



Yukon Legislative Assembly

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HANSARD

Thursday, April 28, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2022 Spring Sitting

SPEAKER — Hon. Jeremy Harper, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun
DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Annie Blake, MLA, Vuntut Gwitchin
DEPUTY CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Emily Tredger, MLA, Whitehorse Centre

CABINET MINISTERS

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

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Yukon Party

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

THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

Kate White	Leader of the Third Party Takhini-Kopper King
Emily Tredger	Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre
Annie Blake	Vuntut Gwitchin

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

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Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
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Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Joseph Mewett
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, April 28, 2022 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Speaker's statement in recognition of Brenda McCain-Armour's retirement

Speaker: Today we mark the retirement of one of our own — Brenda McCain-Armour. In the gallery today, we have Brenda McCain-Armour's wife, Gail Armour; their daughter, Mikayla McCain; Brenda's mother, Marcia Seely; and from the Legislative Assembly, Lyndsey Amundson and Helen Fitzsimmons. Please join me in welcoming them.

Brenda McCain-Armour has announced her retirement, which will begin July 20, 2022. She will be on pre-retirement leave until January 3, 2023.

Brenda has had an interesting working life. She worked as a supervisor at the Gadzoosdaa student residence for the Department of Education from 1994 to 2006. During her term, she supervised 39 teenagers, developing strong relationships with the students and their families.

From 2003 to 2006, Brenda worked as a co-owner of Cozy Comforts Boarding Kennels. She was also a supervisor at the Canada Post Corporation from 2001 to 2008. Brenda and her partner, Gail, had a family business called the Armour Lawncare and Snow Removal company from 2010 and only recently began winding up their interest in this business this year in preparation for retirement.

Brenda was hired as the Assistant Chief Electoral Officer responsible for planning, organizing, and managing the conduct of elections of Members of the Legislative Assembly and of trustees of school boards and members of school councils. The person holding this position is denied the right to vote in elections conducted under either the *Elections Act* or the *Education Act*.

When Jo-Ann Waugh retired on March 28, 2013 as the Chief Electoral Officer, Brenda acted as the Chief Electoral Officer until August 11, 2014 when the new Chief Electoral Officer was appointed.

On March 23, 2015, Brenda started working with Helen as the operations manager. As March 23 is Helen's birthday, Helen said it was one of the best birthday presents she has received. During her term as operations manager, Brenda provided senior-level support to Helen for administrative, financial, human resources, and information management for the Legislative Assembly, the Elections Yukon office, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, Office of the Ombudsman, and Child and Youth Advocate Office.

The Legislative Assembly Office has a wide range of responsibilities with a small number of staff, and Brenda has always been willing to pitch in wherever needed. Brenda has always provided reliable customer service to all our stakeholders.

The Legislative Assembly, especially Helen, acknowledges the huge loss of a dedicated employee like Brenda. Our best wishes to Brenda and her family. Have fun in your new home in Invermere.

Brenda, we hope to see you from time to time on your many expected visits to the north.

Applause

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I will just add regarding Brenda — she was the first person to tell me that there is no "Mr. Hansard". She was very kind in my first year.

In the gallery today is a young man who has a budding curiosity for government and policy. He is here with his mother, so I would ask the Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly to help me welcome Jeffrey Sjodin and his mother, Kristin Young.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Today we have a number of people in the House. There are some from the Special Olympics and some for the tribute for the National Day of Mourning today.

I would like to take a moment to welcome you all to the House, and I will ask my colleagues to do the same. There are so many of you today, if I miss anyone, my apologies up front. We do have friends and family here, and I do thank you so much for coming.

From Special Olympics, we have Anna Thompson, Frank Marnoch, Ernest Chua, Helen Slama, Leah Greenway, Scott Lillies, Mike Pare, Serge Michaud, Andrew Elines, Heather Menzies, Mikayla Duncan and, as I said, some friends and family from the Special Olympics.

I am going to continue just to go — we'll save it to the end. I have a few folks here from the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Compensation Board: Bruce Milligan and Kurt Dieckmann. I have had the honour to work with both these gentlemen. They have dedicated most of their lives to workplace safety and making sure our workplaces are safer. I would like everyone to give this entire group a rousing bout of applause.

Applause

Mr. Dixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming some guests to the gallery. We have from our office our chief of staff, Danny Macdonald. Accompanying Danny is McKenna Lyslo. McKenna is a very bright young Yukoner, who is a student at Dalhousie University. She has accepted a position in the Yukon Party caucus for the summer. Please welcome them to the gallery.

Applause

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask members to join me in welcoming to the gallery a constituent who is here for the tribute to Brenda McCain-Armour — Amy Isles.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any tributes?

TRIBUTES

In recognition of the Day of Mourning

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Liberal government to recognize the Day of Mourning. The workplace is where many of us spend most of our time. It defines who we are as people and as citizens. It is a place that, for many, is always the same. It provides security, support, and a sense of belonging, but for some, a workplace injury or death may shatter that sense of identity and security.

Last year, 793 workers were injured on the job. Of those, 377 were serious enough that they lost time from work. These people are our co-workers, our friends, and our family — the people we love.

Last year, four workers died as a result of their job. I am pained by the fact that people still die in the Yukon simply because they went to work, and workers still suffer injuries on a daily basis. Every worker has the right to return home safe and sound at the end of each and every work day. By working together with employers, workers, and our health and safety partners, we can prevent worker injuries and deaths before they occur.

Our workplaces should empower us. They should be a place where we feel safe, respected, and supported, all the while being safe in the knowledge that there are systems in place to protect us so that we can be the best that we can be. Work and safety are, of course, complementary initiatives. Together they are stronger. I know this because I have seen how workplace health and safety practices are getting better year after year here in the Yukon.

In fact, this government recently passed legislation that provides a modern, cohesive framework with the primary goal of preventing workplace injuries and caring for injured workers. The *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act* contributes to a safer, supportive workplace for all Yukoners, something that is critically important as we reflect on this Day of Mourning. Mr. Speaker, no one should lose their life at work.

So, I stand before you today to remember and honour those lives lost or injured due to a workplace tragedy, to collectively renew our commitment to improve health and safety in the workplace and prevent further injuries, illnesses, and death.

On this, the Day of Mourning, we remind ourselves that we can, we must, and we will work together to ensure that all workers come home to their families each and every day. I'm encouraged by the many Yukoners who were able to join me earlier today for the virtual Day of Mourning ceremony organized by the Yukon Federation of Labour.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to commemorate the national Day of Mourning in Canada.

The national Day of Mourning was established April 28, 1984 to remember those who have been injured, suffered illness, or lost their lives in the workplace. This date was chosen at the time because it coincided with the 70th anniversary of the day that the first Ontario workers' compensation act was approved by government in 1914. It was enshrined in national legislation by an act of Parliament in February 1991.

Mr. Speaker, friends and family members are continuing to be hurt and killed as a result of accidents in the workplace. These are fellow Yukoners and these accidents affect all of us — families, coworkers, and entire communities. Going to work should mean being able to safely provide for yourselves, your families, without facing danger, without being injured, falling ill, or not making it home at all. The statistics are still much too high. That number on the sign counter outside of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety building is a reminder to all just how much work we have yet to do. Today it reads that 454 people were injured or killed on the job this year alone.

We stand here on this day in the House each year to talk about this issue, and somehow the number still rises. It doesn't take much for a workplace accident to occur — for any accident to occur. A momentary lapse in judgment, a poor decision, a distraction. Each year, we gather to remember and also to pledge to drive this number down. Health and safety regulations are in place for a reason.

They are an important part of every job, and following them is the responsibility of us all. Workplace accidents are entirely preventable, and we must never stop working to lower the statistics around workplace injury and death.

Thank you to all of those who continue to work safely and diligently and to work hard to keep their workplaces safe for their co-workers and the public. One of the best ways to honour and remember those who have been injured or killed in the workplace is to prevent more injuries and fatalities from happening.

Applause

Ms. Tredger: I rise on behalf of the Yukon New Democratic Party to commemorate Canada's national Day of Mourning. Today is a day of remembrance. It is a day of mourning for workers who have been killed, injured, or suffered illness due to workplace-related hazards and incidents, and it is a day of recognition that, for each worker killed on the job, there are families, friends, and communities left to mourn. As much as April 28 is a day to honour the dead, it is also a date that reminds us of the need to protect the living. As we mourn the four Yukon workers killed on the job in 2021, we realize that the challenges to make workplace safety a reality are far from over.

Workers' safety is often thought of as an individual responsibility, and it is true that each of us makes decisions each day that affect our safety, and many workers have been

saved from injury, or worse, based on the actions of their co-workers. To every worker who has intervened for the safety of your co-workers, we thank you. But decisions don't happen in a vacuum.

After the 1992 Westray mine disaster where 26 miners were killed in underground explosions, the commissioner for the Westray Public Inquiry stated: "The fundamental and basic responsibility for the safe operation of an ... undertaking rests clearly with management ... management failed in this primary responsibility, and the significance of that failure cannot be mitigated or diluted simply because others were derelict in their responsibility."

Twelve years after the Westray disaster, the House of Commons and the Senate gave unanimous support to amend the *Criminal Code*, ensuring that organizations, including corporations and their representatives and those who direct the work of others, are held accountable for workplace safety. The role of the workplace and individual and public safety has been highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic. We saw workers across Canada being pressured to come to work against public health orders and we saw the deaths that resulted.

It is our responsibility to make change happen so that we never see another year like 2021. One death is too many, and it is up to all of us to make sure that we value lives over profit.

Applause

In recognition of Special Olympics Yukon 40th anniversary

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I rise today to pay tribute to Special Olympics Yukon, celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. It's great to see you all here today, and I wish I had a bumping soundtrack to accompany this tribute as sharp as the one I heard at Mount McIntyre last Saturday night. Special Olympics Yukon began with a small cross-country skiing program and has grown into an organization that has more than 120 registered athletes in community- and school-based programming.

They now offer 11 sports, both summer and winter, and have impacted more than 500 children in daycares, both with and without intellectual disabilities. Some of the initiatives include the Northwestel Development Games, invitational soccer tournament, Yukon Energy athlete ambassadors, and the Rotary Club of Whitehorse Healthy Athletes program.

Special Olympics Yukon has participated in every Special Olympics Canada summer and winter games since 1986. Sixteen Yukoners have gone on to compete with Team Canada at the Special Olympics World Games, both summer and winter, and have come home with multiple medals and personal-best performances. The athletes are the beating heart of this wonderful organization. The programs-committed board of directors, along with energetic and dedicated sport and operational volunteers, are its soul and are central to its continuing growth and success.

I also have to acknowledge the tremendous staff at Special Olympics Yukon: Serge Michaud, the CEO; Andrew Elines, program director; Heather Menzies, office and events coordinator; and Mikayla Duncan, the program coordinator.

These individuals are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the program and are integral to the organization's initiatives, special events, and fundraisers. They give it life.

Last Saturday, April 23, Special Olympics Yukon held their annual Festival Dinner Auction, presented by Canadian Tire at the Whitehorse Curling Club. It was a great event, and the music was, as I said, fantastic. More than 300 people attended the first auction held since 2019 due to COVID. The event featured live entertainment and special guests, such as Wayne Thomas and Thomas Scoffin, a three-time Yukon skip at the Brier and a Champions Network speaker. More than 100 items were up for auction, raising over \$80,000 to help ensure the success of local programming.

We are proud to support Special Olympics Yukon and the work that they do. In 2022-23, the Yukon government will contribute \$101,955 to Special Olympics Yukon for operational funding, program support, and multi-sport games participation.

Sport and active living are such an important part of our lives and, thanks to this program, Yukoners will be taught the necessary skills to grow, both as athletes and individuals.

On behalf of the Government of Yukon, congratulations to Special Olympics Yukon on 40 years of success in inspiring others and sharing the power of sport. We look forward to many more years of celebrating Yukon Special Olympics athletes and their achievements at the local, national, and even international level.

Applause

Mr. Dixon: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to pay tribute to Special Olympics Yukon, an incredible organization that has been committed to providing sport programming to Yukoners with intellectual disabilities for over 40 years. Due to the pandemic and the inability to gather and celebrate properly last year, the 40th anniversary for Special O is being celebrated this year, 41 years after the organization was founded in 1981.

Special Olympics Yukon is more than just an organization; it is a family to so many Yukoners. It has helped youth and adults to build friendships, improve life skills, and work to specialize in one or more sports, ultimately enabling so many to compete on national and international stages. Starting out as a small cross-country skiing program in 1981, Special O has grown into a truly impressive organization, boasting 11 sports, both summer and winter, and over 120 registered athletes in both community- and school-based programming.

This year, the Special Olympics Festival Dinner Auction was held this past weekend, and I and several other MLAs were in attendance, along with well over 300 Yukoners. Like many, I look forward to the Special O banquet every year. This one was particularly special because of how long it had been since we had been able to attend in person. It was MC'd by the one and only Serge Michaud and his old pal, Bobby Ferris. One of the most notable parts of the dinner was the speech by Wayne Thomas, who is a well-known and decorated bowler for Team Yukon. Wayne has been competing since the early 2000s. He has competed at the games in 2006 in Brandon and, of course,

went on to serve as team captain in 2018 and won a silver medal in team play. As evidenced by their rousing applause, Wayne delivered an excellent speech.

Thomas Scoffin, three-time Yukon skip at the Brier, was the Champions Network speaker as well. Attendees were also treated to a display of powerlifting by Zachary Louie, who took the stage to perform an impressive dead lift. We would like to wish Zachary all the best as he is off to his first-ever competition this coming weekend in powerlifting. We also had the chance to celebrate Mike Sumner and Darby McIntyre, who were both chosen for Team Canada. They were supposed to go to the 2023 World Games, but unfortunately, they have been cancelled.

There are too many impressive athletes and too many great stories of accomplishments to list today, but I can assure all Yukoners that following the events and competitions at Special Olympics is well worth their while.

I also want to mention that, starting next week, Special Olympics will be launching a series of stirring videos on social media with the theme “We are all the same”. They were previewed on Saturday night and I encourage all Yukoners to watch them; they are quite something.

The event featured over 100 auction items and local entertainment and raised over \$80,000 for the organization. A special thank you, of course, to Yukoners once again for their continued support of this successful event and for their continued support of Special O through the years.

Before I conclude, I want to give a special shout-out to the one and only Serge Michaud. Serge has been leading this organization with passion for many years now, and quite frankly, the simple fact is that — even if he won’t acknowledge it himself — none of this would be possible without him. I know that this year’s banquet was special for Serge because he had some family from down south who were able to join this year finally. So, thank you very much, Serge.

To the past and present Special Olympics Yukon board, staff, volunteers, and, most importantly, its incredible athletes, congratulations on your milestone of 40 years plus one.

Applause

Ms. Tredger: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP caucus to pay tribute to the Yukon Special Olympics.

The Yukon joined this international organization in the very early 1980s, and it didn’t take them long before a group of volunteers, parents, teachers, group home staff, and athletes climbed aboard the green and yellow Air North DC-3 to head to Anchorage. My friend, the former MLA for Riverdale South, was on that inaugural flight, and she told me that for many of the athletes, not only was this their first time competing internationally but their first time on a plane.

How far this organization has come over the last 40 years — the number of athletes and volunteers continues to grow. These athletes have travelled around the world to represent not just the Yukon but Canada. We thank all the staff, the volunteers, the board, but most of all, the athletes for their time, for their dedication, and for their amazing athletic prowess.

I would like to close by sharing the motto of Special Olympics around the world: “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Thank you everyone for your hard work and dedication.

Applause

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: Under returns and documents for tabling, the Chair has for tabling: the report from Elections Yukon and the elections finance returns for the 2021 territorial election; a report from Elections Yukon entitled *Recommended Changes to the Elections Act*; and finally, from Elections Yukon, a report on the administration of the 2021 territorial general election.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

Hon. Ms. McLean: Pursuant to subsection 5(h) of the *Education Act*, I have for tabling the Department of Education’s 2021 annual report.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I have for tabling a letter regarding the Yukon policing priorities for 2022-23.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I have for tabling a legislative return for questions from the Member for Copperbelt South regarding teacher remuneration.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I have for tabling one legislative return in response to questions from the Member for Porter Creek Centre.

Ms. Tredger: I have for tabling a number of electricity bills from this winter, submitted to me by constituents, ranging from \$675 to over \$1,200.

Speaker: Are there any reports of committees? Petitions.

PETITIONS

Petition No. 12 — response

Hon. Mr. Clarke: I rise today to respond to Petition No. 12, presented by the MLA for Whitehorse Centre on April 25.

I would like to thank the member for bringing the petition forward to the Legislature. It is requesting safety improvements to the Rabbit’s Foot Canyon area.

The Alaska Highway is not just another road; it is Yukon’s primary supply route and a lifeline for so many of our communities. It is also the busiest stretch of highway in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, as a government, we are committed to a people-centred approach that builds healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities throughout the territory. Our government is also prioritizing the safety and well-being of Yukoners, and that includes the safety on our roads.

As you know, we have been making a number of safety improvements along the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse. Determining how to best improve highway safety for vehicles

and pedestrians is part of that process, including at key intersections.

We have already closed a number of unsafe accesses and added turning lanes, which makes it safer for vehicles going on and off the highway.

In our most recent project, we also reduced the speed limit to 60 kilometres per hour in the Whitehorse airport area.

I want to assure the members opposite that improvements to the section of highway around Fish Lake Road and Raven's Ridge is just one more of the many important projects being considered by the department. In fact, following our work on the highway around Robert Service Way and Porter Creek, we will begin the important engagement and planning for the section between Two Mile Hill and Centennial Street. But before designing any changes here, we first want to hear from residents, from cyclists, from those who commute on the highway, from the business community, and from the broader community as well.

I appreciate how important this stretch of road is for so many Yukoners. It is because this section of highway is so important that we need to get it right. We will do this through public outreach, comprehensive functional planning, and working with the City of Whitehorse to ensure the safety and greatest common benefit for all users of the highway, including pedestrians and trail users.

Speaker: Are there any bills to be introduced?
Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Russian Federation, directed by President Vladimir Putin and others within the Russian Parliament, have committed acts of genocide and crimes against humanity against the Ukrainian people, including:

- (1) mass atrocities in the invaded and occupied Ukrainian territories;
- (2) systematic instances of willful killing of Ukrainian civilians and the desecration of corpses;
- (3) forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to the Russian territory;
- (4) torture and the imposition of life conditions causing grave suffering; and
- (5) widespread instances of physical harm, mental harm, and rape.

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

THAT this House joins Jewish communities in Canada and around the world to recognize Yom HaShoah, Israel's day of commemoration for the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges all Yukoners to take advantage, this weekend, of the early opening of 13 Government of Yukon campgrounds.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Health and Social Services to respond to the family doctor shortage crisis by taking immediate action, including the following:

- (1) working with the Yukon Medical Association to develop an action plan to encourage family doctors to move to the Yukon;
- (2) working with the Yukon Medical Association and family practices to ensure that there is adequate locum coverage for doctors going on maternity leave; and
- (3) reviewing and increasing funding for the medical education bursary and the family physician incentive program.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Justice to immediately increase resources for the RCMP, including supporting an increase in members and operational funding to establish a drug enforcement unit.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to return to the long-standing practice of tabling the annual report of the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board during the Spring Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

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

THAT this House urges the Minister of Environment to cancel the Liberals' planned campground fee increases for Yukoners, which will see nightly camping fees go up from the current \$12 to \$20, regular season passes go from \$50 to \$200, and seniors' season passes go from free to \$100.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House congratulates 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group on their 75th anniversary on May 23, 2022.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House acknowledges the proud history of 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, which includes:

- (1) their predecessor unit, the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers, was established during World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Empire;
- (2) the Canadian Rangers provide a military presence in Canada's north in communities in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, with a primary role of conducting surveillance and sovereignty patrols as required;
- (3) the Canadian Rangers conduct inspections of the North Warning System sites and act as guides, scouts, and subject-matter experts in such disciplines as wilderness survival when other military forces are in their area of operations;

(4) in communities, Canadian Rangers play an important role through volunteerism, search and rescue, emergency measures, and community functions;

(5) the Canadian Rangers are the key to the successful Junior Canadian Ranger program that helps our youth participate in a variety of activities, many of which involve three important circles of training: ranger skills, traditional skills, and life skills; and

(6) 1st CRPG's motto "Vigilans" — which, when translated, means "The Watchers" — reflects how the Rangers continue to guard their local areas and provide support to the Canadian Armed Forces during domestic operations across the north.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to support parents of children with complex care needs by including parents as eligible paid caregivers under children's disability services programs.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Great Yukon Summer Freeze

Hon. Mr. Pillai: The pandemic had impacts on business across the territory and around the world, but specifically, tourism operators were hit the hardest. Put simply, as COVID-19 spread around the globe, people stayed home and they stopped travelling. Our government took quick action to support tourism businesses across the territory and throughout the pandemic.

Last year, we created the innovative Great Yukon Summer and the Great Yukon Summer Freeze programs that incentivized Yukoners to travel, explore, and enjoy new experiences in our territory, while supporting local businesses along the way. The programs provided Yukoners a 25-percent rebate for packaged tourism experiences offered by our local tourism businesses. At the start of this month, the Great Yukon Summer Freeze program came to a close and Yukoners had until April 15 to claim their rebate.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to provide this Assembly with an update on the success of both programs. A total of 2,375 Yukoners spent over \$1.5 million on the Great Yukon Summer and Great Yukon Summer Freeze tourism packages, with \$383,000 issued in rebate payments.

The Great Yukon Summer program had 62 businesses participate with over 170 travel packages available to Yukoners. The Freeze edition of the program included a total of 39 tourism packages, including everything from glacier viewing to heli-skiing to skidoo and dog-sled tours. Over 464 Yukoners took advantage of the program, accounting for \$238,000 spent on local tourism packages this winter. Although the numbers are not the same as they were in the summer programming, that is due to many winter tourism operators already being fully booked, as international travel began to resume.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so glad that Yukoners were able to take advantage of these experiences in our beautiful territory. Not only did they get to experience more of what the Yukon has to offer, they supported local businesses at a time when they needed it the most.

We have responded well over the economic challenges of COVID-19 in our territory, and our territory is in a good position because of this, but we still have a long way to go to fully recover.

I am pleased to see that this summer, we have clear indications that tourism in the Yukon is back. I want to end by thanking Yukoners and Yukon businesses for supporting one another through these challenging times. It is through innovative programs like these that we were able to work together as a territory to ensure that Yukoners could experience the territory in a whole new way and that Yukon tourism operators could weather the pandemic and continue to offer their services to Canadians and international visitors for years to come.

Ms. Van Bibber: I would like to thank the minister for his update on the Great Yukon Summer Freeze. With May around the corner, we know the tourism season is fast approaching and we know many Yukoners are looking forward to taking a vacation, be it either here at home or outside the territory. We know many Yukoners did take advantage of the Great Yukon Summer campaign and spent their money with the tourism operators who were part of this summer program.

We hope that Yukon tourism businesses can expect a successful season this year; however, according to the press release from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business from last month, nearly two-thirds — or 62 percent — of businesses said rising prices, such as fuel, food, or insurance, were having a significant impact on their business, and another 27 percent said the impact was moderate.

Last summer, gasoline was in the \$1.40 to \$1.60 per litre range, depending where you travelled in the territory. Now fuel is pushing \$2 per litre. It is not yet clear how this will affect Yukoners' travel plans, but it certainly can't help the rubber-tire traffic and the fly/drive tourists and visitors we have seen in recent years.

We would like the minister to share if Yukon tourism operators have provided any updates on the impacts of cost increases. We are also concerned about the long-term consequences of fuel costs for Holland America bus excursions and what that might mean for their Yukon operator partners.

If the minister can share any information on those concerns, I would appreciate it. Cutting the fuel tax, as we suggested, could have provided more money to help encourage travel to and within the territory. As well, I was hoping the minister could provide an update on the Poker Creek-Little Gold Creek border crossing on Top of the World Highway. Is there any progress in confirming that it will operate as usual?

Regardless, we know that many tourism operators are looking forward to an increase in visitors this summer. Hopefully, we will see a return to higher visitation numbers and

our resilient tourism operators return to pre-COVID operations this season.

Ms. Tredger: It is somewhat unfortunate that, on the last day of the Sitting, we are using our time to respond to one of our daily ministerial statements — in this case, one about a program that has already ended. On the Order Paper today, we have 13 budget votes that are not finished or, in some cases, we haven't even started to debate them, but it is up to the government to decide what we talk about, so let's talk about it.

I know that Yukoners, especially those who work in the tourism industry and tourism business owners, are working very hard to ensure that Yukoners and visitors alike have a great Yukon experience. We know that yesterday the first cruise ship of the season arrived in Skagway. Hopefully, we will be seeing some of those and future passengers travel here to experience the Yukon. Unfortunately, the White Pass train will not be travelling to Carcross this year.

We are also pleased to see the flights from Germany resuming again. Again, their contribution to the tourism industry will be greatly appreciated. We encourage all Yukoners to invite friends and families from outside of the Yukon to visit and experience our beautiful territory and, of course, to continue to support Yukon businesses as they recover from the last two years.

We had hoped that the minister would consider responding to our motion from yesterday and extend the application deadline for the Yukon relief program. We know that many Yukon businesses are struggling with the application process and would like some additional time and support to get their applications in. There is a lot of paperwork involved, and requiring that to be done right around year-end is a burden that many business owners aren't able to carry right now. I am hoping that, when the minister stands again, he can let us know if they will be extending that application deadline.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I will do my best to just touch on some of the questions that were posed today.

I will go back and take a look at the comments from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business concerning some of the national issues and pressures that we are seeing for all businesses. I certainly have been in dialogue with them over the last number of months and appreciate their advice and guidance. I will just say that I think it is even more important to get out a local level and support our tourism operators and our hospitality industry players who have weathered the last two years.

At this time, the only thing that I have heard are some public statements made by the chair of the Tourism Industry Association of Yukon board — and that was Mr. Hartling — and that was early on. He talked about what they thought the impact would be concerning fuel prices and what that would look like for tire traffic. At that time, there wasn't as much concern, but I think that across this country — this is a national issue, and we have to watch this and we have to be aware of what is going to happen. I think that we were in a good position because, of course, we have the lowest fuel tax in the country,

even going into this, but still, I think that it is important to watch what is going to happen as we see tire traffic throughout — and how people move through.

Of course, you are looking at a record season of cruise ship traffic along the west coast. When you take into consideration fuel consumption when you are looking at ships of that size and magnitude — I mean, we were talking about quite significant consumption, and that is why there is a move now for more renewable sources, but certainly that hasn't changed to date what we have seen in the number of cruise ships yet that are coming.

Concerning Little Gold, we are aware that it will open as normal and that it will be serviced, and I think that we have — through our border working group — continued to ensure that. I appreciate the member opposite's concerns — and some of the business folks from Dawson who have reached out on that one.

Again, with our relief program, we are closely monitoring and adapting as we have always done — taking a look at some of the soft and vulnerable spots within our tourism sector right now — and so that is why I haven't responded directly to that because we are watching to see where we could step in. Certainly, I know that the member opposite — I have had one organization reach out directly, but if there are more — if they are comfortable with you sharing that information — or send them directly to us. But, to date, I have had one organization, and we have tried to work through that.

With that being said, I think that what I would just share with folks is that, as part of this Great Yukon Summer program — some of the other things — we also provided funding for festivals and events in the Yukon through On Yukon Time, and that was over 53 different festivals. Why is that important? Because now they are all poised to come back. They didn't miss that year. I just say to all Yukoners: Please get out to the communities. Make sure that you get an opportunity to support these festivals. Make sure that you get out to our local restaurants — whatever community they may be in — and please look for those tourism operators that you can support through this.

We will continue to watch what is happening. When it comes to our work over the next year, one of the things that we just announced as well is another investment — which was in addition — we continued, as a destination hot spot investment — we are looking at \$300,000 to support a marketing campaign to promote Yukon as a visitor destination. In Québec, we had a great conversation yesterday about the flight starting to Toronto. We are hearing great things about the number of tickets that have been sold already.

Again, on behalf of our government, kudos to all those who have weathered the last two years and look forward to the summer of 2022.

Speaker: This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD**Question re: Rent control**

Mr. Cathers: Since the Liberal government imposed the disastrous rent control policy, Yukoners have seen serious negative impacts on the rental market. Last year, the Residential Landlord Association released a document that showed the impact. Rent is going up across the board. Landlords are selling units. Tenants are being evicted. An investment in new construction of rentals will suffer. The facts are clear that this policy simply doesn't work.

Will the Liberals agree to end this flawed policy and work with landlords to actually increase the number of rentals in the market?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As we have said a few times this week, we are working very hard to increase the lot inventory and our housing stock across the territory. We are taking a very wide and broad approach to the way we deal with the current housing issues within the territory to make sure that Yukoners have the housing they need to go forward.

Now, we do know that we do have a rent index program that we have as a result of the confidence and supply agreement with the New Democrat caucus. We are honouring that agreement and we will continue to honour that agreement until the sun sets in January 2023.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, it's almost universally understood that rent caps don't work and negatively affect housing and rental markets wherever they're imposed. We have seen that playing out, in real time, here in the Yukon. It's negatively affecting Yukoners.

Rents have gone up, people have been evicted, landlords are selling off units, and the number of rental units is plummeting. This is at a time when Yukon needs more rentals, not less.

Even the minister admitted that the policy was rushed out and not well-thought-out.

Will the government agree to get rid of this deeply flawed policy and try to bring stability back to the rental market?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I think that there are a few comments made in the first two questions that I would love to just see a little more background on.

First, there was a comment concerning the fact that there has been a lack of investment into rental housing and into our housing continuum. That's simply not true.

We have seen record numbers of investment over the last number of years into residential housing. In almost every quarter, we have seen continued record-breaking numbers. I think that the last numbers I have seen — and I can go back and check, but we have almost 1,300 building permits in place right now.

There is a tremendous amount of investment being put into it.

I am open to going back to work with our team, but the member opposite said that there were plummeting numbers, but I think it makes for good Question Period drama, but I also would like to see some background on that. Maybe it does exist, and certainly the member can show me that — can table that in the future and we can take a look at it.

Again, we have record investment in affordable housing, and we are doing a lot of that in partnership so we are providing more rental units. That's exactly what we are doing. We are working with a number of private sector interests — both on the Yukon Development Corporation side. What we are seeing is this investment into those exact units that the member opposite is asking for.

Mr. Cathers: I do remind the minister that, in fact, we did table that information that the minister is asking for last year. It is unfortunate that he is not listening to the stakeholder who is bringing this forward.

The facts on rent control are clear everywhere it has been implemented, including in the Yukon. It doesn't work. The stats provided by the Yukon Residential Landlord Association show this.

As early as last summer, after only a few months of the policy being in effect, there were units being put up for sale, rent was being increased, tenants were being evicted, and landlords were saying, overwhelmingly, that they want out of this market. This policy has been bad for tenants and bad for landlords.

Will the Liberals agree to put an end to this flawed policy and repeal the rent caps that they have imposed?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: As I said in my earlier answer, the rent index was a New Democrat commitment. The index is temporary and will end in less than a year.

I do want to speak for a moment to Yukoners and remind them that it was actually the Leader of the Official Opposition who endorsed the confidence and supply agreement not more than a few months ago that would have actually committed his party to the same rent index that we are actually committed to in the same way — the exact same way. It's a little bit rich to have these questions coming from the Member for Lake Laberge.

I will say that, since 2016, our population has grown by 12.1 percent, and housing construction has kept pace. The number of private dwellings has increased by 12.9 percent. There was \$267 million in residential construction in 2021, which shattered the 2020 record of nearly \$200 million of investment. This year's budget includes more than \$60 million for housing initiatives across the Yukon. Hundreds of new homes will soon be available for Yukon families. The 4th Avenue and Jeckell Street housing project will create 47 affordable homes. The Challenge Cornerstone project will create 45 new homes for vulnerable Yukoners, in addition to market units. Normandy Manor will create 84 new homes for seniors. The Boreal Commons affordable and rental housing project will create another 87 homes. I announced, just a few days ago, 200 lots in Whistle Bend. There is lots going on. The Yukon Party endorsed the rent index. I hope they tell their constituents that.

Question re: Contract procurement

Mr. Kent: What the minister conveniently forgets is that our offer to tolerate the rent control policy was contingent on a number of things, including the removal of the Deputy Premier from Cabinet, but, of course, we see that she's still there.

However, Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Highways and Public Works. A 2016 Liberal election platform commitment was to tender all seasonally dependent contracts by March of each year. This year's budget claims that they will spend \$43 million on the Klondike Highway. One of the projects that is supposed to start this summer is somewhere between kilometre 466 and kilometre 523, which is between Pelly Crossing and Stewart Crossing. Well, summer is fast approaching and this major highway work isn't on the tendering system. Another broken promise to the contracting community.

So, can the minister tell us what the cost estimate is for this work and when it will be tendered?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: When planning and tendering projects, we are giving contractors the best opportunity to perform the work at the right time. The right time to tender is well in advance of the time when physical work needs to be done. As I indicated in our exchange in Committee of the Whole, some of the examples of timely tendering over the course of the last six-to-eight months included the Justice Centre atrium skylight project last October, knowing that work would begin this spring as it has. We have also tendered the Macaulay Lodge demolition in December and work is now underway. As indicated also previously, we tendered for work on the McCabe Creek bridge in early February, and that contract is already in place for this summer. That is part of the national trade corridor fund. We know that millions of dollars of work is being done and that this contract is in place and that work will proceed. We have also tendered for additional road construction on the north Klondike Highway in December, and a contract is in place so that it can start as well. In addition, we have tendered early for landscaping on the Casca Boulevard in Whistle Bend. I will continue with the great work that's being done in tendering in Highways and Public Works.

Mr. Kent: So, just to remind the minister, that 2016 Liberal election platform commitment was to tender all seasonally dependent contracts — not some, but all of them — by March of each year — something that the Liberal government has failed to do since they were first elected in 2016.

When I looked at the YESAB registry regarding the project that I mentioned in my first question — I looked at it this morning — there hasn't even been a decision document issued for that project yet. This is in spite of the recommendation being sent in December 2021. The three decision bodies are: Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Transport Canada; and Yukon Highways and Public Works department. Can the minister tell us why this decision document is delayed and when he is expecting it to be issued so that this project can actually be tendered?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Thank you for the question. I will get back to the member opposite on his specific question, but I will continue to indicate that we have also tendered for the parallel runway work in December so that we will be ready to work, to start this spring. There is an awful lot of work that's being done with respect to the parallel runway to ensure that there is redundancy in service there for 737 service. That work is progressing.

There is also work on the apron. These are exciting times at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport, which will occur over the course of the next three or four years, ensuring that we have both resilient and reliable aviation infrastructure in place at the aviation transportation hub of the Yukon.

We have also tendered a request for standing offers in February for aircraft charter services for the summer firefighting season. We have also tendered for the supply and delivery of calcium chloride for summer, in December, as well. There are many more examples.

We have also tendered this year for projects that are breaking ground in 2023. The Department of Highways and Public Works is planning and keeping the Yukon moving forward.

Mr. Kent: So, with promises of a large transportation capital budget of \$155 million this year, the Liberals need to get these tenders out the door; instead, they are dithering as the window to get seasonally dependent contracts out in time is quickly closing and another year of breaking their promise to the contracting community is in the books.

One of the projects the minister mentioned for this year was upgrades to the Alaska Highway through Whitehorse from the weigh scales to Lodestar Lane. He told this House earlier this week that the value of this project was \$4.75 million. This project isn't even on the planned projects for Bids and Tenders, and again, like the previous one, no decision document has been issued for it either through the YESAA process, so another broken promise to contractors.

When will this seasonally dependent contract be tendered?

Hon. Mr. Clarke: I will also return to the member opposite with his specific question with respect to the great work that is going to be done between Lodestar Lane and the Whitehorse weigh scales this summer. In addition, this summer — it's an exciting summer, Mr. Speaker — we are doing upgrades, as indicated in this spring session.

The swimming pool in Pelly Crossing will be completed. We will continue with work on the 10-unit mixed-use housing unit and health and wellness centre in Old Crow. We are also starting work on the Carmacks bypass with an innovative agreement with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation so that there can be meaningful First Nation participation with that First Nation, providing significant benefits to their beneficiaries. I thank the staff at Highways and Public Works for negotiating that agreement.

As well, we also have the Dempster fibre project which is continuing. I had the opportunity last September to attend on the Dempster Highway and see the fantastic technology at work in implementing that project.

There is so much to talk about, Mr. Speaker. This is a great summer coming up.

Question re: Deaths at Whitehorse Emergency Shelter

Ms. Tredger: On January 19 of this year, two young women died by drug poisoning at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. Like all deaths by drug poisoning, they were

preventable. It has been over three months since they passed. That's three months with no words from the minister on why two people died in a government facility.

This government is responsible for keeping people at government facilities safe. The community wants to know how and why they died. We need a coroner's inquest so that no one else dies at the shelter.

Will the minister call for a coroner's inquest into the death of the two people who died at the shelter?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I think it's incredibly important that we recognize and acknowledge the community harm and pain that is suffered when individuals pass as a result of opioid or drug use. I'm being careful with respect to this answer, because of course, we must respect the coroner's jurisdiction with respect to — and her decisions about what matters she determines are appropriate for an inquest and otherwise.

We continue to support and cooperate with the coroner's office completely — both the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice — for the purposes of allowing her to do her good work and allowing her to make whatever recommendations might be as the result of any investigations done by her office.

Ms. Tredger: The coroner does have the power to trigger an inquest, but it is clear in the act that the minister also has this power. I will quote; under section 44 of the *Coroners Act*, it says — and I quote: “The Minister may direct that an inquest may be held into the death of a person ... if the Minister determines that it is in the public interest...”

People died of preventable deaths in a government-run facility. Knowing how to prevent this from happening again is absolutely of public interest. Let me be clear: This is not an attack on shelter workers. We know that they are understaffed. We know that they are kept in temporary positions. We know that this government won't give them training or programming or resources. Maybe that is why this government hasn't called an inquest: They don't want to risk exposing the ways that they are failing vulnerable Yukoners.

So, why hasn't the minister called an inquest into the deaths of the two women who died at the shelter?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I am sorry that the member opposite, in bringing forward this question — which she does clearly with passion — is also prepared to speculate with respect to this situation. I am going to not speculate with respect to this situation. It is harmful to family and friends, it is harmful to workers in the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter, and it is harmful to the people who are close to this situation, with respect to unnecessary public speculation.

The coroner will do her good work. She is responsible for investigation in this situation, and ultimately, we will be pleased to hear her direction.

Ms. Tredger: What we are asking for is an end to speculation. We want answers. The community needs answers, and for that, we need an inquest. These women should not have died the way that they did. They deserve dignity. They deserved a government that wants to do better, but for all the months of this substance use emergency, the minister has only given us excuses — excuses for the lack of mental health care, excuses

for the lack of safe supply, excuses for the lack of health care access in communities, excuses for a drug-poisoning crisis that has been going on for years before this government even dared to acknowledge it. The time for excuses is over. The families and Yukoners deserve answers. No one else should have to die for this government to finally do the right thing.

Will the minister request a coroner's inquest into the deaths that happened at the shelter so the system that failed these people can finally be fixed?

Hon. Ms. McPhee: First of all, with respect to this specific question asked, I believe I have answered it not once but twice. I will move on to indicate that the government's response to the substance use and health emergency is absolutely critical. We are committed to the work done by building partnerships and trust throughout the community.

We have a number of projects underway, despite the misunderstandings across the way. We are working to prescribe safe supply through the opioid treatment services program. We have worked on the development of the physician and pharmacist community of practice group regarding a safer supply. We are working on the expansion of the safer supply, prescribing through the opioid treatment services program. We have worked on a needs assessment to inform the expansion of all opioid treatment services, including safer supply within Whitehorse and the communities. We're working on a public awareness campaign. We're working on renovations to the supervised consumption site. We're working on the development of a renewed opioid action plan. We've installed Brave alarms at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter to assist residents there.

We are working on phase 2 of a very successful mental health summit so we can continue these conversations. I appreciate the opportunity to outline some —

Speaker: Order.

Question re: Cost of living

Mr. Istchenko: So, yesterday I asked the minister how the government was going to help Yukoners with the rising cost of living, and his answer was that they have a 10-year strategy to move to a renewable future.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as important as the future of renewables is, Yukoners need help right away. The price of fuel has soared, and with it has the price of food, goods and services, and just about everything else. For those living in rural Yukon, there is no other option but to drive. That's why we suggested cutting the fuel tax to keep more money in the pockets of Yukoners.

So, will the government acknowledge the skyrocketing fuel prices affecting all Yukoners and agree to cut the fuel tax?

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, \$30 million in lot development. Another \$30 million in housing. Actually, \$255 million over the next five years for housing — historic investments. In early learning and childcare, \$15.3 million. Inflation relief rebate, an interim electric rebate representing millions of dollars. We are saving Yukoners on their electric bills. In this fiscal year, the carbon levy will collect \$6.9 million from households, but the households will receive

back \$11.6 million in rebates. The northern residents deduction is being adjusted to give more Yukoners access to the travel deduction, energy retrofits — the members opposite laugh about this. It's actually just so disheartening — so disheartening —

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible)

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order, please.

The member has the floor. I am having a hard time hearing him. Please be respectful when a member is speaking.

Hon. Mr. Silver: It makes sense, Mr. Speaker. They have asked this question 100 times. They keep on asking it because they are not listening to the answers. When we start talking about all the programs and all the money that we are putting into making lives more affordable for Yukoners, the members scoff. It's absolutely ridiculous.

Yukon senior income support is being increased; the Yukon homeowners grant to reduce property taxes — \$2 million to seniors to reduce their heating costs — and no new taxes. I didn't even mention the amazing programs that came to support businesses during COVID. The members opposite can laugh all they want, but we are working for Yukoners.

Mr. Istchenko: Yukoners are going to be so disappointed that the government and the Premier won't even acknowledge the skyrocketing fuel prices that we are seeing in the Yukon.

Last week, a local economist wrote in the *Yukon News* and calculated what the rising rate of inflation would mean for Yukon families. When he added up the rising cost of fuel for both driving and home heating, the massive increase in food prices, and the cost of housing, it worked out to an average household paying \$5,500 more per year. That is a staggering increase — and all the Liberals have come up with is to give Yukoners \$150 a year of their own money. That will barely cover the cost of the increase in the camping fees.

When will the Liberals start taking the inflation crisis in the Yukon seriously and introduce real measures to help?

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible)

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order, please.

During Question Period, I know that members are getting frustrated with the questions and answers that are going back and forth, but I just want to remind all members that we need to be respectful when a member is speaking.

We will continue on with Question Period. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Look, I think that we have come to terms with the fact that there is definitely a different approach and a different opinion. What I remember is, in 2016, knocking on the doors of the constituents I represent. Their biggest challenge, first and foremost, was the cost of daycare and the hundreds and thousands of dollars that, on an annual basis, was

being paid out. From that point on, we worked as a team with a long-term view, not just with this inflationary scenario that is in place, but how could we make the cost of living for Yukoners cheaper? Other than Québec, there was no other province or territory that could put a solution in place, but we did. My colleagues who I work with put a solution in place. We started down that road to save Yukoners thousands of dollars, and in some cases, the cost of a mortgage payment started to be saved.

Then it was leading in the country. We're happy to see that Canada, at a federal level, has now come on. I think, at this point, every province and territory has signed on to what we did to lead.

We have been at this for five years now — over five years. We have looked at the best places to make sure that life's cheaper. That's the same reason that we're not spending the majority of the money at the Housing Corporation on O&M, which was happening before. We're spending it on — a record \$46 million — on affordable housing.

We can go on, on this. There is a difference of opinion, but we're at a long range and we're looking after Yukoners —

Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Istchenko: What I know is that Yukoners are concerned about the cost increase of everything. According to one local economist, Yukon households can expect to pay as much as \$5,500 more a year due to the rising rate of inflation. Unfortunately, in the Liberals' budget, it doesn't even mention inflation. It's clear that they have their heads in the sand about this affordability crisis.

All Liberals were able to come up with, in the face of this massive challenge, was to give Yukoners \$150 of their own money back to them. As I said before, this will barely cover the increased camping fees the Liberals raised this year. It certainly doesn't come close to the \$5,500 extra cost that Yukoners are facing.

So, again, when will the Liberals acknowledge that their plan is out of touch with Yukoners and agree to take some real steps to actually help Yukoners with the rising cost of living?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I think, again, as we stated, we have taken a long-term view on this from the start. I can remember, during the last election, the Yukon Party coming out against our program for early childcare. They were against it. I know, when you're paying \$1,000 a month out of your pocket to look after your children — in some cases, maybe even more, at \$1,600 or \$1,700 — those are real costs and those are some of the things that we invested in over the last year.

Again, the member opposite can go on. Again, they're trying to make this a regional issue; it's not a regional issue. This is something that the world is facing. We're seeing steps being taken.

I appreciate the Pierre Poilievre handbook that has been used over the last two weeks. I'm glad that he's also writing questions for the Yukon Party. We see the strategy that's at play. The media sees it as well. Look, this is a national issue that's at play. What we have been doing, which has not happened across this country — and it has not been national until we led and put in the strategies to make life cheaper for Yukoners in the long term.

Question re: Affordable housing

Ms. Clarke: The Liberal budget highlights the failures of their government to address the housing crisis. To quote directly from the Budget Address: “The increases in prices has made owning a single detached home out of reach for many Yukoners.” That’s the Liberal budget.

Let’s quote the Yukon Bureau of Statistics: In 2016, the average cost of a home in Whitehorse was \$420,000. By the end of last year, this has skyrocketed to \$647,000: a 54-percent increase to the cost of a home in five years. That’s the Liberal record.

Will the government agree to finally take the housing crisis seriously?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: When this exact same question was being asked yesterday, one of the things that came to mind was, “I wonder if the member opposite took a look at the housing costs across this country, and I wonder if the member opposite took into consideration that we have either been the lowest — or almost the lowest — of all provinces and territories when it has come to inflation? I wonder if the member opposite looked at the housing prices and how they have increased in Vancouver, how they’ve increased in Toronto, how they have increased in Halifax, how they have increased in Montréal, and then come back and compared them to what has happened here?”

I know the member opposite was not here with her colleagues in the past, but I can tell you this: We are putting record investment into affordable housing. When we talk about Yukon housing, I will share with the member opposite — either this summer or in the fall — I can show that, when her colleagues were running the Yukon Housing Corporation, they spent their money on O&M, not investing in new housing. I can share with the member opposite that we were in a position where, in the first two years, we spent more than the previous four years when it came to lot development. I can share those numbers.

While I’m at it, or while she is doing her research, she can ask the member who is sitting next to her: Why, when we had all of that money for affordable housing, did it all get cancelled?

Ms. Clarke: The facts are this: In just five years of the Liberal government, the average cost of a home in Whitehorse increased by more than 54 percent. The Liberals can list all the stats and point all the fingers they want, but the fact is that their record shows they are failing at addressing this affordability crisis.

In fact, their own budget says they are failing at addressing the crisis, and the government has options: They can immediately identify unused YG land and relieve it for the private sector to begin developing; they can create tax incentives to encourage rental developments; they can stop slowing down the release of lots in Whistle Bend.

Why are they ignoring these solutions?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Why? Because fundamental to what this government has done for five years is work in partnership. We worked in partnership with First Nations, and we have worked in partnership with municipalities. Why wouldn’t I do that? It’s because first and foremost, every municipality either

has an OCP in place or is working on one. So, the first thing is, I would respect the OCP. What we heard yesterday and today is, one, a strategy that would totally fly in the face of the relationship of the OCP and the 2006 MOU between the City of Whitehorse and us. Again, we heard yesterday from the member opposite blaming the municipalities on slowing down housing opportunities, because they were saying that there was a lack of capacity to do the work they do. I will speak with them about that.

I think we will continue to work with our partners. We’ll hopefully get this budget passed. I hope that the member opposite stands up strong today and supports this budget, because there is investment like you’ve never seen in affordable housing. There’s investment in lots; there’s investment in partnership with multiple First Nations, and those are the strategies that are going to get Yukoners into their own homes.

Ms. Clarke: The Liberals have been so focused on blaming others and avoiding responsibility that this affordability crisis has got out of hand. Here are the two numbers that matter to Yukoners: In 2016, when the Liberals took office, the average cost of a house was \$420,000, and in five years of the Liberals ignoring the housing crisis, that cost has skyrocketed to \$647,000. We need more land developed, and we need it developed faster.

So, will the government immediately make available additional emergency funding to all communities to help them bolster their permitting and zoning capacity?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: First of all, I think we spoke yesterday, because it’s kind of the same two or three questions that I was asked yesterday.

Again, I will just remind the member opposite that, firstly, we have an accelerator fund that has just been announced and we have spoken with the City of Whitehorse. We will be looking to speak with other municipalities at the Association of Yukon Communities meetings later in May about the fact that there is an opportunity coming to have strategies on human resources.

Again, we are the first government in years to be able to package and now put together conversations, as well as tenders now coming out, to look at private land development. I would urge the member opposite to go back to Hansard — when we talked about packages of land, such as the tank farm, to look at the comments that were made again by the member opposite.

I guess, in closing, I would just say that the comments really fly in the face of the facts — and that is that we haven’t invested and we haven’t been watching, but if that’s the case, why have we had record investment into affordable housing and taken a totally different approach? Why have we had record investment into lot development? Why do we have record investment in our partnerships? Why have we built more units than the population growth? I wonder why there is a problem. I think that we came in and there might have been a problem when we got here.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Unanimous consent to move without notice Motion No. 427

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of the House to move without notice the following motion:

THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 17(1) of the *Human Rights Act*, does appoint Aja Mason to the Yukon Human Rights Commission for a three-year term effective May 24, 2022.

Speaker: The Minister of Justice has requested, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion without notice.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted.

Motion No. 427

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I move that the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 17(1) of the *Human Rights Act*, does appoint Aja Mason to the Yukon Human Rights Commission for a three-year term effective May 24, 2022.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that the Yukon Legislative Assembly, pursuant to subsection 17(1) of the *Human Rights Act*, does appoint Aja Mason to the Yukon Human Rights Commission for a three-year term effective May 24, 2022.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: The Yukon Human Rights Commission consists of five members. There is an upcoming vacancy for the Yukon Human Rights Commission that will become available when Karen Moir, a long-time individual who served on that commission, will be ending her term. I would like to thank Karen for all of the work and leadership that she has given to the Yukon Human Rights Commission over the years.

The all-party Standing Committee on the Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees reviewed all applications that were received for this vacancy and have recommended that Aja Mason be appointed to the commission. I look forward to Aja Mason joining the current members of the Yukon Human Rights Commission and bringing her expertise to that work.

I would like to thank all of those who put their names forward to serve on this important commission. I would also like to thank the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees for their recommendation. I urge all members of this House to support this motion for the appointment of Aja Mason to this Yukon Human Rights Commission. I note that this is one of the boards and committees that must be appointed pursuant to a motion of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, and I am happy to bring that forward today.

Mr. Kent: We will be supporting this motion today. I just wanted to take the time to thank Karen Moir for her time on the Yukon Human Rights Commission and welcome Aja Mason to her new role for the three-year term, which is effective on May 24, 2022. As the minister mentioned, this did go through the all-party committee, which we had two members on, and we agreed to the appointment of Aja Mason to this board.

Ms. Tredger: I would just like to add my congratulations and thanks to all the applicants, as well as our thanks to Karen Moir for her dedication and work. We look forward to supporting this motion.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, I request the unanimous consent of the House to move Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2 without one clear day's notice, notwithstanding Standing Order 27(1)(c), and without the Government House Leader providing 24 hours' oral notice, notwithstanding Standing Order 13(3).

Unanimous consent to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2

Speaker: The Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges has requested the unanimous consent of the House to move Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2 without one clear day's notice, notwithstanding Standing Order 27(1)(c), and without the Government House Leader providing 24 hours' oral notice, notwithstanding Standing Order 13(3).

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted.

MOTIONS RESPECTING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2

Clerk: Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Mostyn.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges:

THAT the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges' Third Report, presented to the House on April 27, 2022, be concurred in; and

THAT the amendment to Standing Order 11 of the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly recommended by the committee, requiring copies of Ministerial Statements to be delivered to the Speaker and each House Leader, be adopted.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, I'll be brief this afternoon.

The motion before us today is largely housekeeping in nature. As Yukoners have directed us, in this House, all three parties have been working very well together on the Standing

Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges. This housekeeping matter will allow us to change our Standing Orders here in the Yukon Legislative Assembly to add the following to section 11: Copies of the ministerial statement to be delivered that day shall be provided to the Speaker and the House Leader of each party in opposition to the government at least two hours before the opening of the Sitting. Of course, that is already done in practice, but the House adopting this motion today will formalize it as a requirement of the Daily Routine. I want to thank all members from all three parties for working cooperatively at the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges to make this change.

Mr. Cathers: We will of course be supporting this. Just prompted by the minister's remarks, I have to note that we made more progress as an Assembly and as a committee in updating the Standing Orders since the Liberals were reduced to a minority government than the entire previous term. I would like to thank all members on that committee for their work on that.

Ms. Tredger: Our caucus is looking forward to supporting this motion.

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

Does any other member wish to be heard?

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I thank the members opposite for their gracious remarks this afternoon. I will note, in response to the Member for Lake Laberge, that the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges has made more progress under this government in the brief year that we've been in than we have in the last 17 years at least. So, it goes back — a long history. I am really pleased with the work that we've been doing on this standing committee, and it's a real pleasure to be working with the members opposite.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?
Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2 agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Deputy Chair (Ms. Tredger): Order. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Request for Acting Chair of Committee of the Whole

Deputy Chair: At this time, I will ask if any private member wishes to volunteer to be Acting Chair of Committee of the Whole to provide relief to the Chair this afternoon.

Member for Porter Creek Centre and Member for Copperbelt South rise

Deputy Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Deputy Chair: Order, please.

Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

Bill No. 204: *First Appropriation Act 2022-23* — continued

Deputy Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*.

Is there any further general debate?

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources — continued

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I am going to be very brief in my opening remarks. I would like to do three things. First of all, I would like to welcome to Committee of the Whole today Deputy Minister John Bailey and, for the first time, our new assistant deputy minister, Heather Mills, for Sustainable Development. Heather, of course, has done great work in Assessment and Abandoned Mines, and it is a pleasure to have them both here today to support the debate of colleagues around Energy, Mines and Resources.

The second thing that I would like to do is correct the record. I was looking back over the comments that I made when we were last here, on April 13, to discuss Energy, Mines and Resources, and I made a mistake. I was speaking about the Beaver River land use plan, and I referred to it as being part of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* under chapter 11 — a planning process under chapter 11 — and I was incorrect. The Beaver River land use plan comes out of a 2018 intergovernmental agreement between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon and supports the proposed ATAC tote road.

Then, finally, there was an announcement today, and I thought that I would just let the House know that this is about Haeckel Hill wind, which is a four-megawatt project, and I would like to congratulate the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Chief Doris Bill and their development corporation, Chu Níikwän. This project saw just under one-half million

dollars, which came from us, as a government, under the Innovative Renewable Energy Initiative, where we help projects to develop. Then, the federal government invested heavily — I think \$13 million, in large part through the Arctic energy fund, which we supported — and then Chu Níikwān also, of course, invested dollars.

The great thing about this, of course, is that getting wind up on Haeckel Hill — it is not baseload power, but wind blows better in the winter, and so we are going to get some good winter energy, and it will help to offset our need for renewables and the diesels that we tend to use in the colder parts of the year.

I just wanted to share that with the House, and I am happy to answer questions as they come up today.

Mr. Cathers: And I will start where the minister left off with the Haeckel Hill project that was announced. With the amount that was announced, there seems to be \$13 million in funding from the federal government, in addition to the \$485,000, I believe it was, from the Yukon government, plus \$2 million from a subsidiary of the Kwanlin Dūn development corporation. So, a total of about \$15.5 million for four megawatts. The project had also referenced an expectation that it would displace — I believe it was — 40-million litres of diesel fuel usage, which was the estimate referenced in the press release.

Looking at the amount, it seemed that this was a fairly significant portion of capital cost for the estimated energy produced. I believe that it seems to be a significant amount per kilowatt hour and per litre that is estimated to be displaced with it. What also wasn't referenced in the press release was what rate the Yukon government was going to be paying for that power.

Could the minister please explain what else is being provided to the project in terms of the power purchase agreement rate, as well as whether there are any other contributions from the Yukon government not referenced in the press release?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will work to get additional information for the member opposite, but I believe that the power purchase is happening under the independent power producer policy, which has a very specific rate associated with it. It's not one of these ones where we have a separate energy purchase agreement that is separate, but I will work to confirm that. Unfortunately, I didn't come down with my binder on the Yukon Development Corporation, but I can work to get the information for the member opposite.

Mr. Cathers: I look forward to receiving that information from the minister. I will just move on to an issue that has had some discussion here in the past, and that is local food procurement and production.

We recognize that there have been some steps taken by the government, which we do appreciate, to try to increase the government's own purchase of local food; however, we have also heard concerns from farmers that some of the standing-offer agreements were not being fully utilized and there was a preference for moving to more of a contract structure.

Can the minister please update us on what the current status is of efforts by his department to encourage local

purchasing, as well as the work they do in partnership with Highways and Public Works as the lead on procurement in terms of trying to support the purchase of locally grown food, whether it be meat, vegetables, eggs, or dairy?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will begin my answer by talking about the Cultivating Our Future plan, which is our 10-year agriculture policy. It has been working to increase the territory's self-sufficiency and diversity of food production. I know that we are working with Canada, as they look to reinvigorate the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. That has been in place for about four years, and we have done many projects — several hundred projects — that we've helped to fund under that. I know that the provinces and territories are in dialogue with the federal government right now about updating that plan.

With respect to how we are supporting local procurement, I know that the Minister of Economic Development had some meetings and brought the Minister of Health and Social Services to talk about opportunities for connecting our local producers up with the demand that we have in the territory. There are a few ways in which we are trying to increase that connection between our local production and government procurement. I can check in with Highways and Public Works about how that is proceeding.

What I will say is that we have been working in several ways to try to increase the opportunities for local suppliers of food with opportunities here in the government. I will stop there for now.

Mr. Cathers: I look forward to receiving additional information on this topic.

I would also like to touch on one that the minister will know, specifically with regard to the issue of large egg producers. Without getting into naming individual farms here in the Assembly, I would just note that the minister will be aware that concerns brought forward by a large Yukon egg producer — in fact, I do appreciate that he took the time to meet with me and my constituent regarding the issue, but there is a long-standing issue that is frustrating for larger producers — that egg production in the Yukon is not part of the national quota system. At its heart, the question relates to the desire of larger egg producers to be either specifically included in the quota system, or specifically granted an exemption from the quota system.

I should also note, just for anyone who is not familiar with the system, that the quota system of Canada does not actually deal with smaller producers. There is a threshold. The issue of being included in quota or not included in quota would — pardon me — included in quota or excluded from quota would not affect the small farms; it would only apply to farms that were large enough producers to meet the trigger in quota.

I would ask the minister if he could update me on what the status is on this issue. It is one that, as the minister I hope is aware, has been frustrating for farmers affected by the situation, as it hasn't really seemed like there has been progress on it being resolved.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: So, I know, just working backward to the previous question, that there has been an internal task

team set from last year that continues to work with Highways and Public Works around support for local food standing-offer agreements; so that's in place.

With respect to eggs, the Yukon has not entered into the quota system. I'm advised that, if we do move to the quota system, every supplier is affected. So, even if you sell at the farm gate, that changes things — and once you become part of the national quota system, you don't move backward; you can't come back out of it.

So, it has to be a very thoughtful piece. I know that the branch is working on this issue and continues to deliberate on it.

In the meantime, we have worked to look at other options for the Member for Lake Laberge's constituent to see if there are opportunities here in the Yukon, or even nearby in Alaska, for a demand for local eggs. So, that's one of the avenues that we're exploring.

What I will say with respect to this question is that we want to be talking with all farmers who deal with eggs because we don't want to have unintended consequences once we take this step, because, as I understand it, once you've taken that step, there's no backing out from it.

Mr. Cathers: I do appreciate the answer from the minister. I would just note that there does seem to be a bit of a different understanding on what the facts are between farmers affected by this and some within government. I'm not going to attempt to spend too long, especially considering this is the last day of the Sitting, debating the details of it here with the minister. I would just note to him that there does seem to be a discrepancy in what farmers see as the rules at play related to quota and the understanding of some within government. Ultimately, what I'm seeking to see here is a solution that allows larger producers to export if they wish to do so, both within Canada and to Alaska, while of course not preventing smaller producers from operating. As I noted earlier, I would just note that the understanding I have from talking to my constituents affected by this is that their understanding is that there is the ability for smaller farms and farm-gate sales to actually not be impacted by a decision to either allow the larger farms to enter quota or be excluded from it.

I just encourage the minister to look into it further and to press for the specific details of what is in place, because it seems to me that, due to a potential misunderstanding of things by someone, this file seems to be at an impasse and I would just hope to see it move forward to a solution.

With regard to the standing-offer agreements as well, I would just urge the minister — and I recognize that this is not his department's lead, but I would note that the concern that I have heard from farmers and producers is that the standing-offer agreements aren't being fully utilized by governments since departments — once they've entered into them — have some discretion on whether they are actually using the SOAs fully or whether they choose not to use that product. That has led to some apparently deciding that it was easier to not do that — or less hassle perhaps.

That has created a situation where the intent of those agreements is apparently not being fulfilled. I would just

encourage the minister to look into this, to raise it with his colleague, and to consider changing those from an SOA structure to a contract structure under which government would enter into an agreement to purchase that and, as long as the producer was able to meet their commitments to supply it, they would do 100 percent of what they had committed to.

In the interest of time, I am going to move on to another file, and that is regarding the issue of agricultural land development rules. The minister will recall that, under his predecessor, there were changes announced following the agriculture policy that related to the ability to do things, including getting development permits on agricultural land. Those changes were scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 2021. On April 1, 2021, we were, of course, in an election. His predecessor, the then-Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, held a campaign meeting on April 1, 2021 and made a number of promises at that time, including to revisit that file, recognizing that a lot of people who owned agricultural land were upset by the rules that were coming into place that day.

The minister then signed a letter dated April 7 that said, in part — and I quote: “Development Permits on Agricultural Land: A re-elected Liberal government is committed to reviewing and improving agriculture policy, with a particular focus on the process for development permits on agricultural land.” Actually, just for Hansard, let me correct this. I read as the first word “agricultural”; it actually said “agriculture” at that point.

My question with that is — this was a change of the rules that the government was bringing in last April 1. They made a commitment to pause and take another look at it. I understand that this actually occurred, but can the minister just provide this House with an update on what has happened regarding that file and the issue of the rule changes that were announced and then paused? What is the status of those rule changes, and what are the current rules for development on titled agriculture land?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Leading up to the policy, what happened was that we developed an advisory committee with farmers from across the territory, and we got this advice. We came out with the strategy, and when it was just about to come into force, concerns were expressed by the farming community. We did press pause. That work is still in dialogue; we are revisiting it and seeing if it can be improved.

Right now, we are in the middle of that conversation with farmers. I want to be careful here to give a specific timeline. But I think that it is progressing and I do hope to hear something this season. I don't have a firm timeline yet on when it is going to be resolved. I am given to understand that the work is ongoing.

Mr. Cathers: I do appreciate that answer from the minister. I am pleased to hear that it is still paused. I would just ask two things.

Could the minister commit to providing a copy of what the current rules are just so that I have that to share with constituents? When I receive inquiries from people, that information isn't readily accessible — or at least easily findable

— for people on the website. I would just ask if he would commit to providing a copy of what the current rules are.

The second thing that I would urge him to commit to is ensuring that there is consultation with all owners of agricultural land through the same type of mechanisms that have been used previously: advising them via letter of changes that are being considered. With all due respect to the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee, the challenge with using that structure for consultation is that it is hard for that committee to always reflect the needs of everyone who owns agricultural land. There are many people within the farming and gardening sector who are opinionated and strong-willed and very busy operating their own farms and facilities.

There have been issues in the past — no doubt through no intent on anyone's part — with discussions there not being well-connected to the interest of other landowners. Of course, the members on that committee are not in a position where they have the resources or even the contact information to consult with all of the owners of agricultural land. So, I would just ask the minister to commit that, before putting new rules into place, they provide a copy of those draft rules to all current owners of agricultural land and provide them the opportunity to comment on that before government reaches a final decision on those rules.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, with respect to the interim rules that we have in place right now — or the interim policy that we have in place right now — I'm happy to get it to the member opposite. There's no time now for a legislative return, so I'll just get it across to him and to the Third Party.

I can say that what we're using in the interim is a footprint threshold — the amount of land in production for farm uses is sort of the system that is used. But we'll get that for him.

Will I commit to distributing any draft policy to the farming community? Yes, I will — and give an opportunity for some feedback? Yes, I will — or the branch will.

I can also say that I think it's true that, no matter who we're talking to in the Yukon, there's always a range of opinions, so I think it's fair that it's tough to capture everything all the time.

No problem — I think the branch used the advice that they got. They heard some concerns; we're pausing. I think that's all part of this process.

Mr. Cathers: I do thank the minister for that answer and that commitment. I think that it is important to do it in that way — that all owners of agricultural land do have the opportunity to comment on the draft rules. One of the things that I heard and that came up at the doorstep in the election last year as well as elsewhere from Yukoners is that there were issues that emerged after the rules had been announced — and it seems like neither government officials nor the Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee had really thought of them at the time when the rules were being contemplated.

I'm not saying that with the intention of blaming anyone at this point. I'm just framing it as how to do things better going forward to avoid the problems that occurred previously.

I would like to move on to the issue of the Fox Lake local area plan, which has been in the works for quite some time. It would be about 10 years ago that the process started — in fact,

when I was minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. We haven't heard much from government about it lately.

Can the minister provide an update on what the status is of that planning work?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, just to go back, I was correct in my earlier response about the purchase price for Haeckel Hill wind. It uses the independent power producer standing-offer agreement. That price is just over 18 cents per kilowatt hour, I believe.

With respect to Fox Lake, I will have to get some additional information. I can advise that the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council asked for the Fox Lake planning process to be paused while there was a focus on Shallow Bay. The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is requesting that we do a planning process for the larger area, which includes Fox Lake and north of town. That's the current status.

We do, of course, have local area planning going on in many areas of the territory. I can say that land planning is always busy.

Mr. Cathers: I was interested to hear the minister indicate that there was some consideration of doing a larger local area plan for the area north of Whitehorse. I would just remind him that, in addition to the fact that the Ibex Valley area has a local area plan, as does the Hot Springs Road area, there actually was a previous attempt made by a government prior to when I was elected that tried to do local area planning work north of Whitehorse. That was called the Hootalinqua north zoning process. It led to a tremendous amount of public objection from what was a much smaller community at the time due to different interests and needs in different areas. The government of the day ended up abandoning that exercise fairly quickly.

So, I would just suggest to the minister that this type of exercise — attempting to address the needs of communities all in the same way — I would just point out, for example, that there was often no recognition by government, in terms of referring to unincorporated communities — the Hot Springs Road area, according to the number of voters on the elections list, has more people in it than a number of medium-sized towns in the Yukon, including Carmacks and Mayo. The Mayo Road area itself also has more people in it than in towns such as the ones that I have mentioned, and while there are some similarities between the two, they do have their differences as well. The Ibex Valley area is smaller, but there would be in excess of 250 people within the area there. Attempting to address the needs of everyone there, along with the Fox Lake area which is home to a much smaller number of residents, is — I think it is fair to say — guaranteed to lead to public backlash.

I would just suggest that the minister consider addressing the needs of existing local area plans through updating rather than abandoning them and recognizing the shared issues and cumulative impacts individually throughout those plans rather than attempting to lump them all in together.

I would also point out to the minister that, should an effort be made by government to just merge them all into one, there are differences in both the development potential of different

classes of lots throughout that area that would end up being affected, and the ability to subdivide minimum lot size is different between some of those areas, so it would lead to some real challenges attempting to do that.

I will just leave that there and move on to the next question that I have on my list, which relates to the status of the Grizzly Valley lots. The minister will recall that there were 11 lots that were contemplated and zoned for rural residential dog mushing. There was then public objection to that. After a significant amount of time had passed — over a dozen years since those lots were initially contemplated — the public comments on that included a petition that was signed by over half of the residents of the existing Grizzly Valley north subdivision. The government then did public consultation and had paused activity on those lots. I understand now that they have advised residents via mail that they are considering changing the zoning on eight of those 11 lots.

Could the minister please update me on what the status is on this situation with those 11 lots? Is the government indeed planning on changing the zoning on some of those lots, and what are the government's plans with regard to those 11 lots?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: With respect to the feedback, there was a lot of blend or differences in the feedback. Just over 50 percent were in favour of not having dog lots. We are working toward reconfiguring some of those lots. It is in process right now.

As the member noted, we are consulting right now on rezoning eight of these lots to rural residential. We have left a few lots that could remain zoned for dog mushing, but we're not releasing them without more conversation. We will start with the other lots and we will reconfigure them.

When you have dog lots, often they are quite a bit larger, so we will probably reconfigure to match the other lots in the area. So, they will be a minimum size of three hectares. We're talking with local residents; we're talking with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. That work is in process right now in engaging with residents and the First Nations.

Mr. Cathers: I'm pleased to hear that consultation is happening.

The minister mentioned reconfiguring those eight lots and suggested a minimum lot size of three hectares. That would seem to indicate that, since those lots were larger than that, the government is planning on subdividing or reconfiguring those lots so that there would be more than eight.

Could the minister indicate how many lots they're anticipating those eight lots changing into through whatever subdivision or reconfiguration they are considering?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I'm just going to confer with the department and check in on it. I'll get back to the member opposite.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the answer from the minister on that and I look forward to receiving that information.

I would just flag as well that, if they are considering increasing the number of lots in the area, it may also potentially create concern from residents about the increased development in the area. An additional factor — I know this is not the minister's responsibility and this falls under the Department of

Education — is that there still has not been school bus service provided to the subdivision or even at the entrance to Ursa Way. That is a growing issue now but will, no doubt, increase with more development that is done in the area.

I'm going to move on to the issue of Shallow Bay. As the minister will recall, the Shallow Bay rezoning process actually started back in 2014. There was strong support shown in the initial survey. It had a very high response rate of residents and very strong support for allowing the subdivision of rural residential lots.

That then changed through the Shallow Bay zoning process that the government undertook, and there were proposals presented — the minister will also recall — that became, in the lead-up to the election last year and during the election, an issue. Many people in the area were upset about the proposal, specifically where it included the loss of existing rights for current property owners. Some of those issues, as the minister may recall, are the proposed riparian buffer on titled land that would be applied back from the creek and from the lake. While riparian buffers are not a new concept, what has been the practice within the Yukon is that those are typically done through local area plans and zoning and affect the future disposition of land, rather than being applied on titled property.

Using the Ibex Valley zoning area as an example, when the setback was put in for the Takhini River, that affected how close new applications could go to the river, but did not impose a buffer or any restrictions on existing titled property.

The proposal that went out included putting in no-development conditions as part of that, which, as proposed at the time, would have actually prevented someone whose home or outbuildings were destroyed in fire from replacing them. That was very concerning for some people, especially those whose property is closer to creeks and Lake Laberge.

In one case — I won't name them here in the House out of respect for their privacy, but they will know to whom I am referring, and officials may, as well — had that proposal been put in place, it would have affected their home of many years and all the buildings on their property — a property that they actually cleaned up after they owned it to deal with historical contamination left by the US Army. They were in a situation where they were faced with a concern that, should they see a fire or other trouble occur, they would be unable to replace their house.

There were also restrictions proposed that would have prevented new paths from being developed by people on their property. As the minister knows, there was a lot of public dissatisfaction with that.

There were also other issues within the proposal that would have affected — some lot owners would have had the loss of housing development potential, such as the ability for some properties to add a rental unit on them and the case of proposing that existing development rights be removed. There were also changes that would have negatively affected the existing subdivision potential of some lots and would have taken away some of the current allowable uses through the zoning on certain lots that in some cases would have resulted in people with activities that they're currently undertaking going from

being fully allowed on those lots to being classified as a “grandfathered non-conforming use”, which as the minister no doubt is aware, would allow them to continue it at roughly the same size that they’re currently using, but would prevent things such as the expansion of equestrian facilities, for example, on existing lots.

Another example that I will give was the concerns that people had about the proposal that riparian buffers would have prevented horse riding within those buffers near waterways.

That’s not an exhaustive list of the concerns, but considering how deeply it affected people, I did want to give a few of the examples on the record.

Can the minister provide an update on what the status of the Shallow Bay zoning process is now? What next steps are contemplated in terms of public consultation, especially consultation with existing landowners who would be affected by any potential changes?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: So, there was a citizens steering committee which drafted some potential proposals that did raise concerns, and the member has noted several of those concerns here today. I know the department is aware of those concerns.

We got a bit of a wakeup call last summer with the flooding in that area. I think with respect to the Land Planning branch and the steering committee, I think they’re working on a “what we heard” document. I have also asked that everything should be on hold until we get some flood-risk mapping. You want to be thoughtful about what rules you put in around allowing development and subdivision in areas where you’re at potential risk of flooding.

So, I think that the important thing here is that we need to get some detailed flood-risk mapping. Of course, under *Our Clean Future*, that’s one of the things that we’re doing across all of our communities. I think that work is underway. Those are the next steps.

I should just, while I’m on my feet, say that I appreciate the concerns that are raised by residents around planning processes. They always have challenges, but we believe fundamentally in planning processes. I don’t think they’re easy; I just think they’re important.

Mr. Cathers: I certainly don’t disagree with the minister that planning processes are important.

I also just would note, in terms of the Shallow Bay situation, that in contrast to neighbouring zoning areas where, for example, there has been a reduction in the minimum lot size for rural residential lots, which is actually how the Shallow Bay process started, others have seen a reduction from a six-hectare minimum lot size in both the Mayo Road area and the Hot Springs Road area.

The Hot Springs Road area actually has reduced the minimum lot size twice — first to three hectares and then to two hectares for rural residential.

The zoning rules on the minimum lot size for the Shallow Bay area, in contrast to the areas I mentioned — and some others — has not actually changed since — I think it’s 1973 that the original order-in-council was put in for the Whitehorse periphery interim development regulation, I believe it was called.

I would just note that, for some of the people who are looking to subdivide and retire or who see housing shortages around them and the concerns around that and want to provide that opportunity, especially for members of their family, it is frustrating for some of them that this has been many, many years in process.

For some of them who have owned the lots since the 1970s or 1980s, they were involved in the first time that there was consideration of reducing the minimum lot size back in the 1990s, which stalled. Now the current process has been underway for close to eight years.

I would just remind the minister of that and point out that, in some cases, it is affecting people’s ability to see their children provided homes. There are some urgent and semi-urgent — or at least time-sensitive — situations related to it as well. There are consequences associated with delaying this for some of those families who are affected.

I want to move on to — just one more question on the issue of Shallow Bay. I don’t think that the minister provided timelines on when they expect to have more public information or consultation related to Shallow Bay. Does the minister have some sense of that he can provide?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I am hopeful that we have the flood-risk mapping done sometime this year and that we can then pick things back up in 2023 with respect to the planning around Shallow Bay. I will also note with respect to Grizzly Valley that we are looking at whether we can increase the number of lots from the ones that we have identified that were originally set aside as dog lots. Eight of the 11 lots that we are looking at are being reconsidered to possibly be reconfigured to get a few more lots out of them, but that is all part of the engagement that we will have with the neighbours around what is going on.

Mr. Cathers: I do appreciate that information from the minister about Grizzly Valley and would just ask if he could provide me, as I’m sure he doesn’t have it in front of him, with a copy of the letter and any maps that went out to people about that; I would appreciate it.

I want to move on to the issue of Stevens Quarry. The minister will be familiar with the issue. We have discussed it a number of times in Question Period. The minister will recall that, last April, his predecessor made a commitment to — and I quote: “... maintain the administrative hold that is currently in place on Stevens Quarry ... It will not be developed...” over the next mandate.

We have discussed the issue of impacts to farmers, including people whom the minister has recognized in this House, from the potential development of that. What I would ask the minister is if he could talk about what work the government has done, or is contemplating, on other gravel options. My understanding is that — at the tank farm property, for example — there is a significant amount of gravel reserves identified there, as well as other existing gravel reserves that the government has identified.

Could the minister talk about what reserves are currently identified, and could he indicate whether they are doing any

work, either directly or in cooperation with the city, to identify new potential gravel resources?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: So, I will answer a few ways. First of all, in broad terms, I have sat down a couple of times now with the city to talk through the issue of gravel. I am sure that the department has met many times with them. We have asked that together we review all demands for gravel and all potential supply — existing, private, government-owned, and potential. For example, one of the places that we discussed was the tank farm and we talked with the city. I know, as well, that the Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation has also had conversations about the tank farm with the city. We both have discussed that there could be a potential for gravel there, but it has to work within the city's rules.

We have discussed Stevens Quarry and have gone over it again, and so I will say that I fully anticipate honouring the commitment that was made by the Member for Porter Creek South with respect to Stevens Quarry. We see potential in Stevens Quarry. We think that we should keep our eyes on it, but if it were to be developed, it would require quite a bit of planning because, when the YESAB assessment happened in 2012 — or in that area — there was a list of conditions placed on the potential of developing Stevens Quarry — I think there were about 40 or 50 conditions — but significantly, there were several in there that required specific planning.

That is where that is at. I'm not sure that we've had a discussion in this Legislature about the impact on agriculture. I did hear the Member for Lake Laberge weave that into his tribute yesterday, but I wouldn't call that a "conversation" yet. I will say that the department has let me know that it has identified 14 leases within Whitehorse. As I've said, we're working on assessing both the supply and the demand. I've asked the department as well to look nearby outside of the city as well, in case that is of utility for the City of Whitehorse.

Mr. Cathers: I do appreciate the minister indicating that he plans to honour that commitment. I would just note that the issue of potential development of Stevens Quarry — every time that it has reared its head, there has been concern from people in the area, including farmers, about the impact on them. Both current and past cattle operations have been very concerned about the impact on their livestock of active quarries right across the river from them or right next to them. I'll just give an example from 2012 during the YESAB review that occurred prior to government making a decision when I was Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to not allow that project to proceed. One of the farms that I visited at the request of constituents — when they took us down to the edge of the Takhini River and showed where the development would occur — also showed the map boundaries as provided to YESAB and where that would be. It was quite evident that, looking at it from a map, it is not as obvious an impact as when you're standing there on the property and realizing that you could almost hit the edge of Stevens Quarry by throwing a stone across the river at where that was and that it would have taken away the hillside as well, which would have not only increased dust for the farm, but also for any Yukon paddlers, either recreational or wilderness tourism-related, using the Takhini River.

It would have significantly changed the rural and wilderness quality of the river by having an active gravel pit next to it. Those are some of the concerns.

I would urge the minister to take a look at the multiple submissions that residents in the area made during the review by YESAB in 2012, which culminated in 2013. That, I think, would help him understand some of the specific impacts — including on farmers — of developing that area.

I would just note as well that, as we did previously in government, we urge government to work on identifying other gravel options, because there does need to be gravel to meet the needs of the territory, but the impacts — as YESAB recognized and the government previously recognized — that would occur on farms, tourism, and other businesses and residents in the area are indeed real. That is why, every time the project has been proposed, there has been strong opposition to it.

I am going to move on to some other questions related to YESAB in this case. According to timelines, decision documents for BMC's Kudz Ze Kayah project should have been issued last May. However, on July 16 last year, the Yukon government and the federal government wrote a letter to the executive committee of the YESA board indicating that they expected a decision document to be issued for this project in the next three months. We are now over nine months since the letter was posted, and no decision document has been issued and no updates have been provided on when we can expect it.

Can the minister update the House on when he expects a decision document to be issued for this project?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: This is a lead for us as a major project with the Executive Council Office — I am working at all times with the Premier on this file.

He and I, and our department folk, have raised this with the federal government at every opportunity. I will honestly say that, in every meeting that I have had with my ministerial counterparts since I took this role roughly a year ago, this topic has been raised.

I'm not able to speak for the federal government — I'm sorry. I don't have anything that I can add to the floor of the Legislature today.

I can say that I have a meeting coming up this weekend with one of my counterparts from the federal government. We have set an agenda, and I have asked that Kudz Ze Kayah be on that agenda. I'm working to get the information as quickly as possible. I'm working to encourage the federal government to complete its work. We believe that it's important to have a coordinated decision. We'll continue to encourage the federal government to do that.

Mr. Cathers: We certainly hope to hear more soon. The delays in the permitting process are concerning and impact investor confidence.

As the minister knows, over 50 percent of the Yukon's land base is currently off limits to new claim staking. A large part of this in the Ross River Dena Council's and the Liard First Nation's traditional territories. On April 6, the government extended the ban in these areas to April 20, 2024.

Can the minister provide us an update on negotiations to remove these bans? When was the last meeting held, and when is the next one scheduled?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: This is being led by the Executive Council Office. I will check in to see if there is any information about a latest engagement with the Kaska, both the Ross River Dena Council and the Liard First Nation.

Mr. Cathers: The last time Energy, Mines and Resources was here, we asked about the resource road regulation that was supposed to be happening this spring. My colleague mentioned that some companies felt that their YESAA assessments were delayed because it wasn't in place, and the legislation was passed last fall to enable it.

We saw yesterday in the media that a mining company near Ross River has withdrawn their project and has indicated that they are waiting for this regulation before they resubmit. Can the minister tell us when this regulation will be ready?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: As I said on April 13 when I was last on my feet responding to questions from the member opposite — the Member for Copperbelt South at the time — our current timeline for the resource road regulations is now early in 2023. It has just taken longer than we anticipated because of engagement and consultation, so that work is underway right now. We, too, are looking forward to those regulations.

Again, my thanks to all members of this Legislature for passing the bill last fall that will enable this. It is important, not just for the mining industry or other resource-based industries, but also for clarity for our communities and for making sure that we can protect the environment.

Mr. Cathers: We have highlighted growing concerns with the fuel-wood supply. Those concerns occurred over the past year and affected the ability of firewood suppliers this winter, as well as the price. We have highlighted those growing concerns about the upcoming season. We have also mentioned the concerns that we are hearing from harvesters, including those near the Watson Lake and Haines Junction areas, about things, including permit conditions, that prevent them from hauling during April because of concerns about wildfire risk when, of course, there was a lot of snow on the ground.

The minister had told us basically that he had received assurances from officials that the situation was okay. Can the minister tell us if he has reached out and talked to anyone in the industry about this situation? If so, who has he talked to about it?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The question was pretty specific. I think that it was about when I personally had conversation with members of the industry. I would have to look back to try to see when last I had texts or phone calls with some of the folks, but I know that the department has been in conversation. I have asked for information following questions that were raised here previously. I did say that we would want to hear from our wildfire specialists about when the risk was too high or not too high. I want to be careful when we are talking about the major producer from Watson Lake. He is harvesting in British Columbia, just across the border, down the Stewart-Cassiar, and so, for that, we are not involved directly in the permitting

process, but we do, from time to time, work to reach out to the BC government to facilitate permitting, if there are challenges.

Mr. Cathers: I do also just want to note — although I know that this specific change was not the minister's portfolio, it affected the fuel-wood industry, which largely deals with him. The changes to the rules around weigh scales, as well, is something that we heard from firewood sellers was seriously impacting their ability to deliver wood to people in the Whitehorse area.

Ultimately, when it comes to government regulations, or to permitting and assessment, while it does matter which department or board is dealing with something, ultimately, for companies that are trying to navigate the system, as well as their customers, if the system isn't working, they don't really care who is to blame; they want to see solutions. The fact was that we were in a situation last year where producers were forced to import logs from British Columbia for firewood that could have been sourced here. It was not a cost-effective outcome and it was not even the most environmentally responsible outcome because of the increased emissions in hauling them.

So, my point on that is I just want to emphasize to the minister that people want to see solutions. We've done our part to provide some suggestions on that, but I would encourage the minister to work with people in the industry to hear what their problems are and to come up with solutions to actually fix these problems, rather than arguing over who's to blame for the problems.

I want to move on to another issue that is regarding a platform commitment the Liberals made regarding — saying that they would — quote: "Use wood salvaged in fuel breaks to heat local buildings, transitioning ten large buildings to biomass by 2025."

Can the minister update us on this commitment? How much wood has been salvaged, and how many large buildings have transitioned to biomass?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I agree with the member opposite that when you're presented with — when the public comes to you and presents challenges, you do work across departments to see. For example, when I heard about issues with respect to the delivery of firewood, I did reach out to the Minister of Highways and Public Works and was engaged with him on sorting that out, although I think that was really about local firewood delivery from in and around Whitehorse to nearby areas; it wasn't so much about firewood coming up the Alaska Highway, but it's fine.

I know that it is the Department of Highways and Public Works that is working on getting the buildings put across to use biomass, but we have created a group where we deal with Community Services, because they have the Wildland Fire folks, ourselves, because we have the Forestry branch, and also, I think Economic Development has been involved, but Highways and Public Works, to create the demand side on this. I'll check with my colleague to see if I can figure out how many buildings have — or what the plan is for the buildings to get across on to biomass — but that is correct that we are working together.

Deputy Chair: Would members like to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*.

Is there any further general debate?

Mr. Cathers: Continuing on the topic related to biomass, I just want to ask the minister about what is being done regarding targeted harvesting in and near communities to reduce wildfire risk. The minister will recall that we have urged the government in the past to do more on this. As well, we want to acknowledge the work of FireSmart Whitehorse, a citizens' group, for the work they have done in bringing this to the attention of governments and the work of fire experts, both within the government and outside, on identifying the potential wildfire risk in Whitehorse and in communities.

As the minister knows, an evaluation of Fort McMurray and other wildfires provides some lessons for the Yukon. The number one lesson is the importance of doing that targeted harvesting work and other fuel abatement and preparations before it's an emergency, because, in an emergency situation, it can very quickly get out of hand.

Fort McMurray, as the minister will no doubt be aware — we heard in the post-mortem report that was provided and shared at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre a while ago — I don't recall the exact date of that — had also done some comparisons between our situation and theirs. Fort McMurray was much better set up for fleeing during a wildfire situation and has more options than we do in terms of wildfire risk.

The minister will also recall that information indicates that, typically in the summer, the prevailing wind is from the south more often than from the north and that the statistics around highest risk would suggest that we do face the greatest risks in the Whitehorse area if there were to be a wildfire south of town or in town, but that is not the only direction that it could approach.

Just setting the stage there, my question for the minister is — recognizing all the discussion that has gone on — and we know that some work has been done on a fire break — can the minister update us on what the current status is of doing targeted harvesting in and near communities to reduce wildfire risk? What's underway now? What is anticipated to occur?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, to answer the previous question about biomass, we have buildings in Dawson and Teslin. We also have several in and around Whitehorse: Yukon Gardens, Raven Recycling, and Hobah Apartments. The Correctional Centre here uses pellets, but they are expanding to additional buildings for the Young Offenders Facility and

Takhini Haven. I understand that Elijah Smith school is considering a biomass heating system. I know that we have had conversations with the City of Whitehorse about several. I know that the Energy Solutions Centre has provided some funding and support through the good energy program to maybe eight or so buildings with respect to biomass. From talking with the Minister of Highways and Public Works, I understand that there are a dozen or so other buildings being considered.

With respect to wildland fire and the community safety aspect and using those opportunities for harvest, we are doing projects across all Yukon communities. It is being led by Wildland Fire Management within Community Services. That work is underway for each community. We started with Whitehorse and Haines Junction. We identified fire risk and started there. We have a team that sits down to work with the community to talk about that risk and to map out preventive measures. It isn't always just about a fire break. It is possible that sometimes it is about making it so that our attack crews can get in and do better work and redirect fires. The forestry branch is working with Wildland Fire Management on those projects.

Mr. Cathers: It is worth noting — as my colleague, the Member for Kluane, pointed out — that the fire-break work that was intended for the Haines Junction area was — depending on the Quill Creek area that went out to the private sector for logging — and that, of course, because of a condition of the permit that shut them down on April 1 due to an abundance of over-caution regarding the potential wildfire risk in April, considering what this year has been like — they were prevented from doing work that actually would have reduced the wildfire risk this summer in the Haines Junction area. I do want to note that, in that area, I do appreciate that some work has started. I do want to emphasize again the importance of doing that before it's an emergency.

I recognize that, while we appreciate the work that is being done by government in preparing for flood season, nature doesn't always cooperate with planning work and we could indeed see a summer that is problematic for forest fires. For any community that is in a situation where there is a higher fuel load in and near the community than we can deal with effectively should a wildfire occur, the risk from that is not something to overstate, but not something to minimize either. Unfortunately, the best available information tells us that, in the Whitehorse area, we are not well-prepared for dealing with such a situation, and if the wrong wildfire occurs — and the wrong wind and temperature conditions — it could be extremely problematic for Whitehorse and the surrounding area.

I do want to move on to some other issues. I want to ask the minister about the ongoing elk-agriculture conflict. The minister will recall that we have suggested, as have farmers — and my colleague, the Member for Kluane, and I signed a letter about that, urging the government to broaden the exclusion zone to broaden the Takhini Valley.

Can the minister update us on what work is currently ongoing to deal with the elk-agriculture conflict?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all — and I say this respectfully — we here are elected officials, but we have

experts. So, when it comes to wildland fire, I just again say: Can we please defer to our experts at Wildland Fire Management to give us their best indication about when risk is too high and when it is not? I just think that it is a mistake for us to not defer to them. Of course, we are very well aware of the risk of wildfire. I will leave that there. This is what I have said here previously. I don't think that this should be a political decision; I think that it should be a decision led by our emergency response teams — in particular, the wildfire folk from Community Services.

With respect to elk and agriculture and the conflict, this summer we come to the end of our two-year trial that we were running. We had already pulled together stakeholders to have conversations about how that went and where we should go. I think that they have even met a couple of times this week. The Yukon Agricultural Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, First Nations, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the Department of Environment are part of it. They are sitting down right now to talk about all potential options and to discuss a way forward.

Mr. Cathers: The minister seems to take issue with my colleagues and I saying that there is not a high wildfire risk right now with the amount of snow that is on the ground, suggesting that we leave that conclusion to the experts. Don't get me wrong; I do respect the advice of experts, but common sense is also something that hopefully most of us do have. Some of us in this House do have some familiarity and understanding of seasonal normal conditions as well as wildfire risks, so it's a little bit hard for me to not challenge the minister on the statement that suggests that we shouldn't question what he claims the experts are saying.

I am going to pursue that one a little further. I am going to ask — he says that we should listen to the experts. My question is: Did the forest resources branch consult with Wildland Fire Management before putting in the April 1 condition on the Quill Creek permit requiring them to stop? As the minister knows, it took effect regardless of what the conditions actually were this April.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Yes, as the plans are set, there are conversations with various branches, and I will also say that my background is in climate change risk analysis. I authored the paper talking about the risks here in the territory, where I indicate that our single highest risk is around wildland fire. I'm very familiar with this issue. Still, I would defer to the experts at Wildland Fire. I appreciate that all folk in this Legislature, or all MLAs, have common sense and are all here to do their best. I just continue to say, even with that background of mine, that I think we should make sure to be checking in around these risks with our professionals.

Mr. Cathers: Again, I don't disagree with the minister that it's valuable to check with experts, but when the decision was made — whoever made it — that clearly doesn't make sense in the current weather conditions — and as I mentioned, as pointed out by my colleague for Kluane, the work in Quill Creek where the private sector operator had to stop, in addition to helping them provide fuel wood to their customers, that

project itself was also intended to reduce the fuel-wood risk south of Haines Junction, and because of a —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Cathers: — fire risk — thank you to my colleague. It was intended to reduce the fire risk south of Haines Junction, and because the operator shut down April 1, while there was a lot of snow on the ground out there and a very low wildfire risk, we resulted in a situation where Haines Junction is actually at greater risk of a wildfire problem this summer due to that work not continuing in the month of April.

Ultimately, I'm not disputing that whoever was dealing with this probably meant well, but a mistake was made, and it is part of our job to point that out and suggest what government should do to correct it going forward, which includes not putting in an arbitrary date of April 1 that can't be adjusted in permits such as this if there is a future situation where, during the month of April, there is an exceptionally low wildfire risk due to snow remaining late on the ground.

I want to ask the minister about that April 1 date that was included. Is it the government's intention to include this as a standard condition on other logging and fuel-wood permits, or has the government recognized that was a mistake, and will they endeavour to ensure that future permits provide, at the very least, more flexibility to acknowledge weather conditions, if there's a low fire risk situation?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I don't know how many years ago — I'm just looking across to my colleague, the Member for Kluane — but there was the fire that started nearby to Haines Junction, and it started from a slash pile that was left for some work. So, you do have to be careful. Again, that is why it's good to talk to our experts.

I did ask the department about where this comes from specifically. The fire season is legislated under the *Forest Protection Act*. This was a condition that YESAB set coming forward.

Look, I think we're arguing the wrong way in this Legislature right now. Do I understand that there is a lot of snow on the ground? Yes, there is across the territory. Of course, I can't tell you how much snow we will have on the ground next year yet. Could there be the possibility of getting conditions that are different and more flexible? Possibly. I'm happy to look at it by talking with experts, by making sure that we're following the rules.

I appreciate that the member is characterizing this as though we, as a government, have stepped in and done something that is not common sense. Actually, I think what we're doing is following those things that are prescribed for us, and it's about being cautious.

I appreciate that there is a difference of opinion about this, and we can continue to debate it — I'm happy to do so — but this is about making sure. I think the value that we are trying to uphold here is to make sure that the communities are safe while, at the same time, providing as much opportunity for the private sector and the wood supply.

I think that the debate is — I appreciate it — but I will just be turning back to the department to ask for their suggestions and advice on this. I'm not advising them to do something

different other than to follow the rules and to make sure that our communities are safe.

Mr. Cathers: I would like to pursue this at greater length, but I'm just going to make a couple of brief comments before turning it over to the Third Party, as agreed, to provide them with the opportunity to ask questions.

I just want to note that I appreciate the minister's response, but I think that he is missing the mark. Ultimately, the situation is not to do it in a way to raise fears about wildfire risk this year, but there is a reality that, while government is focusing on preparing for a flood, it actually might be a wildfire year and that the work that was going on in the Haines Junction area and Quill Creek actually would have reduced the wildfire risk this summer, and it is possible — hopefully, it will not be the case — that the work that could have been done in April could have made a material difference if there is a wildfire problem in the area.

So, I would encourage the minister, if they are basing it on what they see as a lack of flexibility in the rules, to do as we have suggested in the past, and as industry has suggested, and revisit those rules that are creating problems unnecessarily.

With that, I will wrap up my comments and just thank the minister and the officials here, as well as those supporting him. As agreed with the Third Party, I will turn the floor over to them for questions.

Acting Chair (Ms. Clarke): Member for Whitehorse Centre.

Ms. Tredger: Thank you to my colleague. I appreciate the chance to ask some questions.

I want to start by following up on a question that my colleague asked about the Kudz Ze Kayah mine. The minister said that they are currently encouraging Canada to move forward with a decision. That suggests to me that the Yukon government has the information they need on their end to make a decision, and I am wondering what the position is of YG on that project.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I believe that we indicated our support for the project more than a year ago and that we were encouraging the feds to get to the end of their deliberations.

Ms. Tredger: Thank you for that answer.

I wanted to talk briefly about the better building program, which I understand is under the Energy Solutions Centre, and I am wondering when that is expected to be operational.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The split in the work is that Community Services is working with municipalities to address how the local improvement charges will be managed through the property tax system, but in unincorporated areas, we are the taxation authority. We can get to that work right away. I will have to check with my colleague, the Minister of Community Services, to find out what the timing will be in unincorporated areas.

In terms of getting from the Energy Solutions Centre side of this, we already do this work where we go in and assess buildings and advise on how they can do retrofits and support that. It is already done by the Energy Solutions Centre, so that can happen. Of course, we might need to scale up and ramp up,

but the piece that I would need to check in about is how the taxation or local improvement charge side of that is handled.

I am just getting a note suggesting that it will be late this year when that begins. I can also indicate that we just got funding from the federal government to do training across our communities for folks to be energy auditors and to build up that expertise across the Yukon.

Ms. Tredger: I just want to make sure that I understand correctly. Is the minister saying that the loan program is already available for unincorporated communities and that people can access it right now?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: No, what I am saying is that the work of the Energy Solutions Centre to audit buildings and residences, and to advise on how to retrofit and all that work, is in place now. We do that work, but we don't loan out money for it. We provide grants for that work.

The loan system under the better building loan program will come in, we think, this fall. We need to get the regulations in place, so we think our timing for that is later this year. Then we can begin to do the work in any unincorporated area where we are the taxing authority. So, the loan part of the better building side will come into place once the regulations are in place. Then finally, within municipalities where they are the taxing authority, there is work ongoing now with the Department of Community Services to facilitate those municipalities to get on board as well.

Ms. Tredger: Just to make sure that I understand correctly, the audits are available now — and I had one a couple of years ago and it is a great program. We're expecting the regulations for the program to come by the end of the fall, at which point the loans will be available to unincorporated communities. Then in other municipalities, it will come at a later date that is not sure yet. So, if that's correct, that would be great. If not, perhaps the minister can correct me.

Otherwise, I will move on. I want to talk a little bit about *Our Clean Future* and specifically some of the provisions around quartz mines. Item I6 calls for new provisions in the quartz mining licensing process to ensure that their infrastructure is designed and built to withstand climate change by 2022 — which, of course, is this year.

Where is that work at?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Just to support the earlier review, what the member opposite said about the development of the better building program is true.

By the way, I anticipate — I sat in with the minister in conversations with municipalities and I heard that they were quite supportive, so I anticipate that it will come pretty quickly with getting them there as the taxing authority.

As the member noted, under *Our Clean Future*, there is a requirement for our mines to give us their emissions. The way we're doing that is that, when we reissue licences for those mines, it will become a condition of their licence. That's starting this year. We will issue guidance to the industry later this year.

There are a couple of our actions — both I6 and I7. We will send a note out to the industry later this year, and then, on

any renewal of their licences, it will become a condition of their licences.

Ms. Tredger: So, the note will go out later this year. Then I am assuming that, in 2023 when they renew their licences, at that point, we will start getting reports. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We will ask all mines to report to us right away. We will also make it a condition of their licence on a go-forward basis so that it is a requirement for them to do so. That will happen as their licences renew.

Not every mine renews their licence every year. It will happen over time.

But I can say this as well: We have been working through the chamber of mines, through the producers group, through various folks to give them an indication of this. Generally speaking, it has been pretty well-received — that is my feeling for it. I think that most mines are working to support us in how we're moving forward under these things, noting that we're all working together to try to transition off of fossil fuels.

Ms. Tredger: Thank you to the minister for that. I'm wondering if we can expect those reports about mining emissions to be made public. Will that be included in the territory's emissions report?

I'm also wondering about the work for the intensity-based greenhouse gas reduction targets for mines — if we can have an update on that work.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There are a couple of ways. The main way in which we track emissions for mines — or for almost anything in the territory — is through fuel sales. That is the best way we have to track those emissions. We understand that, for different fuel types, they have different emission profiles and we just use those sales, largely. As we have indicated to mines, that is the best way for them to track for it. Yes, we will report that information as we get it. The answer to the question about whether we will report that information is yes.

The work is ongoing right now regarding mining intensity targets. Last week, I met with the Yukon Minerals Advisory Board. We discussed them taking this on as one of the issues that they can advise me on. We have had that type of dialogue. We are preparing information for them right now on potential options. The Sustainable Resources branch has been working to develop options around mining intensity targets. The real challenge is around how you measure the productivity of mines and compare them. That's the thing that is most being worked on.

Ms. Tredger: I am wondering if there is an idea of when those targets will be in place. I am also curious if there is a sense of the time over which those targets will be realized. Do we have a sense of what percent reduction in intensity-based emissions we are looking at?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: One of the things I can say is that it's our stated goal under *Our Clean Future* to develop those targets this year. By the end of the year is when we anticipate having those targets ready.

We understand very well that our ultimate target is 2050 and zero emissions. Whether they are intensity- or absolute-based targets, it's all zero at that point, so they come together.

The real question is what intermediate steps to develop, because you don't just want to have a target that's far out. You need steps along the way in order to ensure that you are moving in that direction. That is where the conversation lies with the industry right now.

I think that it is fair to say that we should have an intermediate step similar to what we have with *Our Clean Future*. For *Our Clean Future*, we have a 2030 intermediate step, so we should have something similar to that with mines.

Ms. Tredger: That is great. I would be very happy to see a target by 2030. Do we have a sense of what percent of reduction in the emissions that we are looking for?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: That is certainly part of the conversation that is going on right now, but again, it should be similar. If you are trying to get to 2050, you need to make it significant over the next eight years or decade in order to move it down the path. Without having an answer specifically today, because that work is not complete, I can indicate that it should be comparable.

Ms. Tredger: Thank you to the minister. I am very excited to see the results of those conversations. I am going to jump around a little bit, trying to pack in a few last questions. I want to talk about the abattoir.

The Yukon's only year-round abattoir is closed, so that leaves Yukon farming businesses with only the mobile abattoir, which doesn't run in the winter and can't get to all farms. For example, West Dawson can't be accessed when the ferry is not running. It is pretty critical to northern food security that our farms are able to operate and that we are able to move product from farms to local restaurants and everyone else who relies on Yukon-grown meats.

I am wondering what the minister is doing to ensure that farmers and farms have year-round access to government-inspected abattoir services.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I met last Friday with YBAR — Yukon Born and Raised Meats — regarding their abattoir. They had taken the decision to end their lease where they had that abattoir set up, so we are in dialogue with them as we speak, but not just them. The folks who run the mobile abattoir — in fact, I understand that the Yukon Agricultural Association executive director was here just recently in the Legislative Assembly.

They are meeting with a group of stakeholders next week to work through a conversation on this issue. I have had a few conversations with the Agricultural Association. I know that the department is working on it, and I think that there are a few options on the table. What we want to make sure is that we have winter abattoir services, and we also need to make sure that there is support between now and when we get to a solution so that we don't run into problems. There are a few key issues to work on, and I would like to say thanks to all the folks in the industry who have reached out to talk to us about this.

When I talked with the executive director of the Yukon Agricultural Association, he referred to this as "growing pains"

— meaning that there has been a lot of movement in the Yukon to increase our food production here, and now, as that happens, we need to deal with this piece of infrastructure, because it is going to be critical for our farmers and our producers. So, we will work to resolve this, but I think that our overall goal is that we don't want government to be the ultimate solution. Over time — there might be an interim piece where we are there, but as soon as we can move out of the space, that would be important for us as well.

Ms. Tredger: Could the minister clarify for me — was he referring to the Yukon government-owned mobile abattoir, or was he referring to a private mobile abattoir?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: When we first got involved with the mobile abattoir, it was envisioned that the government would be involved for five to 10 years and then remove itself from it. Now, that could mean a variety of things. That could mean that the mobile abattoir becomes totally private, or that could mean that there are enough private fixed facilities that it could handle work across the territory. So, it is a range of possibilities, but I meant more broadly than just the fixed abattoir.

Ms. Tredger: Thank you to the minister for that clarification.

I wanted to skip back to mining just for a moment and mining emissions. This is a conversation that we have had a few times in the Legislature, but I want to really drill down on it, and that is the question of the emissions caused by habitat — in particular, wetlands degradation, but other types of environment as well which isn't currently captured in *Our Clean Future* as our emissions which, as the minister had mentioned, are mostly measured through fuel sales.

Yet we know that this is a really important source of carbon — they're very important carbon sinks, and they have the potential to release a huge amount of carbon into the atmosphere when disrupted. I believe the Minister of Environment had said that they are working on a way to measure how much carbon we can expect to be released by different types of development.

I guess the question for me is — we're in a climate emergency. Do we need to know exactly how big of a problem this is to know that it's a huge problem? If we're trying to get our emissions down, do we need to really narrow in on exactly how much carbon this would emit, or can we just say that needs to be left in the ground?

I'm wondering if the minister can update us on that work to measure that and what their plans are to include it in any kind of targets.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I understand that some of our folks had a workshop on this yesterday. Again, there are several — there are many ways in which we store carbon in the Yukon, or across the country. Our boreal forest would be one; wetlands is one; soil is one — they all have carbon storage in them, and depending on how you disturb them and how you treat them, you can change that balance.

It is important to study it — absolutely, it is important to study it. It could be that we have activity happening in those areas right now, and we may have misunderstood what type of

risk there is with that. It is really quite important to get a sense of the order of magnitude. Now, it will never be exact.

I have been around this issue long enough to see Canada, internationally, talk about forestry and what it can and can't do with respect to sequestering carbon. It's, I would say, a complicated situation whenever you are dealing with the natural world and our relationship with it.

I think that wetlands have many values for us as Yukoners, not just as carbon stores. They do many ecological services, and so they should definitely be considered. I will say again that we have a wetlands strategy that is currently being engaged upon across the territory with industry, citizens, First Nation governments, and also the public at large. I think that's important work.

I guess I will disagree with the member opposite that, if something has any emissions, we should stop it because we have a trajectory. We have a lot of vehicles, heating, many things that have emissions to them. We're not looking to try to put a hard stop on that; we're trying to look to transition as smoothly as possible. I spoke yesterday at the closing of — at the final evening of the Renewables in Remote Communities conference. It was great to hear all of that interest in moving things forward, but it's still a journey that we're on together. I agree that there is an imperative, but I don't think that you can just turn off a tap.

Ms. Tredger: I'll come back again to: We're in an emergency.

I am looking forward to the release of the wetlands policy. I have to say that I hope it looks quite different from the draft, because the suggestion that wetlands would be open for development unless they were specifically nominated by someone of special interest or of special importance puts an immense amount of onus on Yukoners to actively try to protect these areas. I really think it should be the other way around, that we say that these are important areas. If we think it's okay to develop them, if we can make the case that it is safe, that it is necessary to develop them, then we can do that, but the idea that they're all open for business unless someone is able to go through the process of nominating them is really problematic.

But I do want to skip around a little bit just to — back to *Our Clean Future* and some of the housing developments. I do apologize for skipping around. Under item H8, which is rebates for thermal enclosures, is this program fully subscribed this year, and do we have a sense of how many applications there are each year?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I just got a note from the Energy Solutions Centre to indicate to me that the program is not fully subscribed yet this year, so I hope that is the information that is being sought. I will also just encourage that, because we are engaging now on the wetlands policy — I am hearing the concerns that the member is raising about the wetlands policy, but like all Yukoners, I welcome all that feedback into that engagement system, and I am happy to get it.

I think that we are probably drawing to a close today, and I would just like to thank the colleagues from Energy, Mines and Resources and, in particular, to thank assistant deputy

minister Heather Mills for her first time here in the Legislative Assembly.

Deputy Chair (Ms. Tredger): Is there any further general debate on Vote 55, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources?

Mr. Cathers: Since there is surprisingly an opportunity for one more question, I will just ask the minister — we have seen an indication in the budget about money for the electric vehicle station chargers, both for fast charging and for business and home. Can the minister please indicate what is the estimated impact of increased power consumption due to that? What is the plan for providing that power, and what is the impact on neighbourhood grids in terms of transformers, substations, and wiring that may need to be upgraded as a result?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: With respect to the broad part of that question, that is exactly the 10-year renewable plan of Yukon Energy. It has always been to fuel-shift from the transportation toward renewables and to build up renewables at the same time. So, that plan is in place. I think that the member opposite knows about it.

With respect to the very technical question about neighbourhoods and transformers, I would have to talk to ATCO Electric to look at it, but luckily, I know that Yukon Energy and ATCO are working closely with each other around how that will work. I think we can get the technical information for members opposite. Just as a reminder, we did invite those

Termination of Sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)

Deputy Chair: The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 32nd sitting day of the 2022 Spring Sitting.

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

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

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

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

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

Pursuant to the Sessional Order adopted on March 8, 2022, through the adoption of Motion No. 282, Standing Order 76 only applies to appropriation bills for this Sitting.

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 whether the appropriation bill now before Committee of the Whole should be called.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The government directs that Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be called at this time.

Bill No. 204: *First Appropriation Act 2022-23* — continued

Deputy Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*.

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

Hon. Mr. Silver: I move that all clauses, schedules, and the title of Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Klondike that all clauses, schedules, and the title of Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be deemed to be read and carried.

As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Count.

Count

Deputy Chair: A count has been called. The Chair will ring the bells and conduct a count.

Bells

Deputy Chair: Order.

All members in favour of the motion, please rise.

Members rise

Deputy Chair: All members opposed to the motion, please rise.

Members rise

Deputy Chair: The results are nine yea, eight nay.

I declare the motion carried.

Motion agreed to

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,419,022,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$546,477 agree to

Total Expenditures in the amount of \$1,965,499,000 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedules A and B agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Silver: Deputy Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, without amendment.

Deputy Chair: It has been moved by the Member for Klondike that the Chair report Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, without amendment.

As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Deputy Chair: As the appropriation bill identified by the Government House Leader has 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 Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole?

Chair's report

Ms. Tredger: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, and directed me to report the bill without amendment.

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

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

Pursuant to the Sessional Order adopted on March 8, 2022, through the adoption of Motion No. 282, Standing Order 76 only applies to appropriation bills for this Sitting.

I shall therefore ask the Government House Leader to indicate whether the appropriation bill now standing on the Order Paper for third reading should be called.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Speaker, the government directs that Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be called for third reading at this time.

Bill No. 204: *First Appropriation Act 2022-23* — Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 204, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Silver.

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 204, entitled *First Appropriation Act 2022-23*, 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. Streicker: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Pillai: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Clarke: Agree.

Hon. Ms. McLean: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Agree.

Mr. Dixon: Disagree.

Mr. Kent: Disagree.

Ms. Clarke: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Disagree.

Ms. McLeod: Disagree.

Ms. Van Bibber: Disagree.

Mr. Hassard: Disagree.

Mr. Istchenko: Disagree.

Ms. White: Agree.

Ms. Blake: Agree.

Ms. Tredger: Agree.

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. 204 agreed to

Speaker: I declare that Bill No. 204 has passed this House.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

Commissioner: Please be seated.

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

Clerk: *Act to Amend the Education Act; First Appropriation Act 2022-23.*

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

Dear members, thank you for your work during the Spring Sitting. Enjoy some rest and the nice-ish weather — although today is really nice.

You will soon receive a personalized invitation to events organized over the next few months to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

I would like to thank Brenda McCain-Armour, who is listening over there, Legislative Assembly Office operations manager, for her work over the years and for her welcoming presence. Thank you, Brenda, for the great conversations that we had over the last four years while I waited for the invitation to come into the House to assent to bills or to read the Speech from the Throne. Enjoy your retirement and have fun with your new e-bike.

Merci, thank you, shaw nithän, günilschish, mahsi' cho.

Commissioner leaves the Chamber

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

As well, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled team at Hansard for their timely and accurate service and all the other background staff and contractors who keep this Legislative Assembly operating.

I would also like to thank our camera operator, Chris Rogers, our camera operator for the Assembly. I would also commend the hard-working civil servants who deliver services to Yukoners and support to all of us members in our work.

I wish all Members of the Legislative Assembly all the best after this long winter. I hope that all of us can look forward to a summer of family, friends, and the great Yukon outdoors. Thank you very much.

As the House has, pursuant to Standing Order 75(4), reached the maximum number of sitting days permitted for this Spring Sitting and the House has completed consideration of the designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled April 28, 2022:

35-1-51

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer — Election Financing Returns — 2021 Territorial General Election (Speaker Harper)

35-1-52

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer — Recommended Changes to the Elections Act 2021 (Speaker Harper)

35-1-53

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer — The Administration of the 2021 Territorial General Election (Speaker Harper)

35-1-54

Department of Education 2021 Annual Report (McLean)

The following legislative returns were tabled April 28, 2022:

35-1-58

Response to oral question from Mr. Kent re: teacher remuneration (Streicker)

35-1-59

Response to Written Question No. 5 re: housing projects (Pillai)

The following document was filed April 28, 2022:

35-1-67

Yukon's Policing Priorities for 2022-23, letter re (dated March 25, 2022) from Tracy-Anne McPhee, Minister of Justice, to Chief Superintendent Scott Sheppard, Commanding Officer, RCMP M Division (McPhee)

The following written questions were tabled April 28, 2022

Written Question No. 21

Re: bid value reductions associated with First Nation procurement policy (McLeod)

Written Question No. 22

Re: general duty policing review report (Cathers)

Written Question No. 23

Re: Old Crow health and wellness centre and tenplex housing project (Kent)

Written Question No. 24

Re: value of claims exchanged for compensation (Kent)

Written Question No. 25

Re: health care in rural Yukon communities (Cathers)

Written Question No. 26

Re: mental health services (Cathers)

Written Question No. 27

Re: home care in communities (Cathers)