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HANSARD

Tuesday, November 26, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2019 Fall Sitting

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

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Hon. Ranj Pillai	Porter Creek South	Deputy Premier Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation
Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee	Riverdale South	Government House Leader Minister of Education; Justice
Hon. John Streicker	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate; Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission
Hon. Pauline Frost	Vuntut Gwitchin	Minister of Health and Social Services; Environment; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
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Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Patti McLeod	Watson Lake
Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Geraldine Van Bibber	Porter Creek North

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New Democratic Party

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**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, November 26, 2019 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: The Chair wishes to inform the House that Motion No. 127, notice of which was given in writing yesterday by the Premier, was not placed on today's Notice Paper at the request of the member.

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will proceed with the Order Paper.
Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Ms. Van Bibber: I would like the House to help me welcome the president of the Yukon Hospital Foundation, Karen Forward, and her husband, Arjay Hill.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any tributes?

TRIBUTES

In recognition of World AIDS Day 2019

Mr. Adel: Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our Yukon Liberal government to pay tribute to World AIDS Day 2019.

Across the country, the last week of November marks Canadian HIV/AIDS Awareness Week. This week culminates in a global observance of World AIDS Day on December 1, a day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS epidemic, to remember and commemorate those who have died of the disease. The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Communities make the difference." As we strive to end the HIV epidemic in Canada, we must all use our voices to advocate for more inclusive and accessible services in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we have a collective responsibility to challenge the HIV stigma and discrimination, which we know still persists in our communities. By showing respect and compassion for those living with HIV and by fostering meaningful conversations, we can improve outcomes and reduce the number of new infections.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize one of our community partners that is leading that effort, Blood Ties Four Directions. This organization is a great example of communities making a difference. Its membership, board of directors, and volunteers are drawn from members of the HIV, AIDS, and hepatitis C communities, as well as members of the general public who are committed to improving the lives of Yukoners. On a personal note, my wife was the executive director of AIDS Yukon Alliance, the predecessor to Blood

Ties Four Directions, and we have seen the difference that these types of conversations with these organizations can make and move forward with this disease.

This is an important organization that has been providing HIV education and support since its founding in 1993. Its mission is very similar to the mandate of the Minister of Health and Social Services. It strives to eliminate barriers and create opportunities for people to have equal access to health and wellness and to live in our community with dignity.

On behalf of my Liberal colleagues and me, I would like to say thank you to all current and past Blood Ties Four Directions members, staff, directors, and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

December 1 also marks the start of Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week, which runs until December 6. Mr. Speaker, the goal of this week is to raise the awareness of the critical role that communities can play to ensure that HIV testing, care, and treatment are holistic and culturally safe. Understanding the unique social, spiritual, economic, and political needs of each of our communities is crucial if their citizens are to receive the best possible care. This is an important and much-needed initiative.

Mr. Speaker, as of the 2016 census, indigenous people accounted for about five percent of Canada's population; however, indigenous people accounted for more than 11 percent of the new HIV cases in the same year. Another way of putting that is that indigenous people are 2.7 times more likely to get HIV than non-indigenous Canadians.

By continuing our work together, the Yukon government and its community partners can and will end this disparity, reduce the number of new HIV cases, and improve the lives of people who are living with the disease.

Applause

Ms. McLeod: I rise on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition to recognize December 1 as World AIDS Day, which was established globally in 1988 with the aim of raising awareness of HIV and AIDS and continuing our efforts to educate around prevention and treatment.

In 1991, the Canadian AIDS Society launched the first annual AIDS Awareness Week to help fight the stigma and discrimination around AIDS. Treatment has progressed. Education awareness has reached more people and so much has been done in mitigating the epidemic. However, the stigma around HIV and AIDS remains and often prevents people from seeking information, treatment, or support or from acknowledging their HIV status.

There is still confusion around the difference between HIV and AIDS. HIV is a virus that can be transmitted from one person to another through the exchange of bodily fluids. Most commonly, HIV is transmitted through sex without condoms, shared needles, and blood-to-blood contact. HIV can lead to a condition called AIDS, which is also known as stage 3 HIV. While there are treatments available, there is still no cure.

According to 2016 national HIV estimates, there were an estimated 63,110 Canadians with HIV at the end of 2016. It is estimated that just under 10,000 people may be infected but are

undiagnosed. Here in the Yukon, a total of 57 HIV-positive tests were reported between 1985 and 2013. Mr. Speaker, that number may be higher today and it doesn't reflect those who have not yet been diagnosed.

Thanks to continued research around the world, people with HIV at any stage who adhere to regular anti-viral treatment can expect to live long and productive lives. In fact, evidence shows that HIV-positive people who are on treatment, engaged in care, and have an ongoing, undetectable viral load also have a significantly lower chance of transmitting the virus.

We would like to thank Blood Ties Four Directions for the work they do for Yukoners in areas of education, support, outreach, and a lot more.

I encourage Yukoners to get involved in their awareness and fundraising campaigns, to volunteer, to educate, and donate.

Applause

Ms. White: I rise on behalf of the Yukon NDP in honour of World AIDS Day. December 1 is the international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection.

It allows us to take time to mourn those who have died of the disease and to reflect on those who were left behind and who feel that absence daily.

As of 2017, AIDS has killed between 28.9 million and 41.5 million people worldwide. Internationally, an estimated 36.7 million are living with HIV, making it one of the most important global health issues in recorded history. To give us a sense of the enormity of those numbers, Mr. Speaker, in 2019, 37.6 million people called Canada home. Canada's first diagnosed AIDS case was 40 years ago. In 2004 — 25 years after that first diagnosis — 55,180 Canadians had contracted HIV and 21,226 had been diagnosed with AIDS.

Thanks to recent improved access to anti-retroviral treatment in many regions of the world, the death rate from the AIDS epidemic has decreased since its peak in 2005 and, for that, we're grateful.

We thank those organizations and individuals close to home that see people as individuals and not problems to solve in their efforts to support harm reduction. We thank those organizations and individuals close to home that support those living with HIV or AIDS in caring and compassionate ways.

On April 10, 2019, right here in the Chamber, the NDP brought forward a motion that aimed to ensure that the HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis medication be made available for free to qualified individuals in Yukon. As often happens, the motion was amended by the government to review if barriers exist to accessing this HIV-blocking drug. I'm hopeful that, once the review is completed, PrEP will be available free to any Yukoner who qualifies for it and that Yukon will join others on the front lines of the war on HIV.

Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day reminds us that we as elected officials have a role to play in tackling the AIDS epidemic and that those actions start right here in this Chamber.

Thank you.

Applause

In recognition of Northwestel Festival of Trees

Hon. Ms. Frost: I rise today to ask the Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing the 17th annual Northwestel Festival of Trees.

The festival launched last week with a cocktail party here in the main administration building, an indication of how successful the organization is by the attendance there. Each year, trees, wreaths, and other silent auction items are on offer to raise money for the Yukon Hospital Foundation and a variety of events will allow all members of our community to get involved. Through this great festival, we get to see our community come together and see the true generosity of Yukoners.

Since 2002 when the Festival of Trees first started, this annual event has raised close to \$5.5 million. This impressive sum has been invested back into our community through medical equipment and other initiatives that improve Yukoners' quality of care. Past contributions have allowed the purchase of a fluoroscopy machine, heart stress-testing equipment, a CT scanner, ultrasound machines, a clinical simulation centre, and the first MRI scanner north of 60. A large portion of the proceeds from this year's festival will help to purchase a 3D mammography unit for Whitehorse General Hospital in partnership with Run for Mom. This will help improve the chances of early detection for breast cancer. It is just another way that our community organizations are making lives better for us living in the north.

These highly anticipated events could not be possible without Northwestel, the Yukon Hospital Foundation, local businesses that sponsor the events, and the many volunteers who offer their time and dedication to each event. This year, a number of stunning trees will go up for auction. Each tree has been donated by a local company or organization. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the local businesses that have contributed to this worthy cause. I would like to also specifically recognize the dozens of Yukoners who volunteer their time and creativity to decorate these trees on behalf of the many Yukoners who will view and enjoy their work. I say mahsi' cho.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Yukon Hospital Foundation. Year after year, they do an outstanding job organizing. It is wonderful to see our community members offer their time to support such a worthy cause. The dedication that president Karen Forward shows is certainly noteworthy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge members of this House and all Yukoners to head out to one of the festival's events. Skookum Asphalt is hosting a breakfast with Santa — actually, that happened already. On November 26 you can join Air North for cookies with Santa. Although some of these events have already taken place, I just want to acknowledge all those who came out and participated — absolutely amazing. The sold-out event — the Seniors Soiree, every year, sells out. So, that's obviously a very popular event among our older adults. Finally, the festival ends on November 30 with the prestigious Alkan Air Grand Ball.

So, thank you to the hospital foundation and all of its sponsors and partners in making a real and important difference in the lives of Yukoners.

Applause

Ms. Van Bibber: I rise today on behalf of the Yukon Party Official Opposition and the Third Party, the NDP, to pay tribute to the 2019 Northwestel Festival of Trees.

For 10 days, the Festival of Trees is magical. As a small community, we are blessed with an outpouring of support to raise much-needed money to assist our hospitals to retain the quality of service needed for Yukoners.

It began on Thursday, November 21 with the Newmont Goldcorp BAH Humbug cocktail party. The lobby of the main government building was packed with guests enjoying a drink, appies, music by Roxx Hunter, and a first view of the festive, colourfully themed trees.

The Skookum Asphalt Santa Breakfast on Saturday, November 23 was well-attended and successful. Today, upstairs in the lobby, there are Air North cookies along with photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This has proven to be a winner. All three events have a suggested donation of \$5, so it is reasonable for everyone to attend.

After today, the decorated trees are moved to the Yukon Convention Centre. The large hall is transformed into a thing of beauty. It is breathtaking and set up for two major evenings remaining — Save-On Foods' Seniors Soiree on Friday with Hank Karr and the Canucks and, the finale, the Alkan Air Grand Ball on Saturday with Soul Migration with Lianne Cranfield as the opening act for both evenings.

The major event is the Alkan Air ball, when the 16 trees on offer this year are auctioned, with each tree displaying gifts, goodies, and surprises. The money raised purchases major equipment needed to keep our hospital facilities modern and up to date, such as the MRI machine and the newly opened simulation room with lifelike robots that allow medical staff to keep up their skills as they react to emergencies and various medical situations.

The Yukon Hospital Foundation is to be commended for all they do throughout the year, culminating with the Festival of Trees. The foundation could not do this without the sponsors and supporters who give so much each year. I think many take for granted the generosity of large and small businesses, and we should not. They too have bottom lines, but they continue to step up and give to the community that they love. The businesses have shown that they want the best for all Yukoners. Thanks is not enough, so please support them throughout the year and pay it forward by supporting local.

We give a special shout-out this year to Manitoulin Transport. This is the 17th year of Northwestel's Festival of Trees, and of the last 10, Manitoulin has moved the boxed trees, the risers, and all the support needed both for the main government building display and the convention centre. Now they will gently move those decorated trees from the upstairs lobby to the convention centre. Then, when the successful bidders are known on Sunday morning, they again will gently move those trees to the homes or businesses. Even if it is cold

or windy, they always do it with a smile. Then — guess what — the Yukon Hospital Foundation's President Karen Forward might get a brief rest. Then the planning, organizing, and scheduling begins for next year's events. I cannot say enough about this kind, amazing young woman who gives so much to Yukon — a special thank you to Karen and to her husband, R.J. Hill. R.J. says he is "volun-told", but I personally know that he enjoys every minute that he gives to the foundation.

We hope that all the Christmas dreams come true for the Yukon Hospital Foundation and that the goal wished for is reached.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Ms. McPhee: I have for tabling the *Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund Annual Report 2018-19*, which is tabled pursuant to section 9 of the *Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Act*.

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: I have for tabling the annual reports for the Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board for 2018-19 and for the Yukon Teachers Labour Relations Board for 2018-19.

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

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Ms. White: I rise to give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of the Government of Yukon's review of the barriers for qualified individuals to access pre-exposure prophylaxis as committed to in Motion No. 463 on April 10, 2019.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister for Community Services to follow through on Motion No. 60 put forward by the MLA for Mayo-Tatchun concerning the *Animal Protection Act* by:

(1) attending the Mae Bachur Animal Shelter public meeting happening tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Grey Mountain Room at Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre; and

(2) providing this House with a statement on the matter on November 27.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to move forward in banning single-use plastic bags throughout Yukon based on the original timeline for the spring of 2020 by:

(1) creating a timeline on how this will be achieved by June 20, 2020; and

(2) making a commitment that this ban will come in place during the tenure of the current Government of Yukon.

I also give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of any documentation on the construction of the Yukon Energy Corporation battery energy storage system, including:

(1) the breakdown of the \$16.5 million budget to be spent on the Yukon Energy Corporation battery energy storage system;

(2) the locations and sites under consideration for the construction of the Yukon Energy Corporation battery energy storage system; and

(3) the timeline for the final selection of the location or site for the construction of the Yukon Energy battery energy storage system.

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motions?

Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Dawson City infrastructure upgrades

Mr. Hassard: This summer, CBC reported on the fact that the planned water and sewer upgrades in Dawson City were put on hold. This was done after it was revealed that the Liberals failed to consult residents on the removal of their trees. Residents in Dawson were very upset by the lack of consultation, and of course this is in the Premier's riding. So the Liberal government had to intervene and shut down construction, delaying work by the contractor while the Liberals scrambled to figure out how they had bungled this consultation so badly.

Yesterday in Committee of the Whole, the Minister of Community Services confirmed that these delays costs Yukon taxpayers \$300,000. These delays are a direct result of poor planning by this Liberal government.

What are the Liberals doing to ensure that they don't have to do this in the future, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, I think that the Infrastructure Development branch has been doing tremendous work. We have been putting out many tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure across the territory in all our communities. The first thing we do is I ask the branch to go around and talk with each and every municipality and each and every First Nation and get their priorities. This was the City of Dawson's priority. They asked for this in-ground infrastructure. There were some challenges because there was some old infrastructure in the ground that we were trying not to disturb.

There was consultation with the neighbours about the park in front of them and about the trees. Ultimately, though, what the neighbours didn't understand was where the city's land is and where their land is. When that became clear, we just regrouped and took a little bit of time to review it. I hope that it

has now all worked out well for the folks along Craig Street and for the City of Dawson. By the way, as I said yesterday in Committee of the Whole, the overall budget for the project has remained on target.

Mr. Hassard: So, what is clear is that the Liberal government mismanaged this project and its consultations. When people in the Premier's riding got upset, the Liberal government shut down the construction for 10 days at a cost to taxpayers of \$300,000.

Yesterday, the Minister of Community Services shrugged his shoulders like this was no big deal. According to the CBC article from July 10, a big part of the issue is that the Liberal government did not accurately describe how many trees would be removed in their YESAB submission for this project. The government's YESAB submission for the project even states — and I quote: “there are no large trees that will need to be removed from the project area.”

To quote again from a YESAB official in that July 10 CBC story: “Because of that, the assessment didn't contemplate the removal of any large trees from the project area... The public didn't have the opportunity to comment on it.”

Did the Liberal Cabinet review or sign off on this misleading YESAB submission?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We haven't quite voted on the supplementary budget, but I do look forward to it. We're talking about \$79 million in infrastructure spending around the territory which is going into each of our communities to address the priorities of each of our communities. I'm very proud of the work that the infrastructure branch has been doing in working with those municipalities and First Nation governments to identify their priorities.

This was a priority overall in Dawson. We know that the infrastructure in the ground has not been dealt with for a very long time and I'm really happy that we're getting at it. Yes, there are times when — as it was originally scoped — there wasn't the anticipation that trees would be touched. As soon as we hit the problem, the project manager and the contractor sat down and worked out with the neighbours how they could do the project in a way to save as many trees as possible, replace those that they couldn't, move them over into the park — all sorts of work in order to try to make sure that it was done well.

I would just like to say thank you to the department and to the private sector contractors who did this work. It was good work that was unanticipated to hit challenges. But do you know what? When you have \$80 million or so in projects, there are going to be times when we hit some challenges. I'm thankful —

Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Hassard: So, here are the facts: The Liberal government YESAB submission for this project specifically states that no large trees need to be removed. Then the project started removing large trees. Residents in the Premier's riding got upset that the Liberal government had misled them. The government then intervened and delayed construction for 10 days. Now, this cost taxpayers \$300 which apparently appears not to —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Hassard: — \$300,000; sorry, Mr. Speaker — which appears not to be a big deal to this minister. But we want to know: What changes to capital planning are the Liberals making as a result of this bungling by this minister?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I'm fine to take the criticism from the member opposite; that's totally fine. But do you know what? What I want to do is stand up and thank the department and the private sector and also the neighbours for working through a problem that wasn't foreseen. Once it was foreseen, we looked to see if we could move the location of the sewer pipe. It wasn't a good idea. We talked it over with the neighbours and we landed with doing our best to save the trees.

You can suggest that maybe I am not doing it well, but I would never suggest that the group of folks who are working on that project didn't do it well. I think they did an exceptional job. They did everything under the rules by YESAA. They did everything working properly with the municipality.

There are, now and then, some things that are unforeseen. I am not trying to downplay them at all. What I am trying to say is that, once we discovered that there was something unforeseen, I thought that the staff, the private sector, and the public, working through it, found good solutions for it, and I would like to thank them for that.

Question re: Yukon Hospital Corporation funding

Mr. Cathers: On Thursday, the CEO of the Hospital Corporation told this House that the hospital is still waiting for some of its core funding for this fiscal year. He told us that they would only have a balanced budget for 2019-20 if a pending decision by government on "core funding" was approved. He also said — and I quote: "We had set a budget early in the year, and we are, right now, looking at making sure that core funding has been established in its entirety."

Eight months into the fiscal year, the hospital is waiting for millions in core funding for the current year to be approved. Yesterday, the Premier contradicted the hospital, claiming his government was reviewing next year's hospital budget request. That is astounding.

The hospital is still waiting for millions of dollars in core funding that they requested over a year ago, Mr. Speaker. The Premier is the Finance minister. Did he not know, or did he deliberately mislead the House yesterday during Question Period?

Hon. Ms. Frost: We are representing Yukoners with integrity on this side of the House. We are following through with our commitments to ensure that Yukoners are provided the best possible health care with our partners, and working with the Hospital Corporation is a job that we take very seriously. That means that we need to work through all of their requests, and that is what we are doing right now.

The Hospital Corporation provided an opportunity for members of this Legislative Assembly to ask specific questions.

We know that we have done a lot there at the hospital to alleviate the pressures. They received an increase in their budget last year, and I anticipate that will happen again this year. We are working with them on their capital requests as well

as on the O&M pressures, but we are working on specialized supports and services. We have looked at capital development, operating room expansions, bringing in specialized services, and additional supports. We are working through the Yukon Medical Association and we will continue to do that in good faith.

Mr. Cathers: Well, I am not surprised that the Premier is afraid to answer that question. Yesterday, we asked the Liberals about — and I quote: "... outstanding financial decision to be made..." that the corporation told us about on Thursday.

Eight months into a fiscal year and the Liberals still haven't approved millions in core funding the hospital asked for over a year ago. The corporation told us that — and I quote: "... increased surgeries may mean more pressure on nursing, pressure on support services, bed availability, equipment, supplies, as well as our ability to provide post-operative recovery..."

The Premier found money to give himself a raise, but the hospital's budget for the current year isn't fully funded. The hospital CEO told us that they are waiting for funding for the current year for the — quote: "... orthopaedic program that we have established..."

Why have the Liberals failed to provide the hospital's core funding for the current year and failed to fund the expansion of the orthopaedic program? How many millions of dollars in current year core funding for the hospital has this government still not approved?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to maybe correct that information. What we have done with the Hospital Corporation is provide the necessary supports and resources that they have asked for, recognizing that there won't always be times when we always fulfill — it will take some time — and that means that we have brought in additional supports at the hospital to alleviate the pressures. That means eliminating external travel for Yukoners. We have the specialized supports here in the Yukon. We have now three paediatricians, psychiatrists we are bringing in, orthopaedic surgeons, and expansion of the operating room. We are working with the hospitals and we are now in discussions with them on the secure medical unit.

What we also have done in the last year is open up 10 re-enablement units and respite units at the Thomson Centre to alleviate the pressures in the hospital. We do continue to work closely with the hospital to ensure that patients receive excellent care. We will continue to do that.

Mr. Cathers: Well, Mr. Speaker, that's not what the witnesses from the Hospital Corporation said. They told this House that they are still waiting for some of their core funding. Health care is vitally important to Yukoners and this Liberal government's failure to fund the hospital properly is absolutely unacceptable.

As my colleague, our health critic, pointed out when the Hospital Corporation witnesses appeared, we were told by department officials in the spring budget briefings that \$2.8 million requested by the hospital last year wasn't provided by the government until the current fiscal year. A \$2.8 million shortfall in funding for the hospital matters, Mr. Speaker. The

hospital CEO wasn't prepared to speak about how much core funding hasn't been approved for the current year, but he confirmed that they are waiting for a — and I quote: “pending decision” on “core funding” and for the orthopaedic program. The government received this request over a year ago.

Why has the Premier and this Liberal government left the hospital waiting for its current year core funding until eight months into the fiscal year, and when will they approve the funding?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Perhaps the member opposite doesn't understand the budgetary process.

The budget that's allocated on an annual basis in collaboration with the Hospital Corporation is done in cooperation. We look at the priorities, we work through the priorities, and of course we assess and we ensure that we provide the resources. We have done that in good faith and we will continue to work together on a regular basis to address the pressures at the hospital.

Perhaps the member opposite has information that I'm not aware of. But I expect that, if the CEO of the Hospital Corporation has specific requests, he will go to the deputy minister. In that process, we will continue to have a good dialogue on looking at the key pressures that the members opposite seem to imagine exist.

We will continue to work on our funding allocation as we look at the requests from the Hospital Corporation and continue to have collaborative supports on ensuring that all Yukoners — that every Yukoner, wherever they reside in Yukon, is given the best possible care, including collaborative health care, nurse practitioners, as well as specialized supports within our two rural hospitals that we really have not provided supports to historically. We'll do that in good faith.

Question re: Affordable housing

Ms. White: The Yukon Bureau of Statistics stated that the average price of a house in Whitehorse had gone up by \$44,000 from the first quarter to the fourth quarter of 2018. The 2019 report recently tabled shows that, in 2018, Yukon Housing Corporation provided over \$1 million to three first-time homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, what about all the other Yukoners? When can they expect to receive \$340,000 to help them afford housing? Houses are getting more expensive to purchase, rent continues to go up, and this market is driving people out of Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, what immediate actions are being taken by this government to resolve the housing unaffordability issues plaguing folks in Yukon?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I'm honoured to stand today to speak about what the Yukon Housing Corporation has in fact done in Yukon to address housing pressures and the affordability.

We've worked with our partners, with the private sector, other governments, and non-governmental organizations to implement our housing action plan. We've looked at alternative options in our Yukon communities. In the last couple of years, we have supported over 400 homes. Having said that, we are just now opening up a Housing First unit and we will continue

to work with other communities as well to address some of the key pressure areas.

We have some communities that currently have some, perhaps, availability pressures that really haven't been supported historically. We know that from the trends that we have seen, and we will continue to work with our partners to provide necessary supports to the communities that have been essentially forgotten for many decades. We will continue to do that to ensure continuity and affordability across the Yukon.

Ms. White: The Yukon Bureau of Statistics stated in its April 2018 report that Whitehorse's median rent for units in buildings with three or more rental units was \$950 and that the vacancy rate was at 3.4 percent. In 2019, median rent has gone up to \$1,000 and the vacancy rate has gone down to three percent.

What this tells us, Mr. Speaker, is that housing unaffordability in Yukon is getting worse. Not only are Yukoners paying more for rent, they are also running out of alternatives if they want to remain in Yukon. The 2019 fall throne speech mentioned a commitment to more housing and more affordable housing. Yukoners want this government to follow through on this commitment.

Mr. Speaker, in light of these numbers, what is this government's commitment to non-social housing affordability, and what specific initiatives has this government taken to lower monthly rent costs for Yukoners?

Hon. Ms. Frost: I would like to thank the member opposite for the question, because it is a great one. That is our focus. Our focus within the Yukon Housing Corporation is to look at increasing affordability and housing options across the Yukon. That means that we need to seek partnerships. We need to look at working with local developers and we need to work with our First Nation partners, recognizing that some of our communities are unincorporated and, therefore, have never been supported. We want to ensure that we look at our housing rent supplement program and as well look at ensuring that we provide in our budgets the appropriate resources available to our communities to look at mixed-use housing and mixed-market housing. We want to ensure that we look at new housing options and not focus so much on social housing but on community-based housing needs.

Ms. White: In the 2019 Yukon Housing Corporation report, four key points are highlighted concerning housing needs in Whitehorse: (1) there is a severe need for housing with services; (2) there is a critical need for rental housing; (3) home ownership is out of the reach of many; and (4) market rental housing is too expensive.

Clearly, these problems are getting worse. This is clear in both the language and the attitudes expressed by the Yukon Housing Corporation Board in their annual report.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell this House when Yukoners can expect to have access to affordable rental accommodation or affordable homes to purchase in Whitehorse?

Hon. Ms. Frost: Housing with Social Services is certainly a key element that we want to consider as we look at housing supports in the Yukon — across the Yukon, not just in

Whitehorse. We certainly have not seen this historically. We want to ensure that those individuals who require housing are provided housing with supports to ensure that they are successful.

What's problematic, Mr. Speaker, is that we have not historically provided incentives and opportunities for individuals who are in social housing units to transfer or move out of social housing units into private ownership. That's what we're working on. We are looking at accessibility. We are looking at rent geared to income and expansion of our housing programs to support housing in our communities.

That means that, as I indicated, we have provided an additional 400 units to the market. We continue to provide — in the last year alone — from the \$3.9 million in the housing initiative fund — maybe I'm off on that, but I will correct that if I should have the opportunity — through our partnership programs to allow communities to address their housing pressures. We will continue to do that in collaboration with our partners.

Question re: Porter Creek group home

Ms. Van Bibber: The Liberal government failed to properly consult residents of Porter Creek on their proposed 22 Wann Road group home project. In January 2018, the Liberal government claimed that they didn't have time to consult; the project was too urgent; they needed to get it out as soon as possible.

Then in the spring of 2018, they said that youth would be moving into the group home by December of that year. Then in March of this year, the Minister of Highways and Public Works told this House — quote: "The work is on schedule for substantial completion by April 30, 2019..."

Then after they missed that deadline, the Liberals again pushed the deadline out to the fall. Well, it's now November 26, 2019, and the group home still isn't open. The mismanagement with this project — all the way from the lack of consultation to meeting deadlines — is something else.

Why do Liberals keep missing their deadlines on this project, and when will this group home be open and operational?

Hon. Ms. Frost: It's great to see the member opposite supporting the project, as I recollect when this project came to light and we started looking at an alternative — an alternative to a group home, as it's described here — it's not a group home, Mr. Speaker; it is an opportunity to try to transition youth out of care into self-sufficiency and into independence. What we heard historically was "Not in our backyard."

We are working with our neighbours. We are happy to say that we have worked with our First Nation partners, Kwanlin Dün and Ta'an Kwäch'än. We have worked with our Safe At Home communities. We have worked with many partners to announce the 22 Wann Road project — a new project and an innovative project that addresses the needs of youth who are transitioning out of care. I am very proud of that, as are our partners, and we look forward to opening that next week.

Question re: Yukon mineral exploration program

Mr. Kent: I have some questions for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources about last week's Geoscience Forum. This House has discussed this government's cuts to the Yukon mineral exploration program, or YMEP, on a number of occasions.

Last week, when the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was responding to a question on the Beaver River watershed, he mentioned that YMEP funding was — and I quote: "...undersubscribed for the last number of years..." However, the Yukon Geological Survey reported at the Geoscience Forum that the program was oversubscribed again in 2019.

So, here is the exact quote from the very first sentence of the YGS presentation on YMEP at the Geoscience Forum last week — and I quote: "The program was oversubscribed again this year, with 99 applicants competing for \$1.4 million in funding." This isn't the first time that this minister has given the House incorrect information that was contradicted by his own officials.

So, who are we to believe with the Liberal cuts to YMEP — the minister who says it is undersubscribed, or his own officials who say that the program is oversubscribed?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I don't want Yukoners to be misled, so let me clarify what the opposition is talking about. Previous to 2019, the Yukon mineral exploration program was not seeing full subscription. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, sitting with Minerals branch as well as the Yukon Geological Survey and their leadership, discussed the most appropriate thing to do with those funds understanding that the previous year — 2018 — was undersubscribed. Discussions were held with the Yukon Chamber of Mines and with the Yukon Geological Survey, and we allocated \$200,000 to the Beaver River planning process.

Now, this year, we have a process where subscription is very high and so we will have to go back and take a look to see if that money should go back into the fund.

But I think it is important to note that, when the opposition were in government previously, this fund at one point was at \$575,000 and the point that it is at now is the highest that it has ever been. That is because of decisions that we have made in the last 36 months. It is also key to note that we really have to take a look at this fund because, at the grassroots level, which we are hearing a lot of discussion about, there were no applications, and that came, again, from the submission that was put forward by the Yukon Geological Survey with me and the critic in attendance.

Mr. Kent: Just for the minister, that presentation board at Geoscience from the Yukon Geological Survey said — and I quote: "The program was oversubscribed again this year..."

I am going to go on, though. The Yukon Geological Survey also had presentations at the Geoscience Forum related to placer mining. Here is a quote from that presentation: "Production from the Indian River proper shrunk by 25% (4500 ounces) in 2019, largely due to permitting delays due to wetlands." So, Mr. Speaker, that is equivalent to approximately an \$8.8-million drop in placer production. What is the minister

doing to reduce or eliminate these permitting delays that shrunk placer gold production by approximately \$8.8 million according to the Yukon Geological Survey?

Hon. Mr. Pillai: All I would say — just so Yukoners can understand how they are being misled in this question — is that what the member opposite didn't say is "best year of production ever in placer mining by value".

Question re: Carbon tax

Mr. Cathers: We have learned that the Liberal carbon tax is costing one local trucking company \$9,000 a month right now. They have been paying this since July and have no information from the government on how the rebate is supposed to work.

Their last correspondence with the Premier was on September 25, and the Premier basically shrugged his shoulders and said that details would be released sometime in the future.

To quote from their statement to us: "We have been paying Carbon tax now for 4.5 months and the business community has no idea how the rebate is going to work. I don't know if I can carry the tax credit to another year or what the deal is. They roll out a tax without knowing all the information on how to apply it and refund it. Absolutely mind-blowing."

Can the Premier tell us today when the trucking industry can expect to get information on how their carbon tax rebate will work or is this another question that he is going to dodge?

Hon. Mr. Silver: I am still reeling from the member opposite yelling off-mic that I should go back to where I came from, but we will address that later on.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to carbon pricing, we believe that we have balanced economic and environmental needs, and we want to make sure that we have smart policies that reduce emissions and steer investment into green technology.

We heard Yukoners and Canadians loud and clear with their support for carbon pricing and efforts to address climate change. We are going to continue to move forward on that.

We have established a system where businesses will get back, through the tax system, their rebates. We have also been able to maximize the amount of exemptions and northern-specific rebates. I think that we have done more than we could, possibly, to make sure that this is fair and equitable.

We have also put in place a check-in so that, after a few years of the carbon-pricing mechanism moving forward, we will have an opportunity to recheck and to make sure that this is as fair and as equitable as possible. We have heard the concerns from the transportation industry, and we are working to make sure that we identify those places where we can make a difference, but we are also listening to industry and making sure that we can prepare as we move forward and go into a check-in later on.

But again, Mr. Speaker, the ultimate goal is to reduce our emissions. It's good to see that conservative leaders across the country are changing their tune on carbon pricing. It will be interesting to see what the opposition may actually have in terms of a plan because we haven't heard anything since.

Mr. Cathers: Yukon companies are still reeling from this new Liberal tax. Last year, it was revealed that, despite

claims that aviation companies are exempt from the carbon tax, they're still required to fill out and submit all the paperwork associated with the federal *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*. This is a quote from Finance Canada's website: "Air carriers in the listed territories will continue to be subject to the GGPPA (e.g., reporting and filing requirements), as required, but ultimately the fuel charge will not be paid on any flights in the territories." So, they don't pay the tax, but they have to fill out the paperwork for no reason. The problem is that filling out the paperwork puts a large administrative burden on these companies. This is pointless red tape for the sake of red tape.

Will the government agree to write the federal government and ask that the aviation companies also be made exempt from the paperwork requirements?

Hon. Mr. Silver: As the member opposite identified — finally, clearly — this is a federal initiative. We will absolutely work, if there is an opportunity for us, to make sure that the paperwork is as succinct as possible, whether it's in carbon pricing or any other initiative that we can help the federal government on with their policies and programs.

It is interesting to note that conservatives across the country, Mr. Speaker, are changing their stance on carbon pricing because Canadians have made it clear that they support efforts to address climate change. Alberta, for example — Premier Kenney is introducing a \$30-per-tonne price on carbon on large industrial facilities to align with that federal climate legislation.

Mr. Speaker, when I spoke with the Prime Minister of Canada, I let him know my thoughts — this was after the election. Andrew Scheer said that he won the popular vote; I don't agree. I think that the environment won the popular vote. What we're seeing are premiers right across this country recognizing a need to change their opinion on carbon pricing and to work on an international goal to make sure that we can transition and be on the leading edge when it comes to transitioning off fossil fuel.

Mr. Cathers: Well, it is interesting to see the Premier trying to dodge this question while failing to recognize that they were hand-in-hand with the federal government eagerly welcoming the carbon tax.

Regarding the impacts of the carbon tax on placer mining, we know that placer miners have been paying the tax since July, but they are not currently receiving or able to apply for the rebate. This is due in part to the fact that there is not even a finalized process to follow or documents for placer miners to fill out. During the recent Geoscience conference, we heard from placer miners concerned about the lack of clarity around the process. Apparently, the government has told them that they will have to wait until sometime in the new year to get more information. Farmers are also waiting for details on how to get a rebate or exemption from the carbon tax on propane.

The carbon tax came into effect in July, and it is clear that the Liberals were not ready for the implementation, just ready for the photo op. When will the government make available the documents and process that placer miners need to follow to get their carbon tax rebates, and when will they tell farmers how

they can get a rebate from the Liberal government's tax on propane?

Hon. Mr. Silver: I do stand by the carbon-pricing mechanism. I think that most Canadians believe that we have to do what we can for the climate. Things are changing here rapidly in the Yukon — more so than in any jurisdiction in Canada. We need to do our part, Mr. Speaker. We also need to recognize that carbon pricing is the most cost-effective way of turning that page. We still have not heard a comprehensive plan from the Yukon Party about what they would do with carbon pricing. They will criticize from the bleachers, but they have no plan; they have no plan, Mr. Speaker.

In New Brunswick, Premier Blaine Higgs announced that he will look into complying with the federal government carbon-pricing plan in light of the new federal election. Mr. Higgs said — and I quote: “I can't ignore the obvious here. The country has spoken.” It's too bad, though, that we have heard little in terms of a comprehensive plan from the Yukon Party — just criticism after criticism after criticism followed today by the Member for Lake Laberge basically saying that, if you weren't born and raised here, you should go home.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice of government private members' business

Hon. Ms. McPhee: In order to provide the House with more time to deal with government bills, the government private members are not identifying any motions standing in their names to be called on Wednesday, November 27, 2019.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Mr. Hutton): The matter now before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Do members wish to take a 15-minute recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 200: Second Appropriation Act 2019-20 — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Department of Community Services — continued

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I just would like to welcome back department officials Deputy Minister Matt King and director of Finance, Mr. Phil MacDonald. I am looking forward to further debate on the supplementary.

Ms. Van Bibber: Welcome back to the officials. We left off yesterday on solid waste, and I just had one more question on that topic. It was around free stores, which a hot topic. The free stores at the local dump and at Raven Recycling in Whitehorse have been closed due to health reasons, but residents are anxious to know where they can recycle and share reusable items that they don't need.

Has the minister worked and thought of any other solutions that could be considered? It does seem to be working in the smaller communities, and we are wondering why not in our largest town in Yukon.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: What I want to say is that I love free stores, but they really struggle in all of our communities. The reason is that they get overwhelmed. That was true here in Whitehorse, that was true for the Salvation Army, and that was true generally. The solution, really — and this is just for all Yukoners — is that you need to take care of your free store rather than just dump stuff and dump more stuff.

I know that some Yukoners have gently used things and they can be reused, but all of us, when we go to our transfer stations, need to be very careful to make sure — I call it the “campsite principle” — that you leave that free store cleaner than when you got there. That just needs to be our rule. We need to all do that lifting together or they get overwhelmed. All of the free stores in our communities still end up having to put a lot of stuff into the landfill because they just get overwhelmed. It is a really tough nut to crack. The solution, in my opinion, is that we need to work with our citizens.

Mr. Kent: I just have a quick question about solid waste and the transfer stations. Some of the transfer stations, like the one at Marsh Lake, stopped accepting compost this past summer — I think it might even have been the summer before. I am just curious if the minister can explain that decision and whether or not there was any consultation done with the Department of Environment, especially given the fact that compost will often attract wildlife such as bears into people's private property. I am concerned about increased composting at home since the transfer stations have stopped accepting that. Is it just Marsh Lake, or are there other transfer stations? When was the decision made, and why was the decision made?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will have to check with the Community Operations branch to try to understand what has been happening in other communities. When it stopped in

Marsh Lake, it wasn't the Community Operations branch that said no; it was the local service providers who had tried it.

All of our landfills are attractants for bears, and we have the bear-proof fences. That is true, regardless. But we get into conversations about having compost there or not. I do think that it's one of those ones where we don't want compostable materials to go into our solid-waste stream if at all possible. We also don't want — in all of our communities — to attract bears around our homes. We do need to try to find solutions where possible.

My approach to this has been to work with the communities as they approach us. I don't have an update on where it has been in other transfer stations. I am happy to get that information and share it with the members opposite.

Mr. Istchenko: I also want to welcome the officials here today.

So, multi-year infrastructure work — the water and sewer work that has been done in Haines Junction through Building Canada or whatever the new funding is called now — I have spoken a little bit to the minister about this earlier. There were concerns from the business community that the recent contract and the way that it was tendered and managed is really affecting — adversely affecting — the business community out there.

It's difficult to manage a business with disruptions year after year and some of the businesses are going to be going on three years of disruptions. This is mainly so I can just get it back to my constituents, but what's the minister doing to ensure that this doesn't happen in the future — so I can go back to my constituents and let them know?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: In-ground work can be very disruptive. In working with the Village of Haines Junction, they were talking about having to dig up in the middle of winter because they were getting these breaks often in their in-ground infrastructure. It was very expensive. So they did identify this as a priority. We hope, once it's done, that it will last for decades. We really understand that it is disruptive and I appreciate that.

Now, on top of that, there was some back-and-forth on this very project with this contractor, and it wasn't that — it's always disruptive. This was possibly more disruptive and appreciating that — and so the answer that I have is that the best solution, as always, is to work with the municipality, the contractors, and the community to try to navigate those challenges. I don't have anything special or more to say.

I appreciated the concerns that were raised and we were working to try to deal with them and I just recognize that there are challenges. Whenever you're going to dig up a road in front of someone's house or in front of someone's business, it just is tough to navigate. When that goes on longer than anticipated, it can be frustrating. I appreciate it.

Mr. Istchenko: I appreciate the minister's answer.

I'm just looking for an update on the Beaver Creek Community Club. It was shutting down because they couldn't find volunteers, basically, to run it. I think I brought it to the minister's attention in the spring. So, I just wonder if the minister has an update for us on what Community Services has done for recruitment or toward solving that issue?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Chair, I don't have an update today. I know that the issue revolved at least partly around the library and the location of where the library was. I know that the department has been in conversation with Beaver Creek. Our hope is to — if it's possible — keep the library where it is, but it has been a back-and-forth conversation.

I'll just ask the deputy minister to — I may have a little something here.

I'm now reading here, Mr. Chair, that the Department of Highways and Public Works is currently securing a lease with the newly elected Beaver Creek Community Club. There's some uncertainty over the location for the library during the spring and summer; however, the Beaver Creek library can now continue in its current location.

If I get any more information, I'll be happy to share it across with the member opposite.

Mr. Istchenko: I understood that. The reason I asked the question was because the pool is also involved in that. So, I'm just wondering — the pool was closed last year. It's huge for the community to have that pool for the kids. If the community club was up and running again — Community Services manages the hiring of them, but they manage the financials of paying them. I'm just wondering if that means our pool will be open in Beaver Creek again.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: As the member opposite knows and I think has stated, these pieces of infrastructure — they're so vital for our communities. I know that the Sport and Recreation branch will be working with him to see if they can — our challenge in recent years has been recruitment. But if we can find someone, we are happy to try to get that pool up and running. I know they're working on it now.

Mr. Istchenko: I'm going to switch gears quickly to the Silver City transfer station.

I've written the minister a letter about — they were talking about closing that. My constituents there — the Arctic Institute, the local residents, and one local business owner — said that actually they had written a letter too.

I hate to say that this is a bit of background, because we hear that — but household garbage from Destruction Bay is loaded up from a local contractor and it goes to Whitehorse. They drive right by the Silver City transfer station. It's an electrified area. Every now and then, there is a bit of other material put there, but most of the time, it's just household garbage that is dropped there by the locals. The truck drives right by and pulls in. If it needs to be dumped, they dump it. If that dump closes, we are going to now have probably six or seven residents driving the 65 kilometres from Silver City to Haines Junction, which is going to increase global emissions, as opposed to just the truck that was going by there already. They are then going to have to start worrying about bears in the area with the household garbage, which means that they can't hold it and let it sit forever. This electrified area is a clean area where they put it now. So, I'm just wondering if the minister has had a chance to review that and maybe look at other options.

I do understand that in his response letter he was waiting to sign a regional landfill agreement with the Village of Haines Junction, I believe. It was in part of his answer. But that's just

one of those things that I think is doing our part for the environment — trucks driving by — as there's no cost to it except that the truck pulls in, which is like driving the length of our parking lot. It would sure make it a lot easier on those residents. I am just wondering if the minister can comment on that or perhaps he has something new for us.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: This is a hard conversation. I have made the offer to go out to every community, whether Keno or Johnson's Crossing. I made the offer as well to go out and talk with the MLA for Klwane and with the folks at Silver City. No matter where you are in the Yukon, you are a distance from a landfill. Some people are right next door to it; some are kilometres away. I myself am 15 kilometres away. I don't expect that someone is coming by to pick up my garbage each day. I don't drive to the landfill just to drive there.

What I do is, when I am heading into town to get groceries or something, then I am dropping off my garbage at the landfill, and then I am going to pick up groceries and then coming back so I don't add trips. I am not right next to it. I don't think that it needs to be that people do extra trips. I hope that what we do is we coordinate — and I think that all people who live in our communities love living in our communities, right? They choose it. They want to be there and they don't really want to go to town extra times; they just want to go when they have to go. There may be a business opportunity for the folks who are coming by from Destruction Bay and taking garbage in — that they could do some pickup. I know that the solid-waste folks are working with local residents to help them identify some of those opportunities.

But the thing that I want to say is that our smallest landfills — and now I am talking about Silver City, Keno, Burwash, and Johnson's Crossing — they are costing quite a bit of money per person — in the neighbourhood of \$5,000 per person per year in order to have that facility there.

So, there are real costs — they are significant. So, the notion is that what we were going to do — across the whole of the territory — was to set it up so that we have regional landfills and those regions will serve. I appreciate, as someone who lives in a home that is far away — it is in a neighbourhood, but it is quite a ways from a landfill — we all have to think through about how to deal with attractants to bears and how to deal with our solid waste. This approach, for the whole of the territory, is to close down our smallest, most expensive landfills in order to support the regional landfills. It is a territory-wide approach.

I am sure that is not welcome news for the member opposite, but I am happy to have that conversation directly with the constituents of his.

Ms. Van Bibber: There is mention of a co-lab, where a group of people would work together in an open, creative process to generate solutions for complex problems. How does the minister see this co-lab working and what complex problems is he targeting? There are experts on everything. How will this information be made available and to whom?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will just give the response based on my experience so far. We tried to run our *Liquor Act* review advisory committee with this thing called a co-lab. It's not so much different from a committee that you think of, but you

don't think of the committee as existing forever. You bring it together to deal with a very specific issue. In this case, it was to advise on the *Liquor Act* and regulations and to bring a range of perspectives together. The way in which we shared that information was with a "what we heard" document, which we provided for the public. I have also, in this Legislature — when we went through the *Liquor Act* — answered many questions and shared my learnings from that group, but the notion of a co-lab is just that you are very focused on trying to come up with solutions and that we are not thinking of a committee that lasts forever.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you for that answer. Can the minister tell us what the status is on the track and field complex at the FH Collins Secondary School and what the budget is for this project?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The track is nearly completed. They couldn't quite get the rubberized track on because temperatures changed too early on them this fall. We now will wait for the spring until temperatures warm up to do that last piece of the infrastructure. They still painted some lanes on there so that the students at FH Collins and neighbouring schools could get out there and have some of their track meets on the paved track. Our anticipation is that the overall project will be completed in the spring of next year or maybe the spring/early summer. It is all dependent on temperatures before they can put that rubberized surface down.

The overall project is estimated at \$8.1 million, and the Yukon government is paying for roughly 25 percent of that or a little over \$2 million.

Ms. Van Bibber: Can the minister confirm whether there are public documents that list the mill rates and tax formulas for municipalities and unincorporated municipalities? Could he commit to ensuring that something is published that can be accessed publicly?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The mill rate is the rate that's applied to the property assessments. In municipalities, it's set by bylaw by municipalities. Those bylaws are all public, as far as I understand. In unincorporated communities, it's set by regulations. Those regulations are also, I believe, all public. I think, though, that what may be happening is that they are regulations from many, many years ago, and they just haven't changed over time. So, I think that the information is public, but I'm happy to try to track down what the numbers are for members opposite if they would like, but I think that it is public information.

Ms. Van Bibber: Sorry — I'm sort of random and all over the place at the moment — to keep you on your toes.

There is a line item for Dawson north end plan and development. We're wondering where it is at this particular time. Have the plans been completed? When will details be seen?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: This project is a priority that has been set by the municipality of Dawson. It's about some lot development at the north end of the downtown. We were talking in Question Period earlier today about some of the lot lines and encroachments and things. It is complicated in that area, because it is Dawson — let's just say that.

We are working with the municipality. We have a planner from the Land Development branch who is working with the municipal planner to work through those issues. They will be requesting some in-ground infrastructure to service those lots. We will be putting in an application again, as a priority as defined by Dawson, to get at that infrastructure. I think that, right now, the timing of it is really based on our work with the municipality — just making sure that they are in conversation with the residents in the area and that we are following their lead.

Ms. Van Bibber: I am not sure if this is your department — daylight saving time is what I want to talk about.

As we know, we have brought the issue forward a number of times, but we still keep changing our clocks back and forth. I understand that, when the Premier of BC was recently visiting, it was a discussion topic. Premier Horgan said that he was waiting on the northern states, and apparently, we are waiting on what BC is doing. Has the minister got any idea of the parameters around the discussions about daylight savings?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Mr. Chair, this falls under the Executive Council Office. I do know that the Premier wrote a letter to Premier Horgan, but I think that the question is better posed to the Premier than to me. I certainly have had lots of conversations about the issue when I go to communities. I tend to pass those on to the Premier.

Ms. Van Bibber: Thank you, minister. It was just a random thought that I threw at you.

Lot development — in Whitehorse, we have future areas of development planning happening. Are these new lots strictly in Whistle Bend? If not, can the minister tell us what other areas are in discussion for future use?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The list that I'll provide is Whistle Bend plus this list. It's not "this list or..." — it's "plus".

There is some work that we've been doing with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation in and around Takhini and on land that they own. I already mentioned earlier that Kwanlin Dün has started to title or has registered to title. We're working in coordination with the city and Kwanlin Dün on that.

There has been some development on 5th and Rogers downtown, because the environmental work looks like — if there are developments that take into account venting of, say, underground parking or something like that, then we're there in terms of remediation, and so that brings 5th and Rogers on.

We ask the city, because the city has a robust planning department. They tell us where they're looking to do development, and then we work based on their lead, so it isn't us identifying the locations as much.

What we're also starting to see is that there is some interest as well from private development. These will be areas that are over and above Whistle Bend.

Ms. Van Bibber: The same thoughts with rural Yukon — I would like to know what is being done with lot development in the communities, if anything.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We began earlier talking about Dawson. There's some work there and also on the Dome Road.

The Village of Carmacks — some residential and industrial development projects. There were some that were

downtown and some based on work possibly coming out of Gateway work and the bypass.

In Watson Lake, there are various country and urban residential and industrial projects.

The Village of Mayo is infill, and we also are in conversation with Na-Cho Nyäk Dun about up on the bench.

In Teslin, we are working to partner with the Teslin Tlingit Council.

Faro and Haines Junction are trying land development planning work under their official community plans right now.

There is some work happening in a suite of smaller communities. We also have work going on with the Kluane First Nation and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation. There is quite a range across many of our communities.

Ms. Van Bibber: It was stated earlier that there are smaller lots in the range of \$58,000 that are being offered in the latest block of lot sales — so, smaller lots, smaller homes, and hopefully smaller prices. Are there thoughts of expanding these affordable lots? Is this going to be a consistent offering when developing other lots?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: When I rose earlier, I was talking about how here in the City of Whitehorse we tend to work with the city planning department, and they are the ones who plan things out. So, I just want to defer, because they are great partners. They do terrific planning work, and they are thinking about these questions. I am here more as a messenger than as one trying to drive the conversation necessarily. I know, though, that, for example, we had a very good conversation about 5th and Rogers and what kind of density we might be able to get there, and so I think that it is the city that is planning out the neighbourhoods of Whistle Bend. There are some denser areas in more of the town centre — the high street. There are other areas that are larger, and it is a real blend.

There are also quite a few multi-family lots. When we put those lots out for sale — they look like very expensive lots, but they can have quite a few families living on them. In some ways, it is better to look at the number of units that we think are coming rather than just the number of lots.

Mr. Hassard: I would like to thank the officials for being here to help the minister with these tough questions that we are doling out today.

I have a question for the minister regarding the Marsh Lake lagoon. I don't believe that it is currently open, so I'm just curious if we can get an update on the status of that. Maybe we will get some more questions depending on the response.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: It's very unfortunate news, Mr. Chair. Someone or some folks dumped hydrocarbons into the lagoon. They contaminated it. When we looked at it, we were hoping that it was something that we might be able to remediate quickly, but it was a lot more contamination than we were hoping. I don't have any more updates to date other than working with the community to try to look for solutions.

Mr. Hassard: I know it's not going to be anytime in the near future by the sounds of it, but when the time does come that it looks like they are going to be able to make some headway on it — if he could just update the Legislature so that we could pass it on to anyone who is asking.

I had a couple of questions about First Nation fire crews. I am curious if the minister can tell us how much money was paid to First Nation fire crews throughout the Yukon this year. Also, I am curious as to whether the minister feels that those First Nation fire crews were utilized to their full potential.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, yes; as I get information on the Marsh Lake sewage lagoon, I will be happy to update members here.

Just a reminder that period 7 is coming in, so the final fires are still in the tally sheet at the moment — but it was over \$2.8 million for First Nation wildland fire crews. In general, half of the initial firefighting was the 13 First Nation initial attack crews. They were utilized very well. The words “full potential” — of course, it always depends on the fire season itself, but they were heavily used this year. They did a great job from early to late in the season.

The support crews that were there are a different sort of level. They were used as well. We always want to be careful that we are using them to the scope of their training. Just because they were trained as support crews doesn't mean that we are going to put them on that initial attack. That is all about making sure that everyone is safe. They were well-utilized. I think, though, having said that — the department always works to have ongoing dialogue about enhancing all of that and creating as many opportunities for our First Nation contractors as well to move forward.

Mr. Hassard: I had a question for the minister regarding comprehensive municipal grants. I am curious if the minister could tell us when the next review is scheduled to be done on those.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I am not sure if the question was “started” or “done”.

Mr. Hassard: I am curious as to when the next review will be on the comprehensive municipal grant.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We have already started it. The Association of Yukon Communities wanted to have a deeper look this time. They asked us early on if we could get going on the review. That preliminary work is underway now so that we can take the time to do that deeper review.

Mr. Hassard: I guess the next question would be: When does the minister anticipate that work to be completed?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: If my recollection serves, the agreement came in on April 1, 2018, and it's a five-year agreement. I think that we would like to make sure that our municipalities have a lot of indication about where things would go. I would hope that somewhere in and around the four-year mark — a little plus there — we would have something through our side and then be able to give them that heads-up so that everybody knows where the grant will be heading.

Mr. Hassard: I had a couple of questions for the minister on landfills. I know that Community Services has been working with some communities regarding our agreements on regional landfills. I'm wondering if the minister could tell us which communities the department is currently working with and if there are any progress reports — I guess we would call it that — on how those negotiations or talks are going.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Our director of operations is in conversation with all of the municipalities around those agreements. The hope always was to have those agreements in place in early 2020 so that — 2021 was the target for our municipal partners to introduce changes within their communities. I don't have any further specific updates about them, just that, as far as I know, they are all ongoing.

Mr. Hassard: I thank the minister for that. I have a couple of questions regarding the cancelled Faro fire hall project. I guess the first question would be: Could the minister provide us with a pre-construction estimate for that project?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will work to try to get the number about what it was from our forecast perspective. I won't be giving an exact number because I still want to stick with this notion — and I will get some direction from the department — that it will be the range that we were forecasting.

That project overall, we felt, was over-scoped. Again, what we do is we talk with the communities — in this case, the municipality of Faro. The previous mayor and council and city manager asked for this larger fire hall. We took a look at it. The bids came in quite high, and we decided to have another conversation with mayor and council and the new city manager, and they all agreed that it should be a smaller fire hall — when I say “smaller”, it means a similar size to our other municipalities — so that is what it was being re-scoped as.

Mr. Hassard: I would hope that the minister could provide us with a fairly accurate pre-construction estimate. Because of the fact that this project has now been cancelled, I am assuming that the proposed project moving forward — as the minister has alluded to — is going to be substantially different. I don't think that there would be anything keeping the minister from providing us with some accurate information.

But, on the Faro fire hall, I guess I would ask the minister if he can provide the Legislature with any timelines as to when he sees this project going back out to tender and when the anticipated start date and completion date may be.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will just review with the department about that number. I am happy to share it if, as the member suggested, it has passed and doesn't have that type of impact.

Currently, we are in the design phase. There are dollars in this year's budget for that design work. I would have to look to see the development. Depending on next year's budget and all that work, the starting construction work could be next year or the year after.

Mr. Hassard: Maybe the minister, once he determines when the start date will be or when the tender date will come out, could provide the House with an update.

Also in terms of fire halls, we know that the tender forecasts talk about a new fire hall and public works building in Carmacks. The forecast says that the tender is to be released in 2020, with completion in 2021. We are curious if the minister could provide us with an update on whether or not that project is on track for that time schedule.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I just had a good conversation with officials here, but I feel like I've just dropped the question as it

was posed. If I could just ask the member to reframe it for me, I would appreciate that.

Mr. Hassard: That old age will get you.

I'm just wondering if the Carmacks fire hall is on schedule to go out to tender in February 2020.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The branch believes that the timeline is still generally correct — heading toward a completion of March 2021. As we have used this envelope approach, one of our ways of dealing with the envelope approach is to allow for some flexibility based on how — what bids we receive through that tender and allow for that float.

Mr. Hassard: I have a couple of questions on FireSmart. I will just throw all three of them into one, and then you can work through them.

First, we're curious as to the budget for FireSmart this year. How many projects fell under that budget? How does that compare to previous years as well?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The budget in the mains, as I understand it — because it has not changed under this supplementary budget — is \$850,000. The number of projects is 35. I will just check with officials about whether that's a change or difference from previous years.

Mr. Cathers: I have a number of questions today related to both my critic role for part of Community Services as well as some other issues related to my riding.

First of all, I'm going to begin with the topic of emergency medical services and the support that is provided by government for EMS both within Whitehorse and in rural Yukon. As the minister knows, outside of Whitehorse, the majority of our communities are served — based on the volunteers in communities — and we are very fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers, some of whom have been serving their communities for many years. Some of them are new. Both groups, of course, are very important to our ability to deliver that service. Without them, we would not have that service in rural Yukon in a timely manner.

To begin with, perhaps the minister could tell me: Could he provide a community-by-community breakdown across the territory of the number of emergency medical services volunteers? I'll just leave it there for the moment and not pile too many questions at a time.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I would just like to echo the Member for Lake Laberge's comments to just say thank you to all of our EMS volunteers across the territory. I so appreciate the work that they do.

The numbers that I have in front of me — and noting that these numbers change from time to time, but these are the numbers that I have: Beaver Creek, five volunteers; Carmacks, nine; Carcross, seven; Dawson City, 11; Destruction Bay, seven; Eagle Plains, three; Faro, eight; Haines Junction, 10; Marsh Lake, seven; Mayo, 10; Pelly Crossing, four; Ross River, five; Tagish, nine; Teslin, eight; and Watson Lake, four.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the answer from the minister and the breakdown by community. It is noteworthy in some of those communities, including Watson Lake, that the total number of volunteers is a pretty small pool to be depending on to provide — especially around-the-clock service —

recognizing that there are, in Watson Lake and Dawson City, some paid staff, but for the bulk of the hours of any given day, it still depends on the volunteers to provide those services.

So, can the minister tell me what the government is doing in terms of recruitment of volunteers? What efforts are they making to encourage people to join? Can he describe what is occurring there, particularly within each of those communities that the minister spoke to? If they are not currently doing anything, then I would encourage the minister to turn their attention to doing more in the area of volunteer recruitment, but perhaps he could tell me a bit about what activities have taken place this fiscal year and what activities are contemplated.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: What I want to say is that these efforts pretty much need to be ongoing. It is always an issue for us. I will just give sort of the high level of the general things that we do, and then I will talk more specifically about Watson Lake.

We, of course, support local whenever there is a recruitment initiative. We do training for our volunteers and orientation for new recruits, so there is a recruitment and retention effort. We have and continue to indemnify our volunteers so that they are not held personally liable for their volunteerism. We supply them with their gear — their personal protection equipment.

With respect to Watson Lake — we had a direct conversation with the municipality, the Town of Watson Lake, to discuss the pressures there. We have been working to reallocate resources within the department to support Watson Lake as much as we can. There is a relationship even with the town firefighters, because they often get called out to assist, for example, with lifts and issues like that. We recognize that it is an ongoing concern in Watson Lake. We have been trying to work directly with the community to support volunteers and to recruit.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the answer from the minister. Noting that those numbers include the only four volunteers in Watson Lake, can the minister tell me how many times within the last three months Watson Lake has been without local EMS coverage? "How many hours" would perhaps be a better way to put it. I do also point to local because the government has a practice of deploying EMS staff from Whitehorse when there is no local coverage available in communities. The reality is, as the minister knows very well, that for certain types of health emergencies such as a stroke or heart attack, deploying from Whitehorse is just not going to cut it. It's going to be too little, too late for the people affected by it if there isn't local coverage. Having gaps in local coverage of ambulance services is of great concern to Yukon communities.

Specifically, could the minister indicate how many times in the last three months Watson Lake has been without local coverage and how many hours has that comprised?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I don't have that very specific and very detailed request for information in front of me. What I can say is that there are two types of periods we are concerned about. First of all, when there are planned absences — meaning that, through scheduling, we understand that there is a shortage of local volunteers to cover things off. In those instances, we

reallocate resources into the community to cover it off. Sometimes it might be just the staff themselves there, or sometimes it is borrowing folks from other areas to cover off there locally. In unplanned times — that is a time when we didn't anticipate that there was going to be a shortage. In those times, we work with, again, the Town of Watson Lake and we work with our air ambulance folk to do our best to cover off. I want to differentiate between those two types of times.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the minister differentiating, but unfortunately, one of the problems that we have — and in fact some are of the view — myself included — that what contributes to the lack of understanding by people in the community about the needs within their area is the lack of reporting about when there are gaps in coverage. If people aren't aware of the problem that exists, they are less likely to step forward to help than if they are aware of a problem that is there. Simply to say to a citizen in Watson Lake, for example, "You should join EMS" — that is not necessarily as powerful a motivation as to make them aware of how many times their community is without coverage so that they can do that.

In the past, I wrote to the minister proposing the idea of increased reporting that would be provided to municipalities, local advisory councils, First Nation communities, and as well, to Members of the Legislative Assembly. The minister at the time did not agree to the request. I had positive feedback on that from a number of rural volunteers who also agreed and felt that increased reporting would help drive community interest in volunteering.

Now that the minister has had time to consider that request, will he agree to provide increased reporting about expected gaps in coverage in rural EMS so that it provides those communities and the residents of those communities with more information both about gaps in coverage, which may affect their safety, as well as making them aware of what the need is within their community?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I'm going to go back and try to look at that response that I gave to the member opposite. I agree that it's important that we keep everybody informed about what's going on. I don't disagree with that point at all. I think that it's important that it be done in a way that is reasonable to collect. I would just ask for some indulgence to go back and look at that.

I have in front of me a situation report which is sort of a typical one prepared on a weekly basis and which goes out to our community nursing stations, municipal partners, other allied responders — that sort of information. There is nothing that I sense here that would be not — the sort of information that we don't want to share. On a community-by-community basis, it lists off what we anticipate for that coming week — what we have in terms of coverage and response times and actions taken if there is something different then sort of a full response scheduled.

For example, I will just read here for Watson Lake — this was from the spring of this year. Under this action, it states that when there is no local coverage, the spare ambulance will be parked at the airport for use by medevac crews. When there is

one responder available, the spare ambulance will be brought to the airport to meet medevac crews. So, there is an approach.

I think that the member opposite was talking more about this notion of the public and how they can be informed so that they will choose to volunteer.

I saw a similar situation this year when the Premier and I were touring communities. It is a pretty typical response that, when people see the threat of wildfire, they often start volunteering for their local fire department. I appreciate his point, and I will look back and review our correspondence with each other.

Mr. Cathers: I would just encourage the minister to consider making reports like the information that he referred to that is shared internally, but not externally — to making more of that information available publicly. I think that it is information that, for people in those communities — while the government may be sensitive to not wanting people to know where there are gaps in coverage because it is perhaps embarrassing to the minister in terms of the size of the problem — I encourage him to recognize that actually being clear to the public about what the problem is would likely result in more people volunteering. I do appreciate that the minister acknowledged that, in the case of wildfires, it had a positive impact on firefighter recruitment. It is very similar in that people who are community-minded and who don't actually understand — because government hasn't shared that information — how frequently there are gaps in locally available EMS coverage — it is fair to say that many community-involved citizens who are aware of that would either volunteer or be substantially more likely to volunteer than if they were in the situation that they are in now — where they are just not fully informed by government about how big the problem is.

The minister made mention of the contingency provision if there is no local coverage of parking the ambulance at the airport and staff dispatching from Whitehorse to provide that ambulance service. Two of the big problems with that are how long it takes and the fact that, in winter, there are some items kept in ambulances that are susceptible to freezing.

Some of the drugs and other items that are often in an ambulance should not be frozen. If the ambulance is parked for several hours at the airport at Watson Lake at minus 40 degrees, it would not appear to be a fully stocked, ready-to-roll ambulance due to the perishability of some of the contents there. I would encourage the minister to make more information available publicly about that so that people can make an informed decision.

As the minister is aware, he made a decision to take away the four-by-four ambulance from Tagish. Although, I believe, they did give that back as a search and rescue vehicle, what I have heard from people in the community is that it is now parked outside in the winter, there isn't space inside, and they can't keep freezable items in that.

Can the minister confirm if that is correct? Also, can he indicate whether the government is considering providing rural EMS units that want a four-by-four ambulance when vehicles are coming up for replacement?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: We did provide Tagish with that option. Most of the other communities that I have had the pleasure to talk with have not been requesting the four-by-fours; they have been requesting the updated ambulances. We also offered them — if my recollection serves — the choice about whether they wanted to keep the one warm or the other, and there is a differing opinion of the local volunteers in Tagish. I don't really want to get in the middle of it, but my understanding is that they have chosen to keep the newer ambulance in the bay. That is their call.

If there are other communities that are looking for some other vehicles that I haven't heard about, I am sure that we would entertain that conversation, but my understanding from most of our EMS folk is that they like the new ambulances and the equipment that is there.

Mr. Cathers: Well, I will forward the minister's response to people who are interested.

Can the minister tell me — in looking at the expenses by department, finishing off the last fiscal year, the Public Accounts has shown in schedule 4 on page 152 that the Protective Services branch lapsed \$792,287, according to the audited Public Accounts. Can the minister tell me what made up that lapse in Protective Services? Was it related to equipment such as ambulances or fire trucks not being purchased? If so, was any of that then revoted into the current fiscal year that we are talking about here in the Assembly today?

Mr. Cathers: Since it appears that the minister and officials are in the process of finding that information, in the interest of expediting time, I will just ask another couple of questions that relate to how many ambulances have been purchased this year or are planned to be purchased by the end of the fiscal year. Are all purchases on track as predicted in the spring, or has there been any change from the budget in the spring?

As well, could the minister tell me about what the government is doing in terms of making training available in rural communities specifically? Could the minister either tell me what community visits have been made to provide EMR training and other training to volunteers and prospective volunteers or commit to getting back to me with that information in either a letter or legislative return?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Sorry, Mr. Chair — we weren't anticipating getting into the Public Accounts, so we just hadn't prepared material. Can I please ask the member opposite to just let me know again what page and what dollar value he's looking at, please?

Mr. Cathers: Sure — and I appreciate that from the minister. I'm looking at page 152 in the Public Accounts on the line item for Protective Services. It's showing that there was a \$792,287 lapse in the amount there that occurred — or, pardon me, so we look at the amount — sorry, just bear with me a moment here. Looking at the line item there — if the minister will pardon me, I misread that amount. Usually bracketed figures, as he would know, indicate a reduction, whereas in this case, on this chart, amounts in brackets are overestimates, which is different from the way it's normally shown. So, under

the schedule — pardon me, again; I misread that amount — there was an increase of \$792,287 over what the revised estimates were. I don't believe that we have received an explanation for that amount.

Could the minister either provide me information now or commit to getting back in a legislative return or a letter?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Again, we are working to try to find — we will work to try to get an answer.

On to the other question that the member posed while we were trying to gather the information, we have one ambulance that is in the Community Services mains budget for this year. There is no change in the supplementary. We have two planned for next year. It's based on our asset management schedule for equipment.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate that information and look forward to receiving others later.

Another question that I asked — or, pardon me, I almost asked that question, and I was getting ahead of myself here.

The next question on my list is about the training that has been made available within rural areas. Can the minister advise which communities Community Services has provided training in to rural EMS, and when that has occurred this year — or commit to getting back to me with that information at a later date, if it is not at his fingertips?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I don't have a list in front of me of what the current training schedule is in all of our communities. I recall that when I wrote back to the member opposite last time when he wrote to me asking about training in our communities, I did pull together a list of what was going on across all of our communities at that time, and I gave a three- to four-month training plan.

The thing I want to say is that we have a dedicated training centre. We have a mobile training unit. A lot of the training is self-directed learning online, and there are often local training nights where we come out and work with the local volunteers and do certificate courses at the same time. It is a suite — I think that it is generally always ongoing — and I don't have the specific list, but I have seen some of it when I go into my own communities and attend some of the EMS, and fire nights. I have seen some of the ambulance folk coming from the government and working with the individuals.

Mr. Cathers: I would just ask a question — the minister would, I am sure, be surprised if I didn't ask about the status of uniform kits for rural EMS, which has been an issue in the past. While I won't rehash much of the debate that we have had about the issue of volunteers deploying by helicopters, the minister had indicated that they would be considering providing more training to allow rural EMS volunteers to deploy by helicopter. Can the minister tell me what, if anything, has been done in that area and if more is being planned for later this year?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: With respect to uniforms, the last time I checked, they were being supplied. I recall one of our crews asking for some specific gear that was more high-visibility gear. I think we got that for them; I think it is in hand. There were some challenges for a period of time with the suppliers. Things were falling away because suppliers had

failed a couple of times to get that equipment, but I think that things are in hand at the moment.

With respect to helicopter training, the response that I've given previously and the one I still will give is that this — whenever we work with equipment like helicopters, it requires another level of training. We are happy to get it for our volunteers, although we will direct them through our special operations medical extraction team or the heavy operations team. So we have a couple of these groups that are really dedicated to working around what can be rather dangerous situations. My recollection is that, previously, the member opposite has said that it's just a "get on and off a helicopter" kind of thing, but it's not. From our perspective, when you're dealing with an emergency situation — where people are at risk and there can be challenging scenarios — we actually need to make sure that any volunteer or staff member who we put into those situations has gone through some rather rigorous training.

That's not to say that our volunteers can't do that. We just need to put them through those programs that are specialized. That's how we want to work in order to ensure safety.

Mr. Cathers: I know the minister and I are going to agree to disagree on that, but I would appreciate it if he could — he didn't provide detail about what training might be made available. If he could get back to me with that in a legislative return or a letter, that would be appreciated.

I would also like to ask — in the area of volunteer firefighters, what is being done to support them across the territory? How many volunteers at the fire departments that are run by the government — how many of the ones under Community Services, I should say — what the volunteer numbers are at each one of those volunteer fire departments — if the minister could provide any information about what is being done in terms of recruitment for volunteer firefighters.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Municipalities are responsible for their fire halls and we're responsible for the rest. That's how the split works.

I don't have a listing of the number of volunteers on a per-community basis, so I will work to get that for the member opposite.

Similar to how I discussed the high level — the types of training that we have for our ambulance folk — we have a range of training programs for our volunteer firefighters: life safety, fire prevention, operation of equipment, vehicles, and extractions. I had the pleasure of witnessing a community competition this late summer with several of our volunteer fire crews. So, it's a range.

Similar to EMS, our job is to make sure that we are providing training, orientation, indemnification, and supplying gear and as much as possible showing appreciation for our volunteers so that we can increase retention.

Mr. Cathers: I am going to move on to other areas here this afternoon. I want to just ask about — pardon me, I did have another question on fire that I wanted to ask.

My colleague, the Member for Porter Creek North, did have some debate with the minister yesterday and asked questions regarding what occurred this summer with wildland fire and particularly with rural fire crews from — I believe the

minister indicated that it was Ibex Valley, Mount Lorne, and Golden Horn that sent volunteers, fire trucks, and equipment up the highway to assist and protect Stewart Crossing and provide assistance in that area — understanding that, at the time, Wildland Fire Management crews were not on to assist them with that.

It is of concern for me, as the MLA for one of the areas that is affected, that the minister seemed to be a little dismissive of the concern raised by my colleague about the drain on resources. That is one of the reasons why I would appreciate the minister providing the information that I just asked about — the number of volunteers per department — because people within my constituency — and I am sure that the same occurred south of town — who were aware that there was a reduction in the available fire response from their local fire hall because it was up the north Klondike Highway — hours away. I know that people were wondering about what would occur.

The minister made reference to mutual aid agreements, but as I understand it — already under mutual aid agreements — typically, if there are fires outside of Whitehorse, the Whitehorse Fire Department is often responding into the Mayo Road area or into Ibex Valley. Ibex is typically responding, along with Hootalinqua, to incidents within the Hootalinqua area and vice versa. Ibex Valley is providing service in the Mendenhall area because the Mendenhall fire hall does not have enough volunteers to operate, and when they are already being tasked to provide that service — to use an illustrative example, if a vehicle were up the highway at Stewart Crossing and Ibex Valley also responded to a call within Hootalinqua's area at, let's say, the Grizzly Valley area, and then there was an incident within the Ibex Valley, the question is: Who is left to respond? Well, there's nobody local, and the question of whether Whitehorse would be able to is a concern.

I don't expect that I am going to get a much different response from the minister than my colleague received yesterday, but I would encourage him to treat that issue more seriously in the future and recognize that there needs to be sufficient wildland fire coverage to prevent a situation where half of the crews of the volunteer fire departments in the Whitehorse area are dispatched over 100 miles away and are not able to respond to their own communities — and their equipment is not able to respond.

I am just going to move on to another area that my colleague touched on in the hope that the minister might have an answer today. My colleague asked if the minister could provide a breakdown, including how much was spent on helicopter contracts, air tanker contracts, increased staffing costs, and so on. At the time yesterday — and I'm hoping the minister has the information today — he said, "... I don't have helicopter versus our air tankers. I just have aviation or aircraft broadly..." The total amount that he provided was, he said, around \$14 million. Whether the minister has that information or not, the minister signs off on the contracts for air services unless they've changed the contracting practices. Having been a Minister of Community Services, I know that it wasn't even as simple as an amount for just helicopter services being approved by the minister. The minister actually approves the

contracts and signs the contracts. If the contract has gone over due to air coverage, the minister has to sign off on those contracts when they get over a certain threshold, which would certainly occur in a fire year of this magnitude.

What I am asking is if the minister could just provide us with those helicopter costs and the air tanker costs, again, in the interest of public disclosure of this information.

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I am going to try to go through a few responses here. First of all, with respect to Public Accounts, it was \$792,000 from page 152.

The department officials have let me know that this is a mix of components within Protective Services, but largely it was the public safety broadband network, which was delayed forward by one year to 2019-20 — so to this year. That is the bulk of it.

Second of all, I always try to treat all questions respectfully in this Legislature. I certainly hope that I treated the question from the Member for Porter Creek North respectfully. I disagree with the Member for Lake Laberge that I am in some way flippant or not concerned about the situation with respect to our volunteers. Maybe there is a slight misunderstanding.

The special heavy operations team is comprised from volunteers across a number of fire halls all over the territory. When a call goes out, those volunteers choose to respond. Then what we do is work to shore up their fire departments to make sure that they are safe while those volunteers choose to go and respond. I don't think that they are taking equipment away from our communities. I will check that, but my understanding is that we will be supplying that equipment.

In this instance, going up to Stewart and responding to the Ethel Lake fire, there were volunteers who came from Ibx, Golden Horn, and Mount Lorne. Just a note: two of those locations are in my riding. I would also be concerned that we have coverage, but I am relying on the Fire Marshal's Office to let me know that they have procedures in place to make sure that there is coverage at those times. Again, I have no interest in taking away information from the public to let them know; I am happy to let the public know how this all works.

Overall, they do it in a way to try to ensure that they are not depleting a community complement and that there still is coverage within that community. I just want to give a shout-out to those volunteers. They are very conscientious about protecting their community and serving. They are often very quick to step up to the plate and try to volunteer. Overall, I understand that we have 150 active volunteer firefighters across the Yukon. We also do the Ember Fire Academy each year now. I think it has been three years that it has been in place. It is a terrific program. We try to work through the Fire Marshal's Office to support our communities in their recruitment.

I do sign off on the air tanker contract, and that is my role as minister. However, helicopters are contracted through a standing offer list that is publicly tendered and that the department rotates through in how they work with those contracts. Of course, it depends on the fire activity. If there is more fire activity, then we will deploy more resources.

Our head of Wildland Fire Management — our director there — will make the judgment call about what resources to

allocate toward those fires based on the severity of the threat that they see coming.

I'll leave it there.

Mr. Cathers: Still, with the significant increases that would occur to the helicopter costs, the minister would have had to sign off on those increases even if the original contracts themselves didn't reach the level that required his approval. The increases to the budget would have required that. I guess I'm not going to get more information from the minister today, but I would appreciate it if he would provide the total cost of helicopter contracts as well as how many hours that represented at a later date.

As it relates to the volunteer fire departments being dispatched to assist with a fire, I just want to make sure that the minister understands that I'm not trying to suggest that the sky is falling in this area, but a reduction in fire response capacity in a community is a reduction in capacity. It's no different from if they just had one fire truck in that area. They don't have the same capacity, which is why we provide them with two fire trucks — typically a pumper and a pumper tanker. If one of those vehicles is away, then it's not available.

In terms of equipment being dispatched, I would point out to the minister that I was actually at Ibx Valley fire hall when they did roll, and that included taking equipment from the fire hall. At the time, considering the circumstance that the government was in without having wildland fire crews on — I'm not suggesting that it was the wrong decision at that point in time, but I am suggesting that government, especially considering that they have talked as much as they have about climate change, recognize that the fire season is likely to get longer and ensure that they adjust accordingly in terms of their planning. When I say "planning", I mean for not only the air coverage, but also the ground coverage with wildland fire crews both in Wildland Fire Management as well as First Nation fire crews and any other fire crews that are contracted. I will just leave that there for the minister.

I am going to move on to another area, and that is in terms of the government's handling of waste and solid waste. I did find it surprising that there was a commitment in the throne speech — which I don't have in front of me, but I believe that it was on page 9 of that throne speech that the government issued at the start of this Sitting. It made a commitment around expanding recycling. Just a couple or three weeks after that, the minister, along with local recyclers, announced a contraction of the recycling services being provided, that being that they are no longer providing the recycling of glass, other than the ones for which there is a refund, including beer bottles and pop bottles.

It does seem strange that they would go in the opposite direction from what the throne speech suggested, especially considering, in areas — as the minister knows, a number of my constituents are not happy with the government's plan to charge tipping fees in the Whitehorse periphery, including at the Deep Creek facility in my area. Where is the logic in government ceasing to provide glass recycling services and then charging people a tipping fee for dumping the glass that government is no longer giving the ability to recycle?

Secondly, the minister likes to compare what Whitehorse residents pay with the tipping fees that he is determined to implement in rural Yukon. There is a big difference in that the Whitehorse facility does provide composting while, so far, at many of the facilities in the periphery, composting is not available. The minister indicated at a public meeting in my riding that, effectively, they aspire to add compost at some point, but the disparity — in this case, between people in Whitehorse and people outside — is that, if you are in Whitehorse, you have the accessible option of composting and reducing a significant amount of volume. That is one of the arguments that some have used for tipping fees — to encourage more composting. But when composting isn't an option at rural facilities — run by the Minister of Community Services — and when the Department of Environment is actively encouraging people not to have things in their yard that might attract bears such as compost heaps, what does government expect people to do to reduce their volume if they haven't made composting available and, of course, they are actually reducing the number of things that they can recycle?

I will just add one more question to that string about solid-waste facilities before I sit down and turn it over to the minister. Considering the fact that, as the minister knows, some of my constituents were unhappy about the fact that the decision to implement tipping fees at the facility that is in place to serve them was made without one scrap of public consultation — and over 900 residents of the Hot Springs Road and the Mayo Road areas are not represented by the Association of Yukon Communities — can the minister explain why government decided it was appropriate to make the decision without consulting people who, in terms of population numbers, are a similar population if the minister and the government had decided not to consult with both Carmacks and Mayo?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, let me talk about the throne speech. We did talk about the importance of doing a territory-wide regional waste management system and improving recycling. We are working to improve recycling. I was saddened by the news that our recyclers — Raven, P&M, and Blue Bin — just understood that glass doesn't have a recyclability to it and that we are actually charging money to ship it out. It was their decision to change that. It's challenging when you want to get a message to Yukoners that we really need to reduce, reuse, and recycle. I just won't let go of those first ones. To reduce is our best solution.

We did a lot of talking around solid waste. I acknowledge that we didn't get to every community and we didn't discuss with every group the regionalization of the landfill system, but to suggest that it has not been around — I recall the same conversation when I was a city councillor. Sometime between 2012 and 2015, I recall having these conversations about how our solid-waste system needed to be a territory-wide system, that it needed an overhaul, that we needed to do the heavy lifting, and that recycling is a challenge. I recall that very same conversation when I got elected into this position. It is a challenging problem. I agree that not everyone will be there.

Really, what we are talking about for the folks who neighbour Whitehorse is about a buck a bag. I did have that

conversation in the Member for Lake Laberge's community. There were a couple of meetings there, and I came out to one of them. I did hear concerns, and I think that it is fair to say that Yukoners, if they haven't been paying for garbage, don't want to pay for garbage. Realistically, Mr. Chair, we are paying for garbage. It's just where, when, and how. I think that it's important that we make it even across the territory. It's important that we put a price signal. It's a polluter-pay type of system.

By the way, that buck a bag in Deep Creek, in and around Lake Laberge, or in my neck of the woods, Marsh Lake, is not going to cover the costs. All that it's going to do is level the cost so that people stop driving from town out to Deep Creek to drop off their garbage — and then having the government pay to bring it back — and, by the way, pay higher tipping fees. It's not a good system at all, and we need to change it. I am happy to sit down and talk with Yukoners. We will discuss their concerns, but I would like to work with them on how to bring this in so that it will work well — as well as it can — for all of our communities.

I am sure I will get more questions. Let me just sit back down and then get the additional questions that I think will be coming.

Mr. Cathers: Again, I don't want to be too rough on the minister here, but it is a case — when the minister talks about wanting to work with me and my constituents — of implementing it. For people who wanted input on the decision and had concerns, to tell them that government is doing after-the-fact consultation is similar to how they made the decision to shut down Central Stores and then, after the fact, started consulting with affected suppliers. Again, simply to make a decision and then follow up afterwards by consulting about a decision that you have already made is not a very good way to approach things. It leaves people upset about not having their voices heard. When they're told after the fact that government has already decided what it's doing, but is happy to talk to them about it, that certainly has not gone over very well with a number of my constituents.

I would point out to the minister again, especially when you are operating in rural Yukon in areas that are not represented by a municipality or local advisory council, that to simply forget the fact that 900 people in an area are affected by a government decision, but don't have a local advisory council at the table to provide input on the government's plan is not acceptable. The fact that, in this case, they forgot, apparently, that they were putting through a decision that would affect as many people as in a couple of small Yukon towns combined without any consultation is not acceptable.

In Whitehorse, people have the opportunity to compost, but in the Whitehorse periphery, they don't. The government is not immediately moving to implement compost at those facilities. So, Whitehorse citizens have the opportunity to take the organics out of their waste stream and put that into compost, but people outside in my constituency as well as on the south and west sides of town don't necessarily have that same opportunity to do composting, but they are being penalized by the fact that government won't let them compost as part of the

waste stream. I just would encourage the minister to think about that.

As well, with tipping fees, as I have mentioned previously to the minister and the minister knows full well, the department had done a review of options including tipping fees back several years ago. At the time, they had recommended against it for reasons including that they said that, at some of the facilities, the costs of implementing those tipping fees and managing it and the costs of capital set-up in administration would exceed the revenue that they would collect.

We still don't have a breakdown from the government of which facilities operated by the Department Community Services the government is planning on implementing tipping fees at. At which of those facilities are they actually going to be losing money by running those facilities? Will the minister provide us with a breakdown of the landfills that Community Services operates and the expected costs and the expected revenues associated with implementing tipping fees?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, I want to say that, while we didn't go out and actively try to talk with all rural residents, I did hear from quite a few. For example, I heard from the Mount Lorne solid-waste facility. They actually asked us to introduce tipping fees across the territory and in their community. I volunteered at quite a few of the neighbouring solid-waste facilities. I have been doing it every summer now, and so I did get into conversations with local folks.

As I said earlier, I think that we are asking all Yukoners to pay roughly the same price — a buck a bag.

Mr. Chair, I did table the whole Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste recommendations for actions toward a sustainable solid-waste management system for the Yukon. This came out in April 2018. I tabled it here in the Legislature. There is lots of information in there. It might not have all of the information that the member wants, and I will look forward to further questions, but that is the analysis that we have been sharing.

What I want to say is that one of the pieces that will benefit is that there are costs to administration. However, we have long since decided that we need to make sure that our solid-waste facilities are staffed, because if they are not staffed, we end up with problems. It is just an incremental difference, and that is of collecting the fee. So, we are working through right now what that will look like — probably something like a punch card, but that is still to be worked out. All of the analysis won't be able to take all of it into account.

Part of what we're looking forward to is that there will be a little bit of a hump at the beginning, but over time, there will be improvements. The improvements will come because we will not necessarily have individual Yukoners move their solid waste out to a region and then we will have to move it back. We think that, over time, there will be a cost advantage, generally. We will be investing that mostly in the regional facilities to try to support them. That is all part of that ongoing work, and it is outlined in the report that I tabled.

Chair: Do members wish to take a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter before the Committee is continuing general debate on Vote 51, Department of Community Services, in Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*.

Is there any further general debate?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I just want to flesh out the last response that I gave about the overall cost. All of our rural solid-waste facilities, or transfer stations, are going to continue to cost more to operate than we will ever realize in revenue via tipping fees. What we are working to do here is to move toward a more sustainable system by controlling what comes in and to help encourage all Yukoners to reduce the waste that's coming in by putting a price on pollution and putting a price signal there and to protect against any sort of contamination. All of that is to offset the O&M.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the information that the minister provided. I had asked the minister about which of the government's solid-waste facilities they are going to be losing money on. The minister has been a bit cagey every time I have pressed him on it and has not disclosed what the total costs are. As the minister will recall, before we had the break this afternoon, I did ask him if he could provide the estimated costs on a facility-by-facility basis and the estimated revenues on a facility-by-facility basis associated with the implementation of tipping fees. Personally, I think this is information that the government actually has an obligation to provide to the public in the interest of public disclosure. I would hope that the minister would agree and would provide that information.

Although the minister has been cagey in answering me, I do remind him that he was a little less guarded in his response to my colleague, the Member for Porter Creek North, yesterday afternoon about tipping fees. The minister said, on page 850 of the Blues — and I quote: "We will work to introduce tipping fees in the periphery of Whitehorse this spring and then, I think, the rest of the territory roughly in the next year.

"What I also want to say is that it doesn't mean that we are doing cost recovery in every location."

The minister acknowledged that they are not doing cost recovery in every location. Again, the question of which facilities they are going to implement tipping fees at — that they are actually going to lose money on — is one that I do think the public has a right to know.

I would note in this case, again, recognizing that the exact costs may have changed — probably have changed — since Community Services studied this issue roughly five or six years ago, but when you add up the costs of infrastructure facilities, including phone lines, point-of-sale terminals, a facility to store cash — a float of cash for the facility — it does create some additional costs at those facilities. The government has taken an approach based on charging people and penalizing them for dumping at facilities, but they haven't really looked at the overall costs of this, including — as the minister and I have debated before — the government, the last we heard, still does not have a plan around illegal dumping. The costs associated

with that are an additional cost that will be paid perhaps by a different part of government, unless the government just plans to leave that environmental pollution and, in some cases, waste that may create risk for wildlife, people in the area, or pets. Unless the government is actually planning on just ignoring illegal dumping, there is going to be a cost and there needs to be a plan for dealing with that dumping.

Again, just to summarize for the minister, what is the estimated cost per facility of operating tipping fees and what is the anticipated revenue for a facility associated with those tipping fees? Secondly, has the government done any work on coming up with a plan for dealing with illegal dumping?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, I again direct the member opposite to the document that I tabled previously, the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste recommendations for action. Under Appendix I, there is a breakdown by community and by facility. It doesn't have all the numbers in it, but it has quite a bit of information there. I think that is a good starting point.

What I said even just after the break when I stood up was that we don't anticipate that it is going to cover all the costs, but of course we have a lot of costs right now. What we are anticipating is that we hope that it will be an improvement to the costs.

It's not so much borne by those individual Yukoners in the community; I already have stated that costs will be quite heavily subsidized. The real improvement will come in that Yukoners will stop driving from one community to take their waste to another one. That's the problem, first and foremost.

We do have a plan around illegal dumping and enforcement. I talked about it when I was with the member opposite in his community — about increased fines and about an education campaign. I have also talked in the past and in his community about how the pattern of illegal dumping typically is that, when there is a change, we see a little bit more. But most Yukoners, over time, work to try to do the right thing.

We do want to deal with illegal dumping. It is a real problem. I said earlier today — in another answer about the large costs when we deal with — or at the sewage lagoon where someone put hydrocarbons in it — it's very expensive. We will do our best to catch those people who are doing that, to fine them, and to make it a deterrent for anybody who is considering doing that.

Mr. Cathers: Unfortunately, that's just not answering the question. It's unfortunate that the government is choosing to do this based on ideology and is not in fact looking at it based on costs.

The minister made reference to — keeps making reference to — perhaps he could correct me if I have the wrong document — but I'm looking at the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste recommendations for action report from 2018 — the full title being *Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste — Recommendations for Action towards a Sustainable Solid Waste Management System for Yukon*. In going through the document, looking at the recommendations and the themes — there are a lot of words, but the costs associated with the individual action items aren't broken down.

Again, looking at the numbers section in the report, I see the solid waste operational cost in the fiscal year 2017-18. But the breakdown of those costs that include the population of areas, regular maintenance costs, site attendants, waste transfer costs, household hazardous waste, groundwater monitoring, maintenance beyond scope, et cetera — those costs from that fiscal year broken down — but I'm looking through this and I don't see anywhere in this solid waste document — perhaps the minister could point me to it, if I'm missing it — I don't see any budget for the future cost associated with changing the model of the system.

If the government is just making this decision purely based on ideology, without costs, then that is something that I think Yukoners should be concerned about with the government's approach. We have seen that, as well, in areas of decision by the government to take over the former Centre of Hope from the Salvation Army where they made the decision without Management Board approval and then dealt with the cleanup and the cost after the fact.

In this type of area, we should — if government is proceeding down this road with tipping fees, there should be a plan, and the plan should be more than words. It should include realistic assessments of the cost, including where implementing tipping fees at some facilities is going to actually lose money according to the most recent information we had and according to what the minister acknowledged yesterday in the House on page 850.

Can the minister tell me if I'm missing a part in this document about the prediction around cost? Can he point to where that is?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: The information in the Solid Waste Advisory Committee report talks about what the existing costs are. The analysis that was done by the department does look at what the additional costs will be to introduce tipping fees, and there are some estimates that are put in there. Some of those things will be realized.

As I have said previously, the major benefit that we anticipate is a reduction in the amount of cost that goes into each of these sites because what we've had to do is invest heavily in the capital costs in each of the outlying facilities due to much larger-than-anticipated volumes — volumes that we recognize are not derived from local residents but rather are derived from Yukoners deciding to go out to our communities to avoid tipping fees.

There are all sorts of things that are in there. There's the capital cost and the improvements around the site — fencing and gating, if it's not there. There are costs around staffing, but what we'll look at in the analysis is the staffing differential. There will be analysis based on the workload to do the collection of fees and to do that — getting that money in, as I have already stated here. We're looking at using a fairly simple system, like a punch-card-type system.

We recognize that, in all, there will be some overhead to charging tipping fees. The goal, as I've stated already, was not to try to recover all costs. As I said yesterday in this House — and I'll say again today several times — the goal is to put a price on pollution and to make a levelized cost for everyone.

The overhead — as you can see from the report that the member opposite now has in front of him — talks about the costs per person in our communities. That's a starting point.

I'm happy to get the analysis that was done to show the evidence about why and how this will work. I'm happy to share it.

Mr. Cathers: Mr. Chair, in going through this again, I would encourage the minister to just tell me where the numbers are. In looking through the recommendations, a number of the columns where they have the costs — there are no costs listed. There are simply asterisks. It doesn't tell us what the costs of those items are.

For example, under the theme of "Regionalization" — page 6 of the report, it says, "Recommendation: Review waste management service levels for unincorporated areas", the action — and I'm reading from the table, Mr. Chair, is "Review levels of service and costs for unincorporated solid waste facilities." The next column, Timeframe, says "Short Term (2018)". The Cost column has one asterisk. What does that mean?

The Deliverable column says "Report and Action Plan"; Outcome says "Service levels are cost-efficient through rationalization of Yukon government solid waste sites as part of regional strategy" and "Possible introduction of a user pay system at Yukon government solid waste sites". The Partners column says "YG; Municipalities; LAC's; and First Nations".

To start with, that recommendation doesn't say, "implement a user pay system". It says, "possible introduction of a user pay system..." Costs associated with it — again, what information is shown on the table on page 6 of the document — which the minister keeps referring us to — "Cost" has one asterisk. What does the asterisk mean?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Today we are debating the supplementary budget as it is. I am happy to answer these questions. On page four, the asterisks are explained. When it says "no cost", it will say "no cost". When it is one asterisk, it is \$10,000 or less — and it goes up. So, two asterisks — my understanding is — are \$100,000 or less. They are orders of magnitude costs. That's all.

What I want to say is that this committee, which has been long-standing — the work that the Association of Yukon Communities has been doing is to find a territory-wide system. The proposal from them is a regional-based system where we all — all of us, as Yukoners pay our part. We are not asking for all Yukoners to pay the cost. We are asking that we all pay roughly the same amount so that we will continue to subsidize our folks in the rural communities, but we are asking that they pay a cost. It is about a buck a bag.

I am happy to get the deeper analysis that was used to look at the costs and cost recovery over time. Again, it is not meant that — a dollar per bag will never cover the costs of waste; it is much more than that. What it will do is put a price signal out there so that Yukoners will go to their local facility.

Mr. Cathers: I will point out to the minister — I have to remind him that the only reason that I am even talking about the solid-waste report is that every time I kept asking the minister about the costs associated with the government's plan

to implement this and the work that they are doing — both in this fiscal year and planning in the next year — every time I ask about cost, the minister kept saying to go to the report of the ministerial committee on solid waste. I would go there, and the costs aren't there. We see asterisks in lieu of the cost without any clarity of what makes up those costs.

To say that looking at three asterisks is supposed to provide information to anyone on what the costs are — this is the first time in all my time in the House that I have heard any minister suggest that, instead of seeing figures for costs, asterisks can replace them. We don't know whether a two-asterisk amount or a three-asterisk amount represents \$100,000 or \$300,000 or \$500,000 or \$1 million or \$2 million, because the costs aren't shown.

Again, the only reason I'm mentioning this part of the report is due to the very simple question I asked the minister earlier about what the costs were at each of these facilities — since he has admitted that, in some cases, government is going to be losing money by operating the tipping fees — and which facilities it's going to cost more for them to implement tipping fees at than they will get in revenue.

I also ran across, as the minister pointed me to this — the issue I mentioned earlier to the minister about his failure to consult with my constituents on this — the report — on page 8, there's a specific action item in the committee's report: "Initiate consultation with Whitehorse periphery on proposed fees". Well, that public consultation didn't occur before the decision was made. Again in that column, under "Outcome", it said, "Understand public opinion of user fees at Yukon government solid waste sites in the Whitehorse periphery". But the minister didn't follow the recommendation and didn't consult with 900 people in my constituency, as well as elsewhere.

If he had consulted with them, they would have heard the concerns they're hearing now about illegal dumping that has occurred at locations in my riding, including Parent Lane, the Scout Lake Road, gravel pits, behind the Yukon Energy Corporation substation at Mile 5.1, and on several parcels of Kwanlin Dün First Nation land. As well, we have seen an increase in the abandonment of vehicles.

Again, I'm asking the minister a question about the finances, and I'm asking the minister — since he has acknowledged that, in some cases, implementing tipping fees at some facilities will cost more money than the government gets — how much more money is that going to be overall? On a facility-by-facility basis, what is the breakdown? At which facilities is it anticipated that it is going to cost the government more to collect tipping fees than they will receive in tipping fees?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Sometimes when I'm in a meeting with some folks and there seems to be some sort of misunderstanding, I offer to take that conversation to a sidebar to try to have a more detailed back and forth rather than as we stand here in the Legislature. We just make that offer.

We seem to be discussing asterisks. I don't know that it is helpful, but I will do my best to try to answer the questions from the member opposite. We spend on average about \$3.1 million per year on solid-waste facilities. The municipalities spend

approximately \$4.5 million per year on waste management. Recycling costs the Yukon government another \$4.2 million per year.

In the document that I pointed to — under the appendix near the back of the document where it talks about the costs, the waste management costs per community per facility — it also breaks it down roughly on a per capita cost. The overall goal here is to try to level that out somewhat. What I said was that I didn't anticipate that the dollars were going to recover the costs in any of our unincorporated communities — in none of them. What we would like to do, though, and what I think is a fair question from the member opposite, is to try to understand the economic analysis to see that there is an improvement by introducing these charges. The other thing is that we don't just anticipate that the improvement has to do with that facility per se, but rather that all Yukoners are paying roughly the same amount. So, it might not work out exactly.

I have also stood up here in previous answers and said that I'm happy to provide the deeper analysis, which is not included in this document, to discuss where those numbers lie. I have no problem doing that, but I'm just not sure that we are going to get it out on the floor of the Legislature today. I will also say that, as this came to me, it was one iteration of work that came in front of me. I tabled it here and, subsequent to that, the Association of Yukon Communities, including the local advisory councils, asked that, rather than just start with the periphery, we work for the whole of the territory. That was based on feedback from municipalities.

So, did we talk to everyone? No. But did we talk to a large percentage of Yukoners through that system? Yes, we did. I am working now to implement that across the territory.

Again, I say for the member opposite: go ahead and pick apart the report as you wish, but if it's information that you're looking for, I'm happy to sit down and share it with you — the member opposite — and to get to a more deeper and detailed understanding.

Mr. Cathers: I just have to point out that the minister said that we're spending time debating asterisks. I don't want to be debating asterisks, but if the minister won't tell me the numbers — and the report that he keeps pointing me to only shows asterisks — all I can do is point out that, in lieu of the actual costs, there is one asterisk, two asterisks, et cetera, and it should say the costs.

The minister provided the overall figures for recycling, as well as the overall cost for running the facilities. I do appreciate that. I think the minister said that they're actually going to be losing money at every facility and that it's costing them more to implement tipping fees than they're making at every single one. If I misheard him, perhaps he could tell me which facilities they're losing money on. Otherwise, I'm left to understand that they are actually, at all facilities run by the Yukon government, going to be spending more to implement tipping fees than they are going to collect in anticipated revenue.

I mentioned earlier to the minister the fact that the throne speech said that the government would work to expand recycling. The document that the minister pointed me to contained a recommendation to "Continue to support the

diversion credit program in the short term and assess the program for accountability and financial sustainability." It also said, "Ensure diversion credits are fully funded until such time that DMR offsets this funding system" — on page 8 of the document.

So, why, in the area of glass recycling, did the minister decide to go forward with a plan to shut down the recycling of glass rather than working out a diversion credit to support glass recycling which would see one or both recycling processors continue to recycle glass and keep this out of the landfill?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: What I'm trying to say through you, Mr. Chair, to the member opposite is that we seem to have a bit of a misunderstanding. I'm not trying to be facetious with any of my remarks. I'm trying to say that, when I hear the way the question is posed, I'm concerned that we're not connecting in our understanding. I'm looking for that ability to have a more direct dialogue.

I said that, currently, every facility that the Yukon government runs is running at a loss. All facilities — there is no tipping fee that's collected. There is no user fee that's collected, generally. Currently, all of them are running at a loss. Some of them are running at much more of a loss than others on a per-person basis or a per-facility basis. The way to look at that is in the report under the table where it talks about the cost per facility and the cost per person per facility.

The next thing I said is that, when we ask for this \$1 a bag — this levelized charge, more or less — what is going to happen is that it will offset some of those costs of implementing the program and overall across the territory, it will make an improvement, but it will never reach the point where all of those facilities are paying for themselves — not at \$1 a bag. It will not.

What I heard the member opposite say was that some facilities were — no, I'll just leave it at that.

Then, on glass — it's the recyclers who have stated that they will no longer accept glass because it is not worth it for them — for glass pickle jars, for example, and for glass bottles, which can be reused here, depending on the bottle. If it's going back to one of our local producers, they can be reused; that's terrific. On that side of the equation, it's different, but on the glass — kind of like the pickle jars, et cetera — no, it's the local recyclers that have said that they will no longer accept them. It doesn't matter about the diversion credit that we are providing them; they don't believe that it is viable.

What they used to do was — themselves — subsidize already the cost of glass because it's very expensive to move around — to crush, et cetera — so it wasn't paying for itself. So, the recyclers have said, "Sorry, we're not going to do it anymore."

We will continue to try to find solutions around recycling, but what I want to say is that glass is not our biggest problem. Plastics and cardboard are our bigger problems.

Mr. Cathers: Well, Mr. Chair, the minister seems to be forgetting that I have been the Minister of Community Services before, and he's trying to say, "Oh, we're having a misunderstanding." We're not having a misunderstanding. I'm asking questions about the costs, and he won't tell me. That is

a choice that — again, he keeps pointing to a document, and when you look at the document, the costs aren't shown there.

So, again, in the absence of the minister providing us the details, I'm left with the understanding that, at the facilities that the Yukon government is running, the cost of implementing tipping fees — because of the administration costs, the costs of equipment, the costs of point of sale terminals and so on and the cost of phone service — is much like it was when the department looked at it five or six years ago — a case where the government is actually going to be losing money by implementing tipping fees. If the minister believes that this is inaccurate at any one of those facilities, all he needs to do is tell me the costs.

In the case of glass recycling, the minister provided the excuse that the processor is doing it and that we couldn't do it any differently. Mr. Chair, this does not seem in any way, shape, or form different from the situation that happened back several years ago when Raven Recycling indicated that it had become uneconomical for them to recycle a number of waste streams, including cardboards and a lot of the plastics. They indicated at the time that they were going to cease operations, but what we did, under my watch as minister of the day, is we tasked department officials to work with the recycling processors and come up with a model that was workable as a diversion credit to keep that waste out of the landfill.

For the minister to try to say, "Oh, this is just their decision. There's no money in it" — well, that's the entire point of diversion credits. It is to subsidize products to keep them out of the waste streams and keep them out of the landfills in areas where there just isn't enough money for the recyclers to make money from sending that out for recycling.

Again, the question is very simple. Why did the government, especially after saying in the throne speech and in the Ministerial Committee on Solid Waste that they wanted to expand recycling — and it said in the committee report — quote: "Ensure diversion credits are fully funded until such a time that DMR offsets this funding system." Just for the public listening, DMR is short for designated material regulations. Those are the regulations that started out with tires and have now been expanded to other products where there is an upfront fee charged at the time of purchase and then no tipping fee is charged when those items are disposed.

If the minister believes that, at any of the facilities that the government is running, they will actually make money from implementing tipping fees, show us the numbers. If I may jokingly say, "Show me the money." We are looking for the evidence that is supposed to go with this decision. For a government that talks about evidence-based decision-making to refuse to provide the estimated costs and revenues associated with this move that they have made is not in keeping with the commitments that they have made. I would ask the minister to provide that information. As well, since he indicated that they didn't enter into negotiations with the recyclers, can he explain whether they gave any consideration to providing an increased diversion credit to keep glass from being disposed in the landfill?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I have offered several times today and I will offer it again: I don't have all the numbers on the analysis in front of me. I do know that I have seen the overall analysis done. Yet again — maybe for the third or fourth time saying this — I'm happy to say that I'm happy to get the information across to the member. I am sorry that I don't have it in front of me today. I am very happy to get it for them.

With respect to diversion credits, I have never forgotten that this member was Minister of Community Services — never — just saying.

What I want to say is that, back when the member opposite was the minister, the diversion credits for glass did not cover the cost of non-refundable glass and they still don't cover it. The lucky thing about glass is that it is a very inert material. It is not one of those that is dangerous to have in our landfill. In fact, it's a good cover material. It is very unfortunate. We were saddened when the recyclers chose to say that they would no longer accept it. We have had lots of conversations. Yesterday in this Legislature, I talked about the range of attempts that we made to explore reuses for glass or local recycling opportunities. We weren't able to come up with any of those. Unfortunately, we have accepted the decision and direction of the recyclers.

One of the truths is that, when these commodity markets change drastically Outside, what you might be doing is spending a lot of money to divert it to ship it to another location where it's also ending up in a landfill. How is this reasonable? If that's the situation, then I think we, as Yukoners, need to take the responsibility and put it in our landfills. Again, it's not a risk to our landfills. It is something that I wish we could divert. I wish we could divert everything from our landfill, but if we're not able to do it because it's not feasible, then I respect the recyclers who approached us.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate that costs do have to be considered, but I'm pointing out that this is a government that talked about reducing waste in the landfills. They talked about zero waste. The minister, I think, has even worn a plastic bag around his waist with his garbage from the day to encourage other people to reduce waste. In their third throne speech — the second throne speech do-over — they made a commitment to expand recycling. Before the ink was dry, they are contracting recycling.

I'm sorry if the minister takes offence to me calling them on it, but when you promise one thing and do the exact opposite, the public does expect the Official Opposition to hold the government to account for saying one thing and doing another. In the case of this, it appears to be a "back of a napkin" plan for implementing their move around tipping fees.

The minister has indicated in his last response that he would provide more information. I will accept that he doesn't have it at his fingertips. Will the minister commit to getting back to me with that breakdown of the costs and revenues anticipated per landfill facility by letter after the House has risen and before the end of the calendar year?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I will certainly ask the department to do that work and to prepare it. I will ask them to do it as quickly as possible. I won't say that it will be by the end of the

calendar year. Just while I am up on my feet, I would like to say that both the Department of Community Services — the folks who are working on solid waste — and the Department of Environment and the municipal partners have been doing amazing work at trying to turn this ship around. I want to thank them for their work. It's not easy work. It's not always thankful work. I just would like to acknowledge that work. We will endeavour to get the information for the member opposite as quickly as possible, certainly.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate that commitment, and I will move on to other questions.

In the spring during the briefing with the department, I asked them questions about the cost that is being paid to the City of Whitehorse when waste has been shipped in from rural facilities. Based on my notes — and the minister can correct me if I'm wrong — my understanding is that the regular rate charged at the City of Whitehorse facility to non-government is \$100 per tonne and that \$160 is charged by the city to government.

Could the minister just either confirm or correct that and tell me what we pay for waste that is shipped in from transfer stations to the City of Whitehorse?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: I don't have the numbers in front of me, so what I will do is — if I find out that the numbers are different, I will update the member opposite with those new numbers.

But it is correct that we are charged a higher rate than the typical rate. That is what I was already referring to — one of the really frustrating parts of the overall system right now is that we pay more money when we take something from our transfer stations outside of Whitehorse and bring it into the municipality than the people would if they went to the municipality in the first place.

Mr. Cathers: I will accept that undertaking from the minister. I would just remind the minister that, in addition to implementing and increasing diversion credits, one of the things that we did in government and during my time as minister was to also partner with municipalities around the composting facility at the Whitehorse dump. As the minister will recall, it was a partnership between the City of Whitehorse, the Yukon government, and the federal government. I was involved in a portion of it and should also give credit to my predecessor, then-minister Elaine Taylor, for her work on that.

Investing in composting with other government facilities is an important part of giving people the option for keeping things out of the landfill. At the moment, that is not an option being provided within much of the Whitehorse periphery, so I would encourage the minister to move forward on that and provide the composting option at rural facilities.

Before moving on, I should note as well that, at facilities that government is closing in this area — again, they decided to close them without consultation. I know that a number of my constituents in the Braeburn area are upset about the fact that government is closing that facility and chose to do that without any consultation.

The drive to the Deep Creek facility or to Carmacks is not a short one from Braeburn. For many people, it would be a drive

of roughly 45 minutes to dump their garbage. It is an impact there, and I know, as well, that the closing of the facility in Johnsons Crossing and Silver City has caused concern for people in those areas.

While, again, we recognize that costs are a factor, it is a concern when people have bought property in an area and, in some cases, bought businesses in areas with certain services available, and then government decides to cut back those services. It can lead to people, in frustration, potentially resorting to illegal dumping. Again, it does seem to us that this hasn't been a fully thought-out plan.

Speaking of plans that aren't fully thought out, in their climate change, energy, and green economy strategy which they just released the draft of, there is a commitment to have 6,000 electric vehicles on the road and to move toward that. Can the minister tell me, with regard to that, if the government has done any planning or assessment of what this will mean in terms of firefighting response capacity? What I mean, to that end, is — it is my understanding that a number of the electric vehicles — some of the cables on those vehicles have extremely high voltage and pose a higher risk for someone, after a motor vehicle accident, trying to perform an extraction. Has the government done an assessment of what that will mean in terms of the equipment and training needs for volunteer fire departments, rural EMS, EMS within the paid staff of EMS — what that will mean as well in terms of the RCMP — as the government plans to significantly increase the number of vehicles running around?

Again, what work have they done internally or with those partner agencies on understanding what the potential impacts might be of having an increasing number of electric vehicles that may pose a higher risk for people who are responding to a motor vehicle collision?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: First of all, I got a note that the tipping fees that the government is charged at the City of Whitehorse is \$175 per tonne. If it's unsorted, then it's \$350 per tonne — so it's twice. We do also support the composting. In this budget, there is — as I think I said yesterday when I was reading the original list for the member opposite — an investment of \$4.4 million, which the City of Whitehorse identified as one of their priorities. So it's under the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.

Finally, I thank the member opposite for the question about the changes in vehicles and vehicle types. I know that motor vehicle accidents and motor vehicle fires are a significant concern for both our firefighters and our EMS. I can't speak for the RCMP, sorry. I will have a conversation with them to find out what kind of an analysis they are doing around changes that we anticipate. I think that, here in the Yukon, we should anticipate that there are changes coming for Canadians broadly over time. I think that this change will come and it is important that we consider thoroughly how it will affect our emergency response folks.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the answer from the minister and I would just encourage him to look into that, because it is a concern that I have about whether government is again making a decision — as this Liberal government has become infamous

for — based on ideology and not actually thinking through all parts of it. The potential move to an increase in electric vehicles is something where there are some additional risks in motor vehicles collisions associated with that, both from fire and the ability to actually save people's lives after there's a collision.

I'm not saying that to be alarmist. I am just simply saying that government should do a thorough analysis, work with their partners — and I mean including the RCMP, EMS — being a division of government — and municipal fire departments, as well as the fire departments that are staffed by volunteers and run by the Yukon government. Government should work with all of those partner agencies, as well as with other levels of government. Before being so quick to determine exactly how many electric vehicles should be on the road, they should have a clear understanding of the risk profile associated with that and what it means in terms of its impact, particularly in rural Yukon, on first responders.

I'll just leave that there and would encourage the minister to provide more information later and to do that detailed work. I would also ask if the minister could provide a breakdown at this point in the fiscal year of what has been funded under the well program — how many projects, what the total cost is, and what the total anticipated cost is at the end of the year — as well as under the rural electrification program — what government has provided. Both of those are areas — we created and expanded the well program and the rural electrification program. We changed it through Bill No. 80 the last time we were in government to make the loans available for solar, wind, and hydro.

Could the minister provide a breakdown on how many rural electrification projects for solar, wind, or hydro have been approved this year, what the total cost is and number of projects, and what the anticipated amount of those will be at the end of this fiscal year based on current projections?

In the interest of time, I'm just going to move on to a couple of specific projects the minister mentioned. The minister mentioned yesterday — on page 843 of the Blues, he made mention of \$60,000 for a Deep Creek water treatment plant bulk fill station. Could the minister confirm what this is for? The facility was designed to provide water to the general public through hooking up and connecting with either an inch-and-a-half or a two-inch hose, as well as through blue jugs. The facility was also modified from its original design to provide fill-up for fire trucks.

Can the minister confirm whether that \$60,000 in the budget is some sort of change necessary for fire truck fill-up, or is it being made available for commercial bulk water fill? If it is, what sort of arrangements will be in place? Will there be a charge to the commercial water companies? Has the government worked with the Hootalinqua Fire Department to ensure that they don't have any concerns about potential conflict between commercial water companies — if indeed that is the intended purpose of it — and fire trucks refilling both in terms of traffic management and the total water available?

Also, Mr. Chair, could the minister provide information — he mentioned \$2.8 million for Watson Lake wet well and lift stations and \$2.9 million for the Watson Lake reservoir. Could

he elaborate on what that work is? There was \$3 million for the Mayo reservoir. Could he provide information on that? As well, the minister mentioned \$4.8 million in buried infrastructure. Could he please provide information on what that is made up of? There is \$6.3 million in what the minister called "infrastructure upgrades". Could he provide a little more detail on that?

Hon. Mr. Streicker: There are quite a few questions there. I don't want to give any sort of sense that I don't want to answer them all, but there are a lot.

Let me start with the rural well program and the rural electrification and solar program. Out of the mains from earlier this spring, we have \$1 million for the rural electrification program and \$1.2 million for the well program. About \$800,000 of that is for outside of city limits and about \$400,000 of that is for within city limits, but obviously off of domestic water.

The Deep Creek water treatment bulk fill project is a gas tax fund project. I will have to check — I don't believe that we charge for the fire hall folks being there — I am not sure. My understanding is that the investment is just on general upgrades. It is not about commercial customers per se.

Then there were questions about both Watson Lake and Mayo. I mean, I can try to get more detailed information across to the members about those projects. I will note that all of those projects are under the clean water and waste-water fund. Just to remind members, when we landed, we took the list of projects that the past government had chosen under the clean water and waste-water fund, and we did not adjust those. My understanding is that those are projects that had been selected previously. I am happy to get more details.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate those answers from the minister. If he could provide more information at a later date about the nature of the changes at the Deep Creek water treatment facility as well as those other projects mentioned, including in Watson Lake, that would be appreciated. I appreciate that he doesn't have that information at his fingertips here, but I know that the nature of those projects is of interest to people in those areas, so that would be appreciated if he could provide us with that information.

I just want to move on to another area which I previously — I am sure the minister was listening when I raised this matter with the Premier when we were asking questions about Energy, Mines and Resources. I had expressed concerns at the time around wildfire risk and mitigation and the importance of reducing fuel loads in and near communities. It doesn't really seem to have been a high priority for the government in the throne speech or in this year's budget.

The Premier, during some of our debates, suggested that I should ask the Minister of Community Services questions about it, and I am happy to do so, although in our view, the harvesting part of that problem primarily falls under Energy, Mines and Resources.

But if there is work being done by Protective Services — whether through the Fire Marshal's Office or the Emergency Measures office — working with First Nations and communities around that, I would be happy to hear any

information the minister can provide about that. It is a case, Mr. Chair, as you will recall me saying before — there has been an increasing amount of work by groups — including the Yukon Wood Products Association and the FireSmart Whitehorse citizens group — in raising awareness about the risks of wildfire.

For many Yukoners, watching the events that unfolded in Telegraph Creek and Lower Post as well as Fort McMurray and a number of other communities, including the Paradise fire in California — they have caused people to realize that, while we all value wilderness beauty and value our boreal forests, when it comes down to a fire risk perspective, the boreal forest — especially older coniferous trees in and near communities and near homes — does pose an increased fire risk. Government has taken some steps by encouraging people to firesmart. They have also done work for the firesmart program. But, as the groups that I mentioned have drawn attention to, the FireSmart program itself just does not go far enough in reducing that fuel load in and near communities.

There are calls, which we support, for government to work with other levels of government, with the private sector, and with groups including the FireSmart Whitehorse group, as well as the Wood Products Association, which represent a number of the private sector people in that area.

The argument is being made that there is really an opportunity here to look at wildfire risk mitigation through a targeted harvesting lens and use that identification of priority areas to immediately feed into your forest harvesting plans. As well, in some cases, perhaps government may need to pay a portion of the cost, but by leaving the fuel wood for the private sector to use, they can reduce the cost per hectare significantly below what firesmart costs per hectare. This also creates an opportunity to take the fuel from that and use it for heating homes, government office buildings, and commercial buildings through biomass.

So, it has appeared, through the answers I got from the Premier during budget debate and the lack of reference that our risk mitigation has in the throne speech, that this has kind of slipped off of the government's front burner and become more of a side-burner item.

Could the minister let us know what work is being done on this with the City of Whitehorse, the municipalities, and local advisory councils? What work is being done with First Nations? Is this something that the government is willing to do — as we're asking — make this a higher priority and make it a priority to move forward in a timely manner, seeing that — although, Mr. Chair, I don't want to be alarmist — the reality is that, in the wrong weather conditions — in a dry year, the wrong wind conditions, and a fire in the wrong area within the Whitehorse area could cause a fire that we simply don't have the ability to put out and prevent from destroying homes, especially if it's in the wrong wind conditions. But there are steps that can be taken in the short term to reduce that risk, including making targeted harvesting of coniferous trees in and near communities a higher priority — in some cases, replace them with — allow deciduous trees to naturally replace them; in other cases, other opportunities exist.

The minister will recall me raising previously in this Legislative Assembly the suggestion that, in areas, including within his riding, that the potential for developing agricultural land either through planned disposition or spot land application, provides an opportunity to create a firebreak that would allow government and its partners to more effectively control the spread of a fire.

As I mentioned at the time, I reminded the government that there was agricultural land being developed in my riding, but I challenged the government to point out agricultural development which is occurring anywhere else. As the minister will know, at the time, the government was not able to provide that information about any other agriculture projects.

So, I would ask the minister if work is being done — recognizing that Agriculture itself is under Energy, Mines and Resources — whether the Emergency Measures Organization or the Fire Marshal's Office have been involved in any planning work around targeted harvesting of trees, development of agricultural land, or other options to reduce the wildfire risk in and near communities, and if so, what is happening in those areas?

Recognizing that I have just given the minister a large number of items there, I will just add a couple others to the list. If he could provide information about what is being done in Destruction Bay on dredging — he made reference to it — and the Keno water fill station as well as balers happening across the territory and upgrades to the Carcross water treatment plant as well as updating recycling bins.

With that, Mr. Chair, in the interest of giving the minister a little more time to provide that response when he next rises and seeing the time, I move that you report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Cathers that the Chair report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

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

Chair's report

Mr. Hutton: Mr. Speaker, Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 200, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2019-20*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, 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 5:27 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled November 26, 2019:

34-3-25

Crime Prevention and Victim Services Trust Fund Annual Report 2018-19 (McPhee)

34-3-26

Yukon Public Service Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2018-2019 (Mostyn)

34-3-27

Yukon Teachers Labour Relations Board Annual Report 2018-2019 (Mostyn)