, if possible.

I am also just going to touch on another area that I raised with minister earlier. I would ideally like to spend quite awhile with the minister in debate on this. Unfortunately, our time does not permit it this afternoon. I had raised a number of concerns and questions with the minister earlier in Written Question No. 30 regarding Emergency Medical Services.

I do appreciate the information the minister provided. There were a number of questions the minister did not provide the information, citing privacy concerns. Those include the number of paramedics employed as auxiliary on call who have unsuccessfully applied on a full-time position that was given to a non-resident of the Yukon in the past two years — the number of paramedics from Outside with less than one year of job experience post-graduation who were offered full-time positions within the last two years.

I would also note, just as I'm going through this release and trying to speedread and talk at the same time, since I just received it this afternoon, that there have been concerns. I understand the limitations on the minister's ability to deal with personnel matters or to speak to them on the floor of the Assembly, so my primary objective at this point is not to give the minister a rough time about this issue, not even to ask specifically for answers at this point in time, but to flag an important concern to his attention and that of officials. There are concerns that I have heard from within Emergency Medical Services about what seems to be a pattern to some of the long-term non-permanent staff of positions being offered to either more recently hired staff or, in some cases, even to people from outside the territory who have applied on positions.

I also understand that recently in the application for ground supervisor positions — what I have been advised is that all the Yukoners currently working for EMS who applied for those positions were screened out by a written essay, and that it was the first time there had ever been a requirement for a written essay, and that there was bafflement from staff who applied about what relevance a written essay has in terms of the competencies of a paramedic.

I just want to flag that issue to the minister. I want to again emphasize that I am not trying to make the minister's life more difficult. I am not even asking for an answer this afternoon.

I just want to alert the minister and officials to the fact that I have serious concerns based on what I have been hearing. Rather than the minister even responding to them specifically, I would simply encourage him and officials to take those concerns seriously, as well as the ones identified earlier, and look at them from the question of what government can do to better support Yukoners who are working for EMS in moving up into more permanent positions — full-time positions, supervisory positions and other positions — and how they can go about achieving that so that it has a positive impact on morale. Also, it would provide the opportunity for long-term employment that opens up a whole host of benefits, including the ability to go get a mortgage on a house that is not available really for auxiliary-on-call employees — especially longer term ones.

With that, Mr. Chair, and just in recognition of the time, I would actually just encourage the minister — unless he has specific information at his fingertips — to allow the opportunity for the Member for Takhini-Kopper King to ask her questions. I would encourage the minister to please take

those concerns I have identified seriously as well as getting back at a later date with the information that I requested.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will try to be brief because I do want to give a chance to the Third Party to ask a question as well.

In 2017, 68 projects were completed under the rural electrification program, including 39 solar projects and 41 domestic well water projects that were completed.

I appreciate that we all want our public service to move up. We had great comments. They weren't in the tributes, but today there is someone who has been here 40 years who we all appreciate. What I want to say is that the Department of Community Services has professional HR and recruitment officials. We work under the *Public Service Act*. We work with our unions. We work with the Public Service Commission. I don't know of any outstanding issues. I am happy to work to try to help our public service move up through the ranks. I would love to see it. With that, I will sit down, Mr. Chair.

Ms. White: The first thing I would like to do is thank the department for the absolute speed — I was asking questions about elevators that sounded bizarre. They did. I appreciate that they sounded bizarre, but on November 5, the Department of Community Services and the building and safety branches issued policy 2018-01 that made elevators so much safer in the territory. We now require that people who work on elevators actually have the skills and qualifications, which was what my question was about when I was asking it before. What we saw were the swiftest motions ever in the department. They heard what I was asking, even though it sounded weird to start with, and they made the change. I just want to congratulate the department and thank them for the fluidity in which they did that.

I have one more pitch for elevators, Mr. Chair. There was an OIC that changed where elevators from a certain date had to have operating telephones. The reason why an operating telephone is so important for an elevator is that if you get caught in an elevator and you don't have a cellphone, that's the way you get out. The problem is that it only started on a certain date and it didn't go backwards. My pitch to the department right now is — the challenge is that you made the change so quickly and you made sure that people who work on elevators have the qualifications, but my request is that you look at expanding the regulation change that made it that all new elevators installed had to have working telephones and that we make sure that all elevators installed in the territory have working telephones. For example, there is an elevator in the building that serves the Human Rights Commission. It is not visible from the street. It does not have a working telephone. If a person was to be stuck in that elevator on a Friday night and no one knew they were there, they might not be found until Monday because there is not a working telephone.

My challenge to the department is: Let's fix that last problem with elevators, and then I am almost confident I won't talk about elevators again.

With that, I want to thank the Department of Community Services for their quick action and their change, because that policy change is huge in the territory. Thank you very much.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could welcome Mr. Rudy Couture, former Sergeant-at-Arms, to the Legislative Assembly today.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Streicker: With respect to elevators, I am going to thank the member opposite for her suggestion regarding all elevators having telephones. I will just note that the group that deals with elevators — the building inspections office — they aren't always a very thanked group, but I can tell you from working with them that their whole purpose is to try to ensure that we have safety in this territory. There are many groups that deal with public safety, but theirs is one in particular.

Often people will say, "Why do I need that? I don't want to bother with that." But really, what we are trying to do is ensure that there is a level of safety across the territory. I am also not going to take credit — I have just turned to them and I have asked — but I do think they deserve credit for pulling things together so quickly. How they explained it to me was that this was not a new policy that was developed. What they did was they grabbed existing policy and tried to make it very apparent for users so that they were aware; so I will call it an emphasis or a public communication on an existing set of policies.

Again, thanks to the member opposite because she raised these questions and drew them into the light. It provided an opportunity for the branch to try to clarify things around that.

I'm not sure if I finished the thought. While I am on these disjointed thoughts, I have just a shout-out to Hansard for another Session well done. I thank them because, as political folks, when we get up, we have rambling thoughts and sentences, which don't always finish, and they certainly help us out.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Sorry — just me, Mr. Chair — not other members of this Legislature, just me.

What I meant to say earlier was that I appreciate the suggestion from the Member for Takhini-Kopper King regarding operational telephones. We do want to ensure that our elevators are safe. I am going to take her suggestion and I am going to turn it back to the department and find out what it is that we can do on a go-forward basis. I appreciate those comments.

I can't recall whether the Official Opposition had other questions that they wanted to ask — maybe not. I will just take this moment to thank the members of the Department of Community Services who have appeared here today, while I'm on my feet. With that, Mr. Chair, maybe we can get through the line-by-line debate.

Chair: Is there any further general debate on Community Services?

Mr. Cathers: Considering the hour we are at, I think that line-by-line debate would not be the most effective use of the House's time, considering how short of it we are this afternoon. I do appreciate the information that the Minister of Community Services has provided. I would also like to thank him and to thank the officials with him, as well as those who are not here in the Assembly, for the work that they have done on that.

Chair: Order, please.

Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)

Chair: The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 30th day of the 2018 Fall Sitting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Chair, the government directs that Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, and Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, be called at this time.

Bill No. 207: Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19 — continued

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*.

The Chair will now recognize Mr. Silver, as the sponsor of Bill No. 207, for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Silver that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$4,760,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$8,628,000 agreed to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$13,388,000 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedules A and B agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Silver that the Chair report Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 25: Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018) — continued

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*. The Chair will now recognize Ms. McPhee, as the sponsor of Bill No. 25, for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. McPhee that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Clauses 1 through 8 agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. McPhee that the Chair report Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

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

Speaker resumes the Chair

Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(2)

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Mr. Hutton: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

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

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Some Hon. Member: Question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Question of privilege

Speaker: The Member for Lake Laberge, on a question of privilege.

Mr. Cathers: I will be very brief in indicating why I believe the question of privilege and a breach of parliamentary privilege by the Premier of every other Member of the Assembly may have occurred. I'm going to just briefly cite, for your reference, a ruling by the Speaker of the House of Commons earlier this year with regard to presumptuous language of a bulletin issued by a government agency in which, in June, Speaker of the House Geoff Regan "ruled the case was a *prima facie* case of privilege — serious enough to warrant further study." I'll quote briefly from what Speaker Regan said at the time: "The vast majority of the information was presented as though the provisions will definitely be coming into effect or are already the law of the land..."

"Parliament's authority in scrutinizing and adopting legislative proposals remains unquestionable and should not be taken for granted." With regard to that ruling, I should note that the parliamentary committee, according to an article by CBC, is currently looking into whether or not that agency should be found in contempt of Parliament for the offending bulletin.

Of course, the issue that I raised — which I was directed, when I raised it Committee, to raise it with the Speaker — is a press release issued earlier this afternoon by the Yukon government under the Premier's signature, entitled "Key legislation passes as fall sitting ends". The press release refers to legislation — including two acts that have not yet passed this Assembly, those being the *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, which also increases the Premier's salary. The *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, as well, is referenced in the press release, and the press release itself specifically says, "Significant legislation focused on

modernization, openness and inclusivity will pass as the fall sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly ends today."

With regard to both the ruling made by Speaker Regan in the House of Commons and the press release issued by the Premier today, which seems to have crossed the same line in presuming a decision that has not yet been made by the Legislative Assembly, it appears to me that, in addition to it clearly showing a lack of respect for the Assembly, it may be a breach of the parliamentary privilege of every other Member of the Legislative Assembly by the Premier.

I would ask you to rule on that matter.

Speaker: Are there any further submissions on the question of privilege?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: An alleged breach of parliamentary privilege is a very serious matter. The Member for Lake Laberge makes a serious accusation here today. I submit to you that the quote — and I haven't read the full decision, obviously, from Speaker Regan — is not applicable in this situation. It is distinguishable on the basis of the facts.

There are very rare matters of genuine breaches of privilege. I have reviewed the press release that was mentioned by the Member for Lake Laberge. It does not raise a question of privilege or even a point of order, for that matter, as nothing in that document in any way interferes with the members of this House discharging their duties and responsibilities.

Speaker: Is there any further submissions on the question of privilege?

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: The Chair is prepared to rule that the Member for Lake Laberge has raised a question of privilege at the earliest opportunity. However, the Chair is not yet prepared to rule whether there is or is not a *prima facie* question of privilege in this case.

Questions of privilege are complicated matters, and the rulings are of great importance to the House. Therefore, the Chair will take the question of privilege under advisement and provide a ruling when the House next meets.

We will now proceed with third reading of government bills. Standing Order 76(2)(d) states, "On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Speaker of the Assembly, when recalled to the Chair after the House has been in the Committee of the Whole, shall:

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

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

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

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

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, the government directs that Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, and Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, be called at this time.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Bill No. 207: *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 207, standing in the name of the Hon Mr. Silver.

Hon. Mr. Silver: I move that Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 207, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Agree.

Mr. Gallina: Agree.

Mr. Adel: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Mr. Hutton: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Disagree.

Mr. Kent: Disagree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Disagree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Disagree.

Ms. Hanson: Disagree.

Ms. White: Disagree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yea, eight nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried. *Motion for third reading of Bill No. 207 agreed to*

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 207 has passed this House.

Bill No. 25: *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 25, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. McPhee.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I move that Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 25, entitled *Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018)*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question to the House. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Frost: Agree.

Mr. Gallina: Agree.

Mr. Adel: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Agree.

Mr. Hutton: Agree.

Mr. Hassard: Disagree.

Mr. Kent: Disagree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Disagree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Disagree.

Ms. Hanson: Disagree.

Ms. White: Disagree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 10 yea, eight nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried. *Motion for third reading of Bill No. 25 agreed to*

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 25 has passed this House.

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

Commissioner Bernard enters the Chamber accompanied by her Aides-de-Camp

ASSENT TO BILLS

Commissioner: Please be seated.

Speaker: Madam Commissioner, the Assembly has, at its present session, passed certain bills to which, in the name

and on behalf of the Assembly, I respectfully request your assent.

Clerk: *Act to Amend the Forest Resources Act and the Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act (2018); Societies Act; Technical Amendments Act (No. 2), 2018; Lobbyists Registration Act; Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19; Coroners Act; Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act (2018).*

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

On behalf of Yukoners, I would like to thank you for all of your work this Sitting. I would like to invite you to the third annual Commissioner's Christmas open house on Friday, December 7, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Taylor House. There will be homemade food, cocoa, music, and Santa will drop by for a visit. If you have been good, you can ask him for something for Christmas. As usual, this is a family friendly event.

I would also like to invite you to my first New Year's Levee on Tuesday, January 1, 2019. There will be food again — you will see as a theme in our events — youth entertainment and awards ceremonies.

In closing, I would like to share the wise words of Buddy the Elf from the movie *Elf*: "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."

Thank you; merci.

Applause

Commissioner leaves the Chamber

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

Before I adjourn the Fall Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, I have a few brief comments. First, I would like to thank the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms for his thoughtful Yukon wood tree ornament, which he has created and provided to all members and the Clerks at the Table. Thank you, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms.

Applause

Speaker: Further, I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole and on behalf of all MLAs to Clerk Floyd McCormick, Deputy Clerk Linda Kolody, Clerk of Committees Allison Lloyd, Director of Administration, Finance and Systems Helen Fitzsimmons, Operations Manager Brenda McCain-Armour, our administrative assistant Lyndsey Amundson, as well as Sergeant-at-Arms Karina Watson and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Harris Cox, who all provide invaluable support to all MLAs and their staff in order for all of us to continue to do the important work that we are sent here to do on behalf of all Yukoners.

Applause

Speaker: As well, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled team at Hansard for their timely and

accurate service, which somehow magically appears in the Blues every morning. Thank you very much to Hansard.

Applause

Speaker: Finally, and in keeping with Madam Commissioner's comments, I wish Members of the Legislative Assembly all the best for the holiday season. Safe travels as you recharge your batteries and return to your respective ridings to connect with your loved ones, extended family and friends and with your constituents.

Thank you very much.

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

The House adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

The following sessional paper was tabled November 22, 2018:

34-2-85

Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Annual Report 2017-2018 (Dendys)

The following legislative returns were tabled November 22, 2018:

34-2-177

Response to matter outstanding from discussion with Ms. McLeod related to the general debate on Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services, in Bill No. 207, *Second Appropriation Act, 2018-19* — territorial health investment fund (Frost)

34-2-178

Response to oral question from Ms. McLeod re: radon testing (Frost)

34-2-179

Response to Written Question No. 30 re: Yukon Emergency Medical Services auxiliary-on-call paramedics (Streicker)