



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 38

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BLUES

Monday, October 5, 2026 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Yvonne Clarke

NOTE

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 It may be used as a reference only with the understanding that it will be superseded by the final, edited version, entitled "Hansard", at a later time.

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Monday, October 5, 2026 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YUKON FIRST NATIONS TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Speaker: We shall begin the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly by respectfully acknowledging all Yukon First Nations and recognizing that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

We will proceed at this time with prayers.
Prayers

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Welcome, everyone, to the 2026 Fall Sitting of the first session of the 36th Legislative Assembly. Since we last met in this Chamber, I have been busy in my role as Speaker representing the Yukon Legislative Assembly at meetings with parliamentarians and officials from across Canada and the world. It has been a pleasure learning from our colleagues in other jurisdictions and I'm looking forward to putting some of that new knowledge into practice.

It is a good reminder for all elected members that in this House, we can debate issues to our hearts' content, but it should never be about the person. There should be no mudslinging; it is simply bad manners, creates unnecessary strain, reduces performance, and ultimately negatively affects the institution as a whole.

Members may notice in their desks two new procedural reference booklets: one on order and decorum and another on common procedural phrases. The creation of these booklets was an idea that was inspired by another Assembly and adapted for Yukon's unique circumstances. I hope members will find these guides useful. The Clerks are, of course, always available to answer any procedural questions that you can't find answers to in the booklets.

Speaking of the Clerks at the Table, Dan Cable retired in June, and Allison Lloyd is now Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. Joining her at the Table are Logan Ockendon, Acting Deputy Clerk, and Bhreagh Dabbs, our Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel.

INTRODUCTION OF PAGES

Speaker: I now have the honour of introducing the legislative pages who will be serving the House this Sitting. It was wonderful to meet them all last week during their training.

For this Fall Sitting, it is rather fitting that we have two pages named Autumn — Autumn Stenson and Autumn Ward. The other members of the team are Alayna Jones, Heaven Villablanca, Mary Harrison, Micah Oslund, John, Benjamin Beaumier-Trussart, and Nicola Fico. Here with us today are

Heaven Villablanca and Autumn Stenson. Please join me in welcoming them to the House.

Applause

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: Now, for some procedural housekeeping, the Chair wishes to inform the House of changes made to the Order Paper.

The following motions have been withdrawn, as they are now outdated: Motion Nos. 70, 103, and 104, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition; Motion Nos. 81, 101, 139, and 141, standing in the name of the Leader of the Third Party; Motion No. 107, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike; and Motion No. 147, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale North.

The following motions have been removed, as the actions requested in the motions have been completed in whole or in part: Motion Nos. 58 and 130, standing in the name of the Member for Porter Creek North; Motion Nos. 18 and 55, standing in the name of the Member for Watson Lake-Ross River-Faro; Motion No. 60, standing in the name of the Leader of the Official Opposition; and Motion No. 73, standing in the name of the Member for Riverdale South.

DAILY ROUTINE

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Speaker: Under Introduction of Visitors, I would like to take a moment to welcome my constituents, friends, and guests who have joined us today to witness the opening of this Fall Sitting. It is wonderful to see many people taking an interest in our democratic process. Your presence here reminds us that the work we do in this Chamber matters and that public engagement is an important part of a healthy democracy. Thank you for being here and for taking the time to witness this important occasion.

Visitors introduced

Speaker: Are there any other visitors to be introduced?

Visitors introduced

TRIBUTES

Unanimous consent for Tributes to exceed 20 minutes

Hon. Scott Kent: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 11(6), I request the unanimous consent of the House for the time allotted for the rubric Tributes to exceed 20 minutes.

Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 11.6, the Government House Leader has requested the unanimous consent of the House for the time allotted for the rubric Tributes to exceed 20 minutes.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted.

In recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

Hon. Currie Dixon: I rise today to pay tribute to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation that occurred on Wednesday, September 30. The history of Canada's residential school system is tragic and difficult. Its impacts continue to be felt by survivors, families, and communities in the Yukon and across the country.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a time to recognize and reflect on the history and lasting effects of Canada's residential school system on Indigenous peoples across the country. Throughout Canada and the Yukon, communities are grieving as they remember the children who were harmed. Some never returned home.

Here in the Yukon, the Yukon Residential School Missing Children project continues to investigate former residential schools across the territory to learn the truth about children who went missing. We thank the members of the working group for their dedication in documenting the harms caused to Yukon families and communities in advancing this important work. This work is challenging and serves as an important act of remembrance that supports survivors, their families, and future generations in understanding this part of Canada's history.

Madam Speaker, September 30 was also chosen to be Orange Shirt Day. Along with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day honours the healing journey of survivors and the resilience of Indigenous communities. The simple act of wearing an orange shirt invites us to create a future where Indigenous communities are included, respected, and honoured.

On September 30, commemorative events were held throughout the Yukon. Yukoners came together in solidarity with survivors, families, and communities. These gatherings provide an opportunity to listen, learn, and reflect on the ongoing journey toward reconciliation. This act of understanding and solidarity is a year-round commitment. Reconciliation is an ongoing process and the shared responsibility of all of us who live here in the Yukon.

I encourage Yukoners to take time to reflect on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action. We continue to listen to survivors, their families, and communities as they share their experiences. By recognizing the truths about residential schools, we can collectively move toward reconciliation. Madam Speaker, let us continue that work with humility, honesty, and determination. Let us learn from the truth, honour the resilience of survivors and their families, and work alongside Yukon First Nations to build a stronger future for generations to come.

Applause

Kate White: I stand on behalf of the Yukon NDP Official Opposition to recognize and honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Like many Canadians, I grew up in a privileged place of ignorance, of not knowing about the genocide committed by the Canadian government and church bodies against Indigenous peoples. This statement is even more shocking when I remind people that I grew up here in the Yukon.

I started kindergarten in 1983 at Whitehorse Elementary School, and at the time, WES was mostly populated by kids in the English stream who came from what was commonly known as the "old village". As a child, I saw the differences between myself and my classmates, but I didn't understand what was behind those differences and I didn't have the words to explain it.

Residential schools operated in Canada from 1894 until 1997; 1997 was two years after I graduated from high school. In 2008, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created through a legal settlement between residential school survivors, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit representatives, and the parties responsible for creation and operation of the schools: the federal government and the church bodies.

The commission travelled across the country documenting the truth of survivors, their families, communities, and anyone personally affected by the residential school experience. The TRC's mandate was to inform all Canadians about what happened in residential schools, to share the truth of the genocide and the violence and erasure that was forced on Canada's First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people. And they did. We honour the survivors who shared their truth, who bravely shed the shame that was never theirs to carry, and whose stories are now part of our collective understanding of the harms that were done. We honour the survivors whose stories have not been shared, and we hold them close.

In 2009 when I worked in Corrections, there wasn't a single First Nations woman that I met who wasn't herself a survivor of residential or day schools or the child of survivors. Some of the women were older than me; some of them, I went to school with; and some of them were younger — but they were all affected. In 2015, the TRC released 94 calls to action and they are a call to mobilize all levels of government, organizations, and individuals to make concrete changes in society. They list specific actions to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.

Canada was given a map on how to move forward. The truth was shared. But the heavy work of reconciliation isn't to be carried on the shoulders of Indigenous communities and those who continue to be affected. Each of us in this room, this territory, this country has a responsibility to do our part for reconciliation.

In Canada, the privilege of ignorance is gone; it never should have been there. When the country heard about the white nationalists who gathered on the Tkemlúps te Secwépemc just days ahead of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to intimidate, to deny, to disrespect, Canada

didn't turn our backs. Canadians were rightfully angry. We were angry at the disrespect and the blatant racism, and Canadians responded with messages of solidarity and support for Indigenous peoples.

There have been moments in this Chamber that have changed me. The day that Annie Blake, the daughter of a residential school survivor, shared her truth when reading Bill No. 305, an act to establish National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a general holiday into law, was one of them. She closed the debate with these words — so I'm quoting Annie now: "I remember sitting at the feet of elders as a little girl. I heard our elders speak about what the future of reconciliation would look like. I can feel them today holding me up. This very moment is what they prepared me for, because they knew. They knew that, one day, I would be working on the future of reconciliation and that I would need their knowledge to hold me up. They knew the responsibility that we carried as children and would eventually carry as adults and elders, future elders of our communities. With this bill passing, it will change the future of reconciliation in the territory."

She was right. Last Wednesday, I saw friends, neighbours, and community members streaming toward the Healing Totem ahead of the truth and reconciliation walk. My urban colleagues and I joined hundreds of people in Kwanlin Dūn. The member for Klondike joined his community at Tr'ondëk and hundreds of Yukoners joined many more gatherings across the territory. It was clear that Yukoners understood the job we had to do: Meet hate with love; respond to denial with truth; show up for survivors and their families; show up for community; and show up for each other.

The walk started with a beautiful prayer like they always do, and then there was this moment and there was a call: "We are still here." We are still here. A powerful reminder of the strength and determination of Indigenous peoples, a truth that is felt in every drum beat, every prayer, every song, a truth that continues to grow in strength from coast to coast to coast each and every day. I'm grateful for that.

Debra-Leigh Reti: It's not easy for us as First Nations to stand up and always be the one speaking, so thank you for those that are speaking as well today.

Today I rise to pay tribute to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day that has very special meaning to myself and my people. It is a reminder of the painful history and the lasting impacts of residential schools. We use this day as an opportunity to honour the survivors, their families, and the children who never returned home.

I also rise today to honour my mother and her 12 siblings who were either sent to a residential school, day school, or adopted out. They are resilient aunts and uncles that have worked hard and are still working to overcome the impacts, and to this day, those that are still alive today are still pushing forward on their own journeys of life.

The statistics are always so hard to hear. More than 150,000 First Nation, Inuit, and Metis children were forced to attend residential schools across Canada. They separated

children from their families, languages, cultures, and identities. The impacts of the harm caused by this system continue to be felt by survivors, families, and communities today. We do our best as members of the community to always remember these children and their families, to tell stories, and to preserve our culture and our way of life. Here in Whitehorse, we saw a large turnout for the healing walk and community gathering, along with several other events held throughout the city. Seeing people come together to learn, reflect, remember, and stand in solidarity was a powerful reminder that reconciliation is a responsibility that we all share.

In my community of Old Crow, community members came together for an Orange Shirt Day walk honouring residential school survivors, their families, and the children who never returned home. Haii choo to everyone who joined these gatherings and participated in events across the territory. The visual representation of what this day means to my people is such a moving sight to see. Every orange shirt, the steps taken, the stories that are shared, and every moment of reflection helps keep the truth visible. And it reminds each and every one of us to not only honour the day but take action in our own lives every day to further reconciliation.

Māhsi' cho.

In recognition of Sisters in Spirit

Doris Anderson: First of all, I'd like to thank Minister Lang for allowing me this opportunity to pay tribute to the Sisters in Spirit. So, gùnèlchīsh for that.

I rise today to recognize Sisters in Spirit held each year on October 4 to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people. In communities across the Yukon and throughout Canada, people have gathered to remember loved ones whose lives were taken too soon and to stand with the families who continue to carry their memories forward.

Sisters in Spirit began as an effort to bring attention to the loss of Indigenous women and girls and has grown into a powerful movement. In communities across the Yukon and throughout Canada, people have gathered to remember loved ones whose lives were taken too soon and to stand with the families who continue to carry their memories forward. Sisters in Spirit began as an effort to bring attention to the loss of Indigenous women and girls and has grown into a powerful movement of remembrance and solidarity.

Behind every name is a story, a family, and a community. Every person remembered through Sisters in Spirit was a daughter, sister, mother, auntie, cousin, friend, or loved one whose presence helped shape the lives of others. This occasion gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and acknowledge the grief that many families continue to live with every day. It also reminds us of the strength and courage shown by survivors, families, and advocates who work tirelessly to ensure these lives are not forgotten. Through their leadership and persistence, awareness of this issue has grown, difficult conversations have taken place, and communities have come together in support of those affected by loss.

Here in the Yukon, we have seen people gather year after year to honour those who have been lost, support one another, and create space for reflection, healing, and hope. These gatherings remind us that no family should have to carry its grief alone. They remind us of the importance of listening, showing compassion, and standing with those who continue to seek answers and justice.

Sisters in Spirit is not only a time of remembrance; it is a reminder of our shared responsibility to foster communities where Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people are safe, respected, and valued. As we mark this occasion, we recognize the families and survivors whose courage has helped bring greater awareness to this issue.

We also thank the organizations, elders, knowledge-keepers, and community leaders who support healing and awareness throughout the year. May we remember those who are no longer with us, support those who continue to grieve, and remain committed to the future where Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people can live in safety, dignity, and belonging.

Thank you. Gùnèlchìsh.

Linda Moen: I stand on behalf of the Yukon NDP Official Opposition to recognize and to honour the Sisters in Spirit walk and vigil. October 4 is recognized across Canada as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited People. On May 5 and October 4 across the Yukon and across the country, you will see red dresses hanging from windows, from trees, and in the community.

Today, these dresses are a symbol of a daughter, of a mother, of a sister, of a grandmother, of a friend. This day is especially important as we've seen the number of murdered and missing Indigenous women grow over the last year. We know that Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people experience violence at far higher rates than non-Indigenous women in Canada. We know this is a direct result of colonialism and the intergenerational trauma it has caused in communities and families across generations.

When one group is targeted and impacted, it shows that systems need to change, that we need to continue advocating for awareness and for more supports for family and loved ones who are grieving the enormous losses. This issue is not the responsibility of Indigenous communities and organizations alone; it is everybody's responsibility.

We recognize the front-line workers who continue to support the communities through these losses. They bring attention to unsolved and undocumented cases, support families, and raise their voices for victims. Last week, my NDP colleagues and I participated in the Sisters in Spirit walk organized by the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council. Their work is extremely challenging, and I thank them. I say gunalchìsh for their years of tireless advocacy.

I acknowledge the families who shoulder the burden of loss and legacy of pain that continues for those living with unanswered questions. For some, this means living without answers and without justice. Today, we need to take action for

the growing number of losses in northern communities. We stand today with the 42 families here in the Yukon who continue to wait for justice for their family members.

Gunalchìsh; thank you.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Today, I rise on behalf of the Liberal Conference to pay tribute to Sisters in Spirit Day. October 4 was the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, also known as Sisters in Spirit Day. It is a day to grieve and honour the lives of Indigenous women who have gone missing or been murdered, to recognize the ongoing crisis of disappearances and violence they continue to face, and to stand with their families and communities.

This year in Whitehorse, community members came together for the Sisters in Spirit Walk and Vigil. A gathering like this gives us an important opportunity to honour those who are missing or have been murdered, to support families, and to stand together in the ongoing call for justice. The walk is more than simply a gathering; every person who participates is helping to keep the memory of our sisters, daughters, mothers, aunts, and loved ones visible.

Today, I am really thankful for organizations such as Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, the Yukon Women's Coalition, and the many groups countrywide that create events and space for people to come together on this important day.

Here in the Yukon, this day carries a very personal meaning. In each of our small communities, we all know one another. We know the families, we know the stories, and we know when someone is missing or taken from us. The loss is felt throughout the entire community. I was home in my community of Old Crow yesterday and took time to reflect on these memories and this day — what it means to me and my family. This reflection is felt and thought about every day of the year when it comes to our family members whom we cannot find.

It is so important to be able to be with our communities, make space for those grieving over missing relatives, where answers and closure may never come. For our families, these losses do not simply disappear with time. The grief is carried by mothers, fathers, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, children, and friends. It is carried by the whole community. Today, I ask each one of you to be that listening ear or sit in silence if that is what someone needs. We may not have the answers, but we can be that support.

Màhsi'.

Tabling Returns and Documents

Speaker: Under Tabling Returns and Documents, the Chair has for tabling the Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of Members from Sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees. This report is tabled pursuant to a direction of the Members' Services Board.

Also, pursuant to section 18 of the Human Rights Act, the Chair has for tabling the *Yukon Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2025-26* and the *Yukon Human Rights*

Commission Financial Statements — Year Ended March 31, 2026.

Are there any other documents for tabling?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Madam Speaker, I have for tabling a report entitled *Report on transfers from Government Contingencies vote — For the 2026 Fall Sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly*. This is tabled pursuant to section 21(5) of the *Financial Administration Act*.

Hon. Laura Lang: Madam Speaker, I have for tabling a report on the review under section 19.09 of the *Corrections Act, 2009*, dated June 2026.

Speaker: Are there any committee reports to be presented?

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Tyler Porter: Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees, dated June 26, 2026.

Adam Gerle: Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present three reports: the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges — Oral Question Period*; the *Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges — Members' Statements*; and the *Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges — Written Questions*.

Kate White: Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts*, dated August 11, 2026.

Speaker: Petitions.

Are there any bills to be introduced?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 203, *Interim Capital Appropriation Act 2027-28* — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Currie Dixon: Madam Speaker, I move that Bill No. 203, entitled *Interim Capital Appropriation Act 2027-28*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 203, entitled *Interim Capital Appropriation Act 2027-28*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for Introduction and First Reading of Bill No. 203 agreed to

Bill No. 204, *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27* — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Currie Dixon: Madam Speaker, I move that Bill No. 204, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 204, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2026-27*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for Introduction and First Reading of Bill No. 204 agreed to

Bill No. 205, *Third Appropriation Act 2025-26* — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Currie Dixon: Madam Speaker, I move that Bill No. 205, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2025-26*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 205, entitled *Third Appropriation Act 2025-26*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for Introduction and First Reading of Bill No. 205 agreed to

Bill No. 7, *Finance Statute Law Amendment Act (2026)* — Introduction and First Reading

Hon. Jen Gehmair: I move that Bill No. 7, entitled *Finance Statute Law Amendment Act (2026)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Economy, Tourism and Culture that Bill No. 7, entitled *Finance Statute Law Amendment Act (2026)*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for Introduction and First Reading of Bill No. 7 agreed to

Speaker: Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Adam Gerle: I rise to give notice of the following motion respecting committee reports:

THAT the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges*, presented to the House on October 5, 2026, be concurred in; and

THAT the amendment to the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly recommended by the committee regarding the length of Oral Question Period be adopted.

I also give notice of the following motion respecting committee reports:

THAT the *Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges*, presented to the House on October 5, 2026, be concurred in; and

THAT, for the duration of the 2026 Fall Sitting, the amendment to the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly recommended by the committee regarding the addition of Members' Statements to the Daily Routine be adopted.

I also give notice of the following motion respecting committee reports:

THAT the *Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges*, presented to the House on October 5, 2026, be concurred in; and

THAT the amendment to the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly recommended by the committee regarding the number of permitted written questions on the Order Paper and the requirement for responses to written questions be adopted.

Doris Anderson: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to work with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission and Bell Canada to secure immediate investment in telecommunications infrastructure in Whitehorse and ensure Yukoners receive the reliable cellular service for which they are paying.

Justin Ziegler: I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to criminalize the wilful promotion of anti-Indigenous sentiment through the public condoning, denial, or distortion of the residential school system.

Brent McDonald: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to provide Robert Service School with adequate funding to restore the school's full-time industrial arts educator position.

Lane Tredger: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT witnesses from ATCO Electric Yukon appear before Committee of the Whole during the 2026 Fall Sitting on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 from 3.30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to answer questions regarding electrical infrastructure and services.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to meaningfully include people with lived and living experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of substance use health policies and services.

Carmen Gustafson: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to publish regular current public reporting reports on the *Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy*, including progress toward commitments, measurable outcomes, and remaining gaps.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to provide transparent reporting on the territory's response to the toxic drug crisis.

Kate White: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to take immediate action to reduce preventable overdose deaths, including ensuring timely access to harm reduction services, residential treatment, opioid agnostic treatment, and other evidence-informed supports in all communities across the territory.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House congratulates the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation on their newly elected Chief Lance Nagwan and councillors Lisa Van Fleet, Ciara Kakfwi-Frost, Brandon Kyikavichik, and Ryan Newman-Kay.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to take action on affordability by using the fiscal tools at its disposal to provide immediate relief to Yukoners facing the highest rate of inflation in the country at double the national average.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to use the voted contingency in the 2026-27 budget to expand funding for its commitments to address the substance use health emergency, including expanding access to addictions treatment options, delivering prevention initiatives in the communities where they are most needed, and establishing effective enforcement measures against the illicit drug trade.

Speaker: Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question — Health care services in rural communities

Kate White: Madam Speaker, the Ross River Health Centre was closed for more than a week in April, for three weeks midsummer, and again for most of September. The Faro Health Centre was closed for 10 days just last month, and the Beaver Creek Health Centre will have been closed for a total of 121 days by the end of this month. Some of these communities have seen an influx of people because of construction or mining projects, and one sees thousands of travellers using a highway that runs through the community, and all of them have residents who need access to health care.

Most rural communities have been affected by health centre closures since this government took power. When the now Minister of Health and Social Services was in Opposition, he was highly critical of the previous government and their inability to keep health centres staffed. Rural Yukoners rightfully expect access to basic health care services in their communities.

Can the minister explain why the closures he once condemned are still happening and, according to rural Yukoners, are getting worse?

Hon. Brad Cathers: Again, we are committed to taking action and have taken a number of steps since taking

office related to this. This includes responding to the recommendation by community nursing management to act quickly to implement an electronic medical records system in rural health centres, which they have identified as a significant barrier to recruiting nurses who are not familiar with dealing with paper records. That work is happening this year, with the first scheduled for this month to see rural health centres receiving the Plexia electronic medical records system, which is the same system used by all of the medical clinics in Whitehorse as well as Constellation and the Walk-In Clinic.

We've also gone from a single agency being contracted to provide community nurses when we're not able to fill them with staff to four agencies this year. However, we recognize that more work is needed. We are also dealing with a situation where the small numbers involved in community nursing create situations where things such as staff leave for vacations or medical leave can create significant disruptions in individual communities. That is why we are also reviewing the model for community nursing to determine what additional resources may be necessary in those communities to make them more resilient and less susceptible to disruptions in services.

Kate White: When these health centres close, residents have no choice but to travel to other communities for even the most basic of medical needs. Hotel rooms can run from \$200 to \$400 a night, and that's if you can even find one during the busy summer months. Add fuel and groceries and suddenly access to basic health care has the potential to become a financial emergency.

The Yukon NDP has championed potential solutions that have been shared with us by residents and professionals alike to help ease this burden — from health lodges to more support for rural nurses to onboarding of physician assistants. So, what concrete actions has the minister taken to support rural Yukoners who are facing a financial burden of accessing basic health care when their health centre is closed?

Hon. Brad Cathers: We are reviewing the medical travel program, and I look forward to making announcements about that once I've had an opportunity to go through the appropriate approval processes with Cabinet and Management Board, but we are recognizing the interests of Yukoners in that area.

Again, as I mentioned, we've taken a number of steps since taking office to improve what we're doing with rural health centres. That includes moving forward with electronic medical records to replace the paper-based system which has been an issue for decades that has not been acted on. We are taking action with the first rollout targeted for this month. We've contracted with four agencies instead of one to provide coverage when we aren't able to cover it through staff resources as well as taking actions including working with the University of New Brunswick for the Learn Where You Live LPN to RN bridging program. We've increased the Continuing Nurse Education Fund this year, and we have more than tripled the funding for our health bursaries, including a substantial increase to the number of nursing bursaries and maximum amount per nursing student — all of

this just within the last number of months. We recognize that more action is necessary and we are committed to taking those actions, including, as I alluded to in my first response, we recognize the need to look at the resourcing model for rural health centres and to take action in that area to increase its resiliency.

Kate White: Health centre closures across the territory are a daily reality for many rural Yukoners. This minister spent years criticizing the former Minister of Health and Social Services for this very same issue when he sat in Opposition, but under his leadership, rural Yukoners are telling us that the problem has gotten worse. With less than a year in government, there are already 297 days of health centre closures on the record.

At the end of September when the CBC asked about these closures, the minister was unavailable for comment. Rural Yukoners deserve better than "unavailable for comment". So, as the minister is here right now in the Assembly, what does he have to say to rural Yukoners who are not able to access health care in their communities?

Hon. Brad Cathers: Madam Speaker, we dealt with nine years of neglect of our health care system under the Liberals and their NDP partners. We've taken a number of actions that have seen significant progress. Since November 2025, 12 doctors have moved to the Yukon; that does not include those who are providing locum services in addition to that. And through doctors and NPs, we have increased the number of people who have a primary care provider, with a reduction in the orphan patient list from 4,606 in January of this year to 1,827 as of September — a very significant increase in access to primary care providers for Yukoners, substantially benefiting people.

In the case of rural health centres, as I mentioned, we've taken a number of steps, including electronic medical records being rolled out, contracting with four agencies, and increasing the resources that are dedicated toward supporting Yukoners pursuing education in nursing. These actions, some of them, will take some time to see results. We are also committed to, as I noted, looking at the resource model for community health centres and to providing additional resources to them to make them more resilient and less susceptible to these disruptions. But following up on nine years of neglect does take a little more than nine months to solve all the problems that exist.

Question — Electricity costs and billing practices

Lane Tredger: If there is one thing Yukoners agree on, it is that their electricity bills are too expensive. We've heard from people who have gotten electricity bills that are 2,000, 3,000, four, five, even \$6,000. These spikes have been largely unexplained, and bills have been full of mistakes. Yukoners have lost confidence in ATCO.

For months while the Yukon NDP called for action, the Yukon Party dodged questions and made excuses. Finally, they caved and directed ATCO Yukon to investigate their billing practices. This could have been done by the Yukon Utilities Board, a neutral body of experts designed for exactly

this purpose. But instead, the Yukon Party decided that ATCO should hire their own investigator. Yukoners are rightfully skeptical that the company already facing serious questions about their billing should be managing their own investigation.

Why is the Yukon Party trusting ATCO to lead their own investigation?

Hon. Ted Laking: I think that Yukoners are rightly frustrated with the billing errors that the member opposite references, and that's why our government took swift action to direct ATCO to, at their own expense, pay for an independent audit of these issues and to come up with recommendations to fix them.

I think that where we differ with the NDP is on who should pay for that. The NDP believes that Yukoners should pay for that investigation into the mistakes of ATCO. On the government side, we believe that ATCO should pay for their mistakes and ATCO should lead the charge on this, and so that's why we have made the cost of this audit fall on them rather than on ratepayers or taxpayers, which is what the NDP would like to see.

Lane Tredger: All summer, heartbreaking and appalling stories have been pouring into our office. We've heard from people with two-bedroom trailers who had bills that were over \$4,000. We've heard from construction sites that got bills before the power was even hooked up. We've talked to Yukon seniors who are giving up using their ovens and their clothes dryers to try to keep their bills down. We've talked to Yukoners who've gone into debt and now risk losing their housing as they try to keep the power on.

Last week, the Yukon Party said they would subsidize power bills by up to \$112 a month from October through March. This is a small piece of much-needed relief, but it is not even close to enough. It does not help the Yukoners who are already in debt from their summer bills. It does not help the Yukoners who will face the same unfair bills next summer and for Yukoners receiving bills in the thousands of dollars, it is a drop in the bucket.

How many more Yukoners need to be pushed into debt before the Yukon Party delivers a real long-term solution to unfair and unaffordable electricity bills?

Hon. Ted Laking: We have also heard concerns with the cost of electricity. The NDP approach, however, would further increase the cost of electricity. We don't think that's the right approach. The reality is that some of the rate increases that Yukoners will now see are the result of global conflicts such as disputes in the Strait of Hormuz or even trade wars which are driving up fuel costs. While we can't control the price of fuel, what we can do is help soften the blow on Yukoners, and that's why we brought in a new affordability rebate measure that came into force and is now going to be automatically applied to bills starting October 1. The new rebate is going to be more than double the old rebate that was put forward under the Liberals and NDP, so we think that's a good thing. It's too bad that the Opposition does not.

Lane Tredger: To recap, ATCO and Yukon Energy are sending Yukoners unfair and unaffordable electricity bills.

Yukon Energy admitted in an August press release that their error rate was almost three percent. That means that for every thousand customers, 30 of them are getting bills with mistakes in them every month. The result is that Yukoners are struggling to make ends meet. Some of them have gone into debt to keep their power on even in the summer when their bills should be the lowest.

In response, the Yukon Party directed ATCO to lead an investigation into itself. This is even knowing that ATCO Yukon's parent company has been successfully sued multiple times in other jurisdictions for illegal practices around rates and billing. As a gesture, the Yukon Party has offered just over \$100 a month per household through the winter. It's better than nothing but not nearly enough when bills are in the thousands of dollars.

If this is all the Yukon Party is doing, how can Yukoners have faith that their electricity bills will be fair and affordable?

Hon. Ted Laking: To recap, we know that there are mistakes in the billing practices of the utilities. And to further recap, the NDP thinks that Yukon ratepayers should pay for those mistakes. We believe that ATCO should pay for those mistakes.

Question — Whitehorse Emergency Shelter

Debra-Leigh Reti: My question today is for the minister of health. This past spring, the minister criticized the NGO that runs the downtown Whitehorse shelter and said their contract would be ending at the end of August. When asked in the spring about an extension, the minister said, "That absolutely is not going to happen."

Today, the same NGO still runs the shelter, with the minister having backed down and indeed signing off on a contract extension over the summer. The Yukon Party platform made a long list of promises about the shelter, and after almost a year in office, nothing has changed.

Why has the minister failed to deliver on any of his party's commitments around the shelter?

Hon. Brad Cathers: The member's question was factually incorrect in many ways, as the member knows. What she made reference to was a letter that was sent by a now former representative of the NGO who had demanded a three-year sole-source contract by the end of May, and I had indicated that was absolutely not happening and it did not happen. However, the employee is no longer associated with Connective, and the letter was retracted in its entirety.

We did agree to an extension to the contract with Connective after receiving the unanimous request of Yukon First Nation leadership who attended the leadership summit to discuss the future of 405 Alexander Street. The extension was the direct result of us listening to the request of the 405 Alexander Advisory Committee and First Nation leadership there, and without that request having been made, it would not have been extended. We are, however, moving toward a competitive process to determine the future operating structure of the services that are currently offered at 405 Alexander Street.

Debra-Leigh Reti: Anyone who has driven by the shelter in recent weeks can see that whatever the minister is doing is not working, sadly. Anyone who is receiving services at the shelter can see that whatever the minister is doing is not working. It would be great to see the government take responsibility for its failures. I hope that we don't see the minister blaming everyone else instead of being accountable for his decisions as the minister.

Has the Minister of Health been to the shelter since he became the Minister of Health?

Hon. Brad Cathers: As noted in the press release we sent out — and I again have to emphasize to the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin that the reason that contract was extended with Connective was based on the request of Yukon First Nation leadership who attended the leadership summit and the 405 Alexander Advisory Committee. Without that request and joint recommendation, there would not have been the extension that we see right now.

We are moving forward, a little more slowly than we had originally hoped as a result of that extension, with a process to competitively identify the operator or operators for components of the services that are available at the shelter at 405 Alexander Street. We are not happy with the current situation with the disturbances that we see around the shelter, and we also continue to hear concerning reports from people about clients of the facility being victimized by drug dealers. We do want to see change occurring and we are moving forward through that and will, as I indicated, do so through a competitive process to identify operators for the housing units, the food services, and shelter services wherever those shelter services may be located.

Debra-Leigh Reti: This government is failing the clients of the shelter and all Yukoners who have to put up with the consequences of that failure. One of my first questions in this House in December 2025 was about improvements at the shelter. The minister said at that time he was committed to acting and we have heard the same thing today. Instead, we have seen no noticeable improvements, the government publicly fighting with the contractor, the minister folding over the summer on a new contractor, no improvement in services, and the scene outside the shelter is worse than ever.

Why should Yukoners trust the minister when he says things will improve at the shelter under his watch?

Hon. Brad Cathers: Madam Speaker, it's really disappointing, even after I corrected the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin on her facts, that she continues to repeat inaccurate information. She knows full well, as I've explained to her, that the —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Official Opposition House Leader, on a point of order.

Lane Tredger: To say that a member is repeating incorrect facts and knows full well that's the case is a point of order under 19(g).

Speaker's ruling — Unparliamentary language

Speaker: It is indeed out of order to accuse a member of uttering a deliberate falsehood. I ask the Minister of Health and Social Services to retract his comment.

Withdrawal of remark

Hon. Brad Cathers: I will retract the claim that the member knowingly uttered something that was a falsehood.

To conclude my remarks, I would note again with the extension of the contract at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter that it was done based on the united request of Yukon First Nation leadership who attended the leadership summit this summer. As I reminded the member, the previous request to which she referred was a demand from a now former Connective official for a three-year sole-source contract by the end of May. The answer to that was no, and that letter was also retracted in its entirety, and the person is no longer associated with the NGO.

However, we've had a much more positive relationship with Connective and its leadership since that point in time. But that being said, we look at the problems around the shelter, and we are not satisfied with the status quo. We are committed to taking appropriate action through a competitive process to identify operators for the services currently provided at 405 Alexander Street.

Question — Old Fire Hall arts program funding

Justin Ziegler: The Old Fire Hall has been a hub for the Yukon's arts and culture community for years. The walls of that space have seen hundreds of hours of rehearsals, workshops, creative sessions, editions, classes, conferences, projections, craft fairs, artistic research, and, of course, hundreds of performances. It is also the only public arts venue in downtown Whitehorse.

This is a space that Yukoners have relied on, and with the news of the Yukon Arts Centre agreement ending March 31, 2027, the arts community has made it clear that their expectation is for the Old Fire Hall to remain a space dedicated to arts and culture. Will the Minister of Economy, Tourism and Culture commit today that the Old Fire Hall will remain designated as a public arts and culture space?

Hon. Jen Gehmair: Indeed, there have been conversations around changes at the Old Fire Hall, and the Yukon Government remains committed to having conversations around what the future of that looks like. I'd also like to thank the Yukon Arts Centre for their contribution over the years, and we look forward to continuing to build on that foundation.

We're committed to working with stakeholders over the fall to continue discussions about the future of the space and how it can contribute to the vital and vibrant downtown core. Over the next few months, we anticipate beginning a public procurement process for the operations and programming of the Old Fire Hall, and we understand organizations have been meeting to discuss partnership opportunities and approaches for the Old Fire Hall and continue to encourage this dialogue.

Justin Ziegler: It's good to hear that the minister will listen to the arts and culture sector and keep the Old Fire Hall as a venue space. But arts and culture organizations who rely on this space have been left in the dark until now. This government has not consulted with the sector about the future of the space and the upcoming RFP process. This is a sector that does something that no other sector in the Yukon can.

The arts make a vital contribution to the economy. They strengthen society and they improve health and well-being. And now that sector is asking for this government to show their commitment to the future of arts and culture. Can the minister tell this House when there will be public consultation on the future of the Old Fire Hall, when the RFP will be issued, and what steps will ensure there is no gap in access or programming during the transition after March 31 next year?

Hon. Jen Gehmair: And indeed, not refuting the importance of the arts and what it does bring to our community, we certainly value that and want to continue to see our vibrant art community thrive. With that said, this is a very important and accessible space downtown in Whitehorse, and we want to look at ways that this can be utilized by the arts community and other interested community members.

As I've said, in the next coming weeks, there will be an RFP and an opportunity for businesses and the arts community to come together, bring forward their ideas on what the space can be used for, presented to all Yukoners.

Justin Ziegler: The current transfer payment agreement provides \$175,000 per year for operation and maintenance. In this economy, this amount of money to support the maintenance of a heritage building and for the operations of a multi-purpose space with specific technical needs from users is scarce.

Any organization taking on the care for this space will need support, and as we know, supporting the culture supports all of us. Will the minister commit that this funding level will be maintained or increased in the next agreement regardless of who the new operator is?

Hon. Jen Gehmair: Yukon Government is committed to a fair and transparent process to determine the tenancy of this space. Proponents will have the opportunity, as I've said, to bring forward their ideas and express interest in utilizing the space, and we will work with the successful proponents to achieve the best outcomes on what proposals have been put forward.

Question — Fiscal management

Patti McLeod: For years, we've heard calls from contractors, businesses, and industry partners that it's challenging to work within the Yukon Government's traditional spring capital budgeting cycle. With long winters and short construction seasons, contractors face lengthy procurement timelines and limited opportunities to get projects underway.

Can the Minister of Finance advise this House on what actions the Yukon Government is taking to better support the workers who are building and maintaining infrastructure across the territory?

Hon. Currie Dixon: This Sitting, we are following through on a commitment made to Yukoners, getting important capital projects out the door sooner. The *Interim Capital Appropriation Act 2027-28* creates a new process that provides earlier certainty on nearly \$140 million in capital projects that will benefit from more time to prepare for the upcoming construction season.

The reality is that our fiscal year does not always align with the realities of building in the Yukon. We have a short construction season, lengthy procurement timelines, and a limited window to get critical work underway. This can make it difficult to advance important projects such as housing, hospitals, highways, schools, and community infrastructure before the construction season comes to an end. This new process helps address that challenge by allowing departments to begin procurement and contracting earlier and allowing industry more time to prepare bids, secure workers, and plan ahead. Ultimately, this new process is about getting projects built sooner, making better use of our short building season, and delivering results for Yukoners.

Patti McLeod: Contractors, municipalities, and Yukon businesses have consistently told us that earlier certainty helps them with planning, staffing, equipment, and procurement decisions. At the same time, Yukoners rightly expect that government spending continues to be subject to strong oversight and accountability. So, can the Premier explain how this new approach fits with the government's broader capital planning and budgeting process, and how does the fall capital budget help get projects moving sooner while maintaining the transparency and accountability that Yukoners expect?

Hon. Currie Dixon: The fall capital budget, as we call it, complements our regular budget process; it does not replace it. This is the first year of a new approach to deliver on our commitment to help improve capital project delivery across the Yukon. The fall capital budget does not increase the government's overall capital spending plan. Rather, it provides earlier authority for a select group of projects that benefit from additional lead time. Every project will still be subject to the same scrutiny, accountability, and reporting requirements that Yukoners have come to expect.

For years, we've been hearing the same thing: Industry needs more certainty and more time to prepare for the construction season. Starting projects later in the year increases uncertainty, delays timelines, and ultimately drives up costs. We agree, and that's why we've taken action. By providing more time for procurement, tendering, contracting, workforce planning, and equipment mobilization, we can improve readiness, maximize our building season, and help get projects built sooner. We will continue to evaluate this process, learn from our experience, and make improvements in future years.

Patti McLeod: Earlier, the Premier spoke about the benefits of providing greater certainty for capital projects and improving readiness ahead of the construction season. Yukoners will understandably want to know what kinds of projects are being advanced through this new process and what they can expect to see in their communities.

Can the Premier tell this House about some of the projects included in the fall capital budget, and can he explain whether inclusion in the fall capital budget means construction will begin immediately or whether additional planning and approvals will be required?

Hon. Currie Dixon: The fall capital budget provides earlier certainty on almost \$140 million in capital projects across the territory. These are the types of projects Yukoners consistently tell us matter most: highways and transportation infrastructure, housing, health care facilities, schools, and community infrastructure.

Some examples we'll see — and certainly we'll have a chance to bring all of this to debate as the Sitting proceeds — include over \$32 million for the North Klondike Highway and the Shakwak on the Alaska Highway, over \$18 million for the community infrastructure envelope, over \$14 million to prepare for the Whitehorse General Hospital expansion — an exciting project that a lot of Yukoners are looking forward to — over \$18 million for housing projects in Burwash Landing, Mayo, Teslin, Ross River, and Haines Junction, and, of course, the housing initiatives fund, which provides support across the territory, almost \$13 million for new modular classrooms, roof replacements at the community school in Teslin and at École Émilie Tremblay, and to prepare the École Whitehorse Elementary School replacement project, which is another exciting project to many Yukoners.

Inclusion in the fall capital budget does not mean that construction begins immediately upon passage of the bill. Projects must still complete design approvals and procurement. But what this process does mean is that the government and industry can start the work sooner and be ready when the construction season arrives.

Question — Community safety

Brent McDonald: When a young person goes missing, every second matters. Government, RCMP, and the public must be ready to act immediately to find them and bring them home safely. Every province in Canada has a program known as AMBER Alert, which brings together various government departments, agencies, and police to issue broad-reaching public notifications about missing children. The Yukon currently has no such system.

AMBER Alerts can and have saved lives. Will this government commit to working with the RCMP and others to develop an AMBER Alert system in Yukon?

Hon. Currie Dixon: Here in the Yukon, we're certainly aware of the AMBER Alert system that exists across the country. I think we're all witness to various instances across the country over the last number of years where we've seen AMBER Alerts go out in response to missing children.

In the case of the Yukon, to the extent we do not have that process in place, we're certainly one to consider how best to move forward, and we'll commit to consulting with legal officials, the RCMP, and other stakeholders to determine how best to move forward on this new service.

Brent McDonald: It's not only missing children who could benefit from such an alert system. Anytime a Yukoner

goes missing, time is of the essence. Getting information out about a potential missing person in a timely and broad-reaching manner could be critical in ensuring their safe return. Would the minister consider working with the RCMP and others to create a broader-reaching phone alert system to send notifications to the public about missing persons?

Hon. Currie Dixon: In response to the member's question, the answer simply is yes. We're happy to work with the RCMP and other stakeholders to consider how best to deploy this service in the Yukon. I don't know exactly the details of why it's not in place today, but we are aware of the service. We see it roll out across the country, and we're happy to work with stakeholders to determine how best to move forward here in the Yukon.

Brent McDonald: This government includes public safety in its current policing priorities. Public safety is more than just enforcement; it also means helping loved ones find missing people and keeping Yukoners safe. If this government is serious about public safety, it would recognize that in a territory with vast distances and extreme conditions, getting the public involved quickly could make all the difference in bringing a missing person home safely.

We shouldn't have to rely on social media posts to make sure these notifications make it out to the public. When can Yukoners expect this government to implement a public alert system for missing persons in the territory?

Hon. Laura Lang: Thank you to the member opposite for this question.

It has also been raised previously, and I can confirm that while my colleagues and I are considering whether or not the name of the actual system in place is the AMBER Alert system, I can share that we do indeed have a system which the RCMP does operate that does alert Yukoners, including within communities, when somebody does go missing. I commit to providing back to the Legislative Assembly a more detailed response in terms of what the system is called and how it is used.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice to call motion respecting committee reports

Hon. Scott Kent: I give notice, pursuant to Standing Order 13(3), that the following motions for concurrence in committee reports may be called as Government designated business: Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2, the motion for concurrence in the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* regarding the length of Oral Question Period; Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3, the motion for concurrence in the *Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* on members' statements; and Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 4, the motion for concurrence in the *Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* on written questions.

Speaker: We will now proceed to Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Adam Gerle: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 27.1(c), I request the unanimous consent of the House to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2, the motion for concurrence in the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* regarding the length of Oral Question Period.

Speaker: The Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges has requested the unanimous consent of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 27.1(c), to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2, the motion for concurrence in the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* regarding the length of Oral Question Period.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted. Motions Respecting Committee Reports.

MOTIONS RESPECTING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2

Clerk: Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2, standing in the name of Adam Gerle.

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

THAT the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges*, presented to the House on October 5, 2026, be concurred in; and

THAT the amendment to the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly recommended by the committee regarding the length of Oral Question Period be adopted.

Adam Gerle: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 27(1)(c), I request the unanimous consent of the House to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3, the motion for concurrence in the *Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* on members' statements.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Adam Gerle: Oh, sorry —

This report was debated at SCREP and the majority agreed to it.

Justin Ziegler: I rise in support of this motion. Question Period is the most visible part of our work. It is where Yukoners watch us hold government to account. It is also where the clock runs out on us most often. So, five more minutes may not sound like much, but over a full Sitting, it adds up to many more questions. It means more answers for

the people we represent. Although, whether Question Period is a moment to get answers is something that can be debated separately.

I'm glad this change is permanent. A rule that works should not need to be renewed every Sitting, and I want to thank my colleagues on the committee for their work. I also want to thank the Clerk of Committees, Logan Ockenden. His research was extraordinary. His expertise and support made our work better at every meeting. These changes are a good start; they're not the end. There should be more modernizing in our Standing Orders, and I look forward to continuing that work with the committee.

Merci.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I rise to support the motion before us. Giving members the opportunity to give short statements is common in other legislatures in Canada, and it will allow members to speak on issues that are important to them. That being said, this decision will have an impact on tributes, which will be sharply curtailed with the changes before us today. I do suspect that this change may also have unintended consequences with respect to the tone of debate in this House, and we will see if that is the case over the next 30 days. I note it is a pilot for the duration of the Fall Sitting —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: The Government House Leader, on a point of order.

Hon. Scott Kent: Sorry to interrupt the Leader of the Third Party, but the motion before the House deals with the length of Question Period. I believe she's speaking to a separate motion that will deal with members' statements. So, I just wanted to point that out for the House and thank you.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: The Government House Leader is correct. The *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* that we're talking about is regarding the length of Oral Question Period.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I'm sorry; I was mixed up with what just took place over there, so I'll repeat that later at the proper time.

Hon. Currie Dixon: I rise to speak to this motion on behalf of the Government of Yukon as well. It's not often, when you look across the country, that you'll see governments voting in favour of extending Question Period. That's not something that we see commonly anywhere in Canada these days. But Madam Speaker, having spent four and a half years or so on the Opposition side, I came to firmly believe that extending Question Period was a reasonable action and that it will do nothing but improve transparency and accountability for the government. So, we are happy to extend the length of the Question Period going forward.

Of course, Question Period is not always fun for the government, but we do recognize it's an important feature of our democracy, and we are certainly happy to promote accountability, transparency, and openness to Yukoners, and so we agree with extending Question Period.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 2 agreed to

Unanimous consent to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3

Adam Gerle: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, and notwithstanding Standing Order 27(1)(c), I request the unanimous consent of the House to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3, the motion for concurrence in the *Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* on members' statements.

Speaker: The Chair for the Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges has requested the unanimous consent of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3, and notwithstanding Standing Order 27(1)(c), to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3, the motion for concurrence in the *Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* on members' statements.

Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted.

MOTIONS RESPECTING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3

Clerk: Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3, standing in the name of Adam Gerle.

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

THAT the *Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges*, presented to the House on October 5, 2026, be concurred in; and

THAT, for the duration of the 2026 Fall Sitting, the amendment to the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly recommended by the committee regarding the addition of Members' Statements to the Daily Routine be adopted.

Adam Gerle: The Yukon presently is only one of three jurisdictions in Canada that does not have members' statements, and the committee felt that members' statements are a great tool to express individual issues in people's ridings and other projects they're working on. The committee did a lot of hard work and, again referencing Logan's hard work on this file, agreed to this report.

Justin Ziegler: I rise in support of this motion.

As the chair of the committee mentioned, the Yukon is one of only three Assemblies in Canada without members' statements, and this motion changes that. It gives private

members a new way to bring forward the issues that matter in their riding. I support it and I will vote for it.

This is a trial for the Fall Sitting, and that is a good thing. It gives us the time to see what works and what needs to change. I want to name a few things I hope we look at when the trial ends. One minute is very short. Six statements a day are not many for 21 members. I also think we should look at ministers making statements and find a mechanism to ensure these don't turn into ministerial statements.

But there is one more point I want to raise, and this is one that is the closest to me.

[Member spoke in French. Text unavailable.]

Without interpretation, a member who speaks French or a First Nation language has to choose to be understood by colleagues in this room or tailor their message in the language of the community they want to address. One minute is not enough time to do both. I am obviously not asking to fix this today; I am asking that we keep it in mind when we review this trial after the Sitting. It could involve, for example, allocating double the time for a member making a statement in another language besides English, and this is what I will be advocating for.

Merci.

Debra-Leigh Reti: I rise to support the motion before us. Giving members the opportunity to give short statements is common in other legislatures in Canada, and this will allow members to speak on issues that are important to them. That being said, this decision will have an impact on tributes, which will be sharply curtailed with the changes before us today. I suspect this change may also have unintended consequences with respect to the tone of debate in this House, and we'll see if that is the case over the next 30 days. I note it is a pilot for the duration of the Fall Sitting. We'll see how the statements are used, and I also want to thank the committee and the Clerk's office for their hard work working with our committee.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 3 agreed to

Unanimous consent to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 4

Adam Gerle: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 27.1(c), I request the unanimous consent of the House to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 4, the motion for concurrence in the *Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges* on written questions.

Speaker: The chair of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges has requested the unanimous consent of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 14.3 and notwithstanding Standing Order 27.1(c), to move without one clear day's notice Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 4, the motion for concurrence in the *Fourth Report of the*

Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges on written questions. Is there unanimous consent?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Unanimous consent has been granted.

MOTIONS RESPECTING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 4

Clerk: Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 4, standing in the name of Adam Gerle.

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

THAT the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges presented to the House on October 5, 2026 be concurred in; and

THAT the amendment to the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly recommended by the committee regarding the number of permitted written questions on the Order Paper and the requirement for responses to written questions be adopted.

Adam Gerle: The committee is recommending the deadline for written questions — we're one of the few jurisdictions again that don't have a deadline for it — in the interests of transparency, and replying back to the important questions being asked, we've got a deadline would be important, and we're following the House of Commons system of operating right now.

Justin Ziegler: I rise in support of this motion — written questions that members ask for detailed answers. They are one of the few tools we have to get complete information on paper. But today in the Yukon, there is no deadline to answer them, and a question can sit on the Order Paper for a long time with no reply. This motion sets a deadline of 45 calendar days. That matches the House of Commons. It brings us in line with most of the country, and it also removes the stress and the time constraint of Oral Question Period. It also deals with the time between Sittings. If the House is not sitting, the answer goes to the Clerk, and the Clerk sends it to all members and makes it public. Yukoners don't have to wait for the next Sitting to see the answer. In exchange, each member can have four active questions instead of five. I think that is a fair balance. Fewer questions but each one gets a real answer on time. This is a very simple change. It makes government more accountable, and it respects the work members put into their question. So, again, I will vote in favour.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Motion Respecting Committee Reports No. 4 agreed to

Scott Kent: I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled October 5, 2026:

SP 36-1-46

Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of Members from Sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees (October 5, 2026) (Speaker Clarke)

SP 36-1-47

Yukon Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2025-2026 and Yukon Human Rights Commission Financial Statements — Year Ended March 31, 2026 (Speaker Clarke)

SP 36-1-48

Report on transfers from Government Contingencies vote (Dixon)

SP 36-1-49

Minister of Justice Report to the Yukon Legislative Assembly — Review under Section 19.09 of the Corrections Act, 2009 (June 2026) (Lang)

SP 36-1-50

Third Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees (June 26, 2026) (Porter)

SP 36-1-51

Second Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges — Oral Question Period (October 5, 2026) (Gerle)

SP 36-1-52

Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges — Members' Statements (Gerle)

SP 36-1-53

Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges — Written Questions (October 5, 2026) (Gerle)

SP 36-1-54

Second Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts — Child and Family in Yukon (August 2026) (White)