

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, April, 13, 2010 — 1:00 p.m.

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

Introduction of visitors.

Returns or documents for tabling.

Reports of committees.

Are there any petitions?

Any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Mitchell: I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to work with the Government of Canada in considering the Yukon for a pilot project to implement the universal guaranteed income supplement that would:

(1) bring all Yukoners above the official poverty level, based on an annual tax filing;

(2) assist single mothers, who represent a significant group of Yukon residents living below the poverty line, by assisting them to parent and raise their children while working by ensuring they do not have to choose between their parental responsibilities and earning a decent living;

(3) save public money by reducing health care and hospitalization costs, which are higher for individuals who are below the poverty line;

(4) save public money by reducing costs in the justice system, the court system and the correctional system, which are disproportionately high among people living below the poverty line;

(5) improve educational outcomes for families while reducing the cost of special programs by ensuring that families can properly feed and care for their children;

(6) reduce social assistance costs by assisting more Yukoners to climb above the poverty line without depending solely on social assistance; and

(7) provide a better quality of life for all Yukoners by assisting those Yukoners currently below the poverty line to live in dignity.

Mr. McRobb: I give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of any and all reports, studies, papers or documents held by the Yukon government and the Yukon Housing Corporation on the possible private sale of any of the home-ownership loans currently held by the corporation.

Mr. Cardiff: I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to undertake a full judicial inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the resignations in June 2009 of the chair and three directors of the board of Yukon Energy Corporation following the public disclosure of the Premier's attempt to privatize Yukon Energy Corporation through merging its assets with the ATCO Group of Alberta.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Select Committee on Whistle-Blower Protection to complete its work and bring forward its recommendations during the 2010 spring sitting of the 32nd Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Further notices of motion?

Hearing none, is there a statement by a minister?

Hearing none, this brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Thomson Centre renovations

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the 2006 election, a former Yukon Party Health minister promised to reopen the Thomson Centre with 44 new, continuing care beds. Fast-forward to 2010 and the Yukon Party, having never fulfilled this 2006 commitment, is once again promising to reopen the Thomson Centre and provide new continuing care beds.

There must be an election coming soon. A new website for the hospital pins the capital cost of the first phase of this project at \$2 million. There's only one problem: there is no money in the health budget for this project.

Can the minister tell the House where the \$2 million is coming from and who is paying — the Hospital Corporation or the Department of Health and Social Services?

Hon. Mr. Hart: Mr. Speaker, for the member opposite, I thank him for the question. With regard to the Thomson Centre, we're looking at trying to meet our requirements for additional beds for our seniors who require continuing care in that facility, and we are in that process right now. We are working with the Yukon Hospital Corporation and their consultants on doing estimates for the requirements to upgrade the Thomson Centre facility to meet the needs of the continuing care facility.

Mr. Mitchell: Let the record show that the minister didn't answer the question of who's paying. This government has off-loaded the responsibility for several capital projects in the health care field to the Yukon Hospital Corporation. This has allowed the government to move some \$67 million in borrowing off the main books, and it makes the budget presented in this House look better than it really is. The new website the Hospital Corporation has set up says the newly renovated facility will be "available for occupancy" in October of this year. Again, a look at the health care budget presented by the minister shows the amount of zero dollars in place to hire staff or to run this facility. What is the estimated cost of operating this new building and why is there no money in the budget to pay for it?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: As has been the case continually in this House in questioning from the Official Opposition, the Leader of the Official Opposition has just made another statement that the member should reflect on. The member said the government is moving expenditures and other matters off the books and referenced the fact that this is including the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Let me remind the members — and this is intended to help the Leader of the Official Opposition — what comprises the Yukon government's consolidated statements — those statements that are duly audited and presented to the public at the end of each year, once the Auditor General has concluded her work. The consolidated statements include Yukon government, Yukon Hospital Corporation, Yukon Development Corporation, the Liquor Corporation, Housing Corporation and the college. I think the member should probably stand and say, "Well, I've made a mistake," and retract the fact that we're moving things off the books.

Mr. Mitchell: Well, let me help the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, to focus on the issue at hand, because the issue at hand is the main estimates of \$1,076,000,000 — not the consolidated statements. Now this government has been busy telling everyone that the Thomson Centre will be open in October of this year. It has announced the project, yet has not bothered to put any money in place in the main estimates to actually complete it or to operate the facility once it opens.

There's a larger picture coming into focus here, Mr. Speaker. The budget the Premier has tabled is balanced — just barely. If all the costs for the Thomson Centre were included in this budget, it wouldn't be balanced, and we would be heading for our second consecutive deficit budget. This government is desperate to stay in the black; it doesn't want to go to the polls with red ink on the books. One way to accomplish this is to simply not budget for the Thomson Centre. It keeps the books balanced, but it also isn't a true picture of what will be spent on health care.

Why did the minister not put these costs in the budget?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, there again, the member stood up and said that the budget is not a true picture. The budget is a creation of all departments, financial directors, deputy heads and others.

The budget is a creation of the Department of Finance — all those officials. The budgets that the Yukon government tables and presents to the public — especially through public accounts — have been duly audited by the Auditor General. What part of that does the member find not to be true?

Question re: Mineral staking within municipal boundaries

Mr. Elias: Community leaders from across the Yukon will be meeting in Dawson City for the 35th Association of Yukon Communities annual general meeting this coming weekend. An ongoing issue for these municipal governments is the staking of mining claims within their municipal boundaries. This is a complicated issue with strong opinions on both sides. At the meeting this week, Yukon community leaders will be looking for some input from this Yukon Party government to

include them in any decision-making regarding mining within their municipal boundaries.

For the Minister of Community Services and for the record: what is the government's position on staking within municipal boundaries?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: This government will certainly work with the legislation we have before us, that being the *Placer Mining Act* and the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*. Members should be very aware that legislation does prohibit placer staking within municipal boundaries and that there are significant conditions imposed on quartz staking.

Members should also be aware of the historic nature of some of these claims that do come up and have existed there, in those communities, prior to the establishment or even the creation of the communities.

This government will continue to work with municipalities, such as the City of Whitehorse, to work with municipalities' official community plans, and also to look at how they, through their zoning bylaws and other means at their disposal, can look at addressing many of these concerns and opportunities in their communities.

Mr. Elias: In listening to the minister's response, he seems to suggest that there's progress being made, yet this issue keeps coming up year after year after year. The situation that has arisen here in Whitehorse around the ski trails and the Slinky Lake situation in Dawson are examples of what we're talking about. In both cases, the municipal government is affected and, in both cases, they have very little say about what happens to the land that is within their boundaries.

Municipal leaders are looking for help on this issue, and they want to have a say in what goes on within their boundaries. The theme of the AYC conference is government accountability. When will this government be accountable and work with AYC to resolve this long-standing issue of mining claims staked within municipal boundaries?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: This government will work with AYC; we'll work with the municipal directors; we'll also work with Yukon First Nations; we'll also work with the different regulatory processes and permitting processes and evaluation processes that we have that are concerned with these matters.

We do have legislation in place — for example, the Yukon *Placer Mining Act*, which prohibits placer claim staking within municipal boundaries. We also have the quartz legislation, which does provide specific guidelines in municipal areas. As well, Mr. Speaker, we'll work with municipalities, their official community plan, how they want to designate land, and work with the regulatory processes to help the communities meet the needs of all of their citizens.

Mr. Elias: The Association of Yukon Communities is coming to their annual general meeting looking for support to help resolve these issues that have arisen from staking of claims within their boundaries. They're complicated, and at some point in time the tough decisions are going to have to be made. They would like a place at the table regarding any decisions that affect mining inside their town limits. We are asking the minister to actually work with the municipal leaders and try

to resolve this issue. The current approach of avoidance is clearly not working, Mr. Speaker.

Will the Minister of Community Services and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources assure this House today that they will begin talks with municipal governments to solve this issue?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: I agree with the member opposite. This has a complicated history. Many of these issues are steeped in history and tradition. Many of the claims referred to have been there for decades. Many of the claims existed before the municipal boundaries were changed to include them into their community.

There are many issues to work out with this and we will certainly work with proponents of a project. We'll work with the municipality, we'll work with the First Nation, and we'll work through the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Community Services on how we can help a community to make changes to its official community plan. We also have a responsibility to Yukoners to look at our successor legislation in all these areas.

Question re: Mineral staking within municipal boundaries

Mr. Cardiff: This government's lack of political responsibility is creating confusion, friction and uncertainty within several Yukon municipalities. In Dawson City, this government recently overruled recommendations from the local office of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board and wants to allow both a proposed residential development and a proposed mining development to go ahead on the Dome Road. As a result, we could soon see a mining operation smack dab in the middle of a major residential subdivision. This is certain to lead to noise, safety, property value and environmental issues.

How do the ministers of Community Services and Energy, Mines and Resources reconcile the activities of residential development and mining development within municipal boundaries?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Speaker, we certainly recognize that there are a multitude of needs in a community and a multitude of uses. There are different initiatives that come on and, due to the historical situations, there are situations that do come up. We've recently seen this situation in Dawson. We've discussed it earlier today in Question Period. This is a claim that has been there for decades and existed before the municipal boundaries expanded to include that area. It is one that certainly has layers of complexity added on to it. But there are ways of mitigating many of the issues and many of the concerns that have been brought forward by people who are concerned about this and ways that both projects can be appropriately managed in the future with appropriate mitigation measures to accomplish all of the needs, concerns and desires in the community.

Mr. Cardiff: The recommendation stated that the officials who are responsible for making the recommendations didn't think that there was mitigation possible. This government has also refused to work with the City of Whitehorse, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and other land users to protect prime

environmental and recreational lands in the McIntyre Creek and Mount McIntyre areas.

The 75 kilometres of trails used by the 1,300 registered members of the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club could someday be lost if these lands are not withdrawn from mineral staking. The Yukon is the only jurisdiction in Canada that continues to believe that the peaceful use and enjoyment of residential and recreational lands can occur alongside active mineral exploration and development.

Will the minister and this government sit down with city officials, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and other stakeholders to develop a policy to protect these trails and lands from potential industrial development?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Speaker, yes, we have offered to do just that. I've had discussions myself with the mayor and as well, officials between Energy, Mines and Resources, Community Services and the City of Whitehorse, who are also in discussions on this. The City of Whitehorse has an official community plan in which they identify areas of particular use and we're more than willing — in fact, we're eager to work with the city in order to help address their concerns. I will also add that our placer legislation prohibits the staking of placer claims in a community — in a municipality, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cardiff: Mr. Speaker, this government doesn't seem to realize that the world has changed dramatically since the free-entry staking system was introduced in the 1850s. The premise on which it was based was that mining prevails over property rights and that mining is the highest and best use of Crown lands, which is archaic. Free-entry staking wipes out other values in society; namely, environmental protection objectives, the rights of private land owners and the public interest.

Will this government address the issue of mineral staking within municipal boundaries so the confusion, friction and uncertainty of Yukoners is reduced?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Speaker, indeed the world has changed. Now, in today's Yukon, we have processes such as the mining authorization, water licences and other required permits that are necessary to undertake activity in the area. We also have issues such as YESAA; we have self-governing agreements; we have different legislation in our territory that has grown to adapt, to help us manage the issue in order to protect the areas of interest to all Yukoners. We will work with Yukon First Nations, with municipalities and with those affected to address the many different issues and interests in these areas.

Question re: Lake Laberge zoning

Mr. Cathers: On April 1, 2009, the Land Planning branch was transferred from Community Services to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The objective of this move was to improve the ability of the Yukon government to deliver effective and timely land services, including an enhanced focus on developing local area plans for unincorporated communities and rural areas.

The budget for the branch was increased to help it fulfill this role. My question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and

Resources is this: is improving timeliness of service delivery still a priority for the Land Planning branch?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Speaker, of course it is. Ensuring access to land for Yukoners is a significant responsibility within the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Conducting appropriate planning — whether it be issues in the member opposite's riding or the Carcross area or the Tagish area or the Marsh Lake — is indeed a priority of this government. The government will be working with the affected First Nations and with residents, and through our planning processes to address these needs now and into the future.

Mr. Cathers: When the Land Planning branch became part of Energy, Mines and Resources a year ago this month, timelines were set for priority land planning initiatives. One initiative made a priority and given a timeline was a proposed amendment to the Ibex Valley zoning regulations. The Ibex Valley Local Advisory Council proposed a change to reduce minimum lot size and allow owners of larger residential lots to subdivide.

As of late summer 2009, the amendment was on track to go to Cabinet prior to the end of the year. That target was missed. In December, the minister's predecessor told me that a Cabinet decision on the Ibex zoning regulation amendment would be made by March 2010. That target, unfortunately, was also missed.

Will the minister please commit to dealing with this matter as quickly as possible and tell me when my constituents can anticipate a final decision on the proposed change to Ibex Valley zoning regulations?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: This government takes this issue very seriously. I provided some recent correspondence to people in the Lake Laberge area. We are working through this issue now, and we expect to have it addressed in the very near future.

Mr. Cathers: I appreciate the partial answer by the minister, and I would ask that when he has more specific information that he provide that to me and my constituents.

Another land planning initiative made a priority and given a timeline for completion was Deep Creek zoning regulations. Those regulations have been in draft form for a few years. Like the Ibex amendment, as of late summer 2009, the timeline for Deep Creek anticipated the consultation and internal process being finished in time to bring proposed regulations to Cabinet before the end of the year. That target was also missed.

A number of my constituents are becoming very frustrated with the delay as demonstrated by the letter the minister received signed by 29 Deep Creek property owners and e-mails from several other residents. I ask the minister to assure me that this is still a priority, which he did and I appreciate; however, he did not indicate a timeline for finalizing these regulations so I would like to ask him today: will he please tell me the current timeline related to Deep Creek zoning regulations and the new target date for completion?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Speaker, the government is continuing to take action on this file — the one the member is referring to — and other files that also require additional attention. We are continuing to work on this issue. I provided some

recent correspondence to the member opposite's constituents and have updated them on the progress that is being made. The government will continue to do its hard work to work through the process and I expect to see it concluded in the near future.

Question re: Yukon Energy Corporation/ATCO

Mr. McRobb: One reporter characterized yesterday's testimony by the Yukon Energy Corporation president to the effect it wasn't a smoking gun. Perhaps a better analogy would be it was a gun with a silencer. This is because the Premier had everyone who was aware of or directly involved in his secret parallel negotiating process with ATCO to sell out Yukon's energy future swear confidentiality agreements. These are known as "gag orders".

One has to wonder why the gag orders are still in effect. If the Premier was truly sincere about being open, transparent and accountable in allowing access to officials — and more importantly, allowing them to freely speak about these matters — then they shouldn't be gagged.

So will the Premier do the right thing and now lift all of these gag orders?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, I really don't know what the member is talking about. You know, yesterday I had visions of F. Lee Bailey performing in the courtroom; alas, that all fell quite short.

I think that yesterday a lot of confirmations took place. This member has most recently made statements that the government had inflated values as presented in the public with respect to diesel use and cost. Mr. Speaker, yesterday it was confirmed that the Energy Corporation's values and numbers were indeed presented and I think the member now has a golden opportunity to stand up before Yukoners, admit a mistake was made in the articulation of the member's interpretation of fact, as was confirmed yesterday by the witnesses here in the House.

Mr. McRobb: Well, Mr. Speaker, we'll get to diesel later on; this is about the ATCO scandal — much more important. And speaking of visions, whenever the Premier answers these questions, I'm reminded of the opening sequence in *Carlito's Way*. This is a government that campaigned on being open, accountable and transparent, and this is a Premier who assured Yukoners he had no role in negotiations.

One of the many stunning aspects of this scandal was the Premier's end runs around his own ministers with responsibilities in the energy field at the time. According to accounts, the minister responsible for YEC/YDC was out of the loop. These same accounts indicated the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources at the time, the now independent Yukon Party member, was also out of the loop.

For the record, why did the Premier order the officials involved in these high-level negotiations to silence their activities from their own ministers?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Speaking of gag — anyway, Mr. Speaker, I think yesterday, once again, it was confirmed that even though the member consistently tried to make it fact, secret negotiations never took place at all. In fact, quite the contrary: the witnesses provided clarity and clear information that the proposal received by Yukon, probably very similar to the

proposal at that time received by the Northwest Territories, was provided not only to the witness as stated, but taken to the board itself, as is the appropriate thing to do.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, how can that be a secret if everybody was indeed informed upon receipt of the proposal being provided to the Energy Corporation and its board?

Mr. McRobb: Yesterday provided an opportunity to see through the smoke and mirrors on another aspect of this scandal. The Premier continuously assured Yukoners the options being considered with ATCO were only related to what is called “rationalization”. It’s clear from the Yukon Energy Corporation president’s testimony that rationalization was an entirely separate process from what the Premier was orchestrating. In fact, Yukon Energy Corporation has been working on rationalization for decades. The Premier was involved in something much, much bigger. As we know, it involved a wholesale change in ownership and management of Yukon’s energy future.

For the record, will he now admit that this in fact was not rationalization?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Well, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the member on one thing: rationalization has been a discussion that has been ongoing for decades, and frankly it has been ongoing far too long. The issue here is rationalization must take place in the context of providing efficient, affordable and reliable energy to Yukoners. That’s the bottom-line principle in that regard.

As far as the member’s assertions, once again, the member can stand up and admit a mistake was made. The confirmation was clearly made yesterday by witnesses. It confirmed exactly what the government had been saying all along. Secret negotiations? No. Selling of assets? No. Discussions were taking place? Yes. Discussions ended — end of story.

Question re: Yukon Energy Corporation/ATCO

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, let’s get to another aspect of this whole matter and a question that the president felt very uncomfortable with and for good reason, because it is something the Premier should have admitted long ago, yet still hasn’t. It is also something that has been in the news lately: funding for the Mayo B project. The former Yukon Energy Corporation chair, who did the honourable thing and resigned so he could sound the alarm, was quoted as saying that the Premier initiated these negotiations with ATCO to come up with Mayo B money. He also said the Premier was happy to take credit for it, but as we all know all that was before the Premier finally realized it wasn’t the good deal he thought it was. Is this true? Who initiated this proposal from ATCO?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Well, Mr. Speaker, as has been the fact for some time, ATCO had presented proposals both to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories — as far as I understand it — at the same time, and the proposals were very similar. I hope that helps the member in terms of his question.

Furthermore, the member has now suggested the government was involved in some sort of negotiation with ATCO regarding Mayo B. That’s not the case; the only discussion involvement the government had was after the Yukon Energy Corporation presented the project, known as Mayo B, to gov-

ernment. The first phase of that we assisted in, with the extension of the line from Carmacks to Pelly and the connection of the Capstone or Minto mine to the hydro grid. Further to that, this project was tabled with the Prime Minister of Canada back in August of 2008. Since that point in time, the government, in assisting its corporation — the Yukon Energy Corporation — was working with Canada on the investment into Mayo B, which resulted in the creation of the green energy infrastructure fund for Canada in general, and the Yukon was the first recipient of any investment from that fund.

Mr. McRobb: It’s critical to get on record the latest developments in this matter so future members in this Assembly will have a textbook example highlighting the repercussions of secret negotiations to sell out Yukon’s energy future. Well, yesterday’s questioning of the Yukon Energy Corporation president provided more evidence that shot holes in the Premier’s story. It is now on the record that it was the Premier who briefed the corporation president on the negotiations with ATCO. It was the Premier who had the ATCO proposal long before the Energy Corporation even knew about it. Obviously, the Premier was intrinsically involved in this whole matter. Will the Premier now step out from the shadow of his officials and unequivocally state for the record that he was involved in this matter from the get-go?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I think the member has lost sight of what actually transpired here yesterday. The witnesses confirmed, once again, for the member’s benefit, that there were no secret negotiations. The witnesses confirmed there was a discussion and that the discussions also included briefings and involvement of the Energy Corporation and its board. Comments and concerns were brought forward, just like any other discussion that might take place, given a proposal received.

By the way, government receives a litany of proposals and if they have merit, we action those proposals, and in this case, we did so.

The officials involved in the discussions made sure that all were aware and, at the end of the day, the member’s statements are in fact incorrect. The member should at least do the right thing and admit that mistake, given the confirmation of the witnesses yesterday about the fact there was no such thing as secret negotiations because that is the basis to the member’s position and it is wrong.

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, it’s time to take stock of the bullets. Bullet 1: the Premier made officials sign gag orders that remain in effect. Bullet 2: the Premier required officials to silence their activities to their own ministers. Bullet 3: the Premier said this was only about rationalization but it really involved much, much more. Bullet 4: the Premier said ATCO’s proposals were unsolicited but we know he took credit for initiating the negotiations to get Mayo B money. Bullet 5: the Premier said all along he wasn’t involved in the negotiations, but it was he who briefed the Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, there is more. Unfortunately, there is no time to mention them all. When will the Premier finally allow all of those involved to fully divulge the details of their activities in this scandal?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Are we talking bullets, Mr. Speaker, or marshmallows? The member has said “gag orders”. Well, as far as the government understands, the corporation itself requested a confidentiality agreement for all those involved in the discussions. Nobody on the government side, at least sitting on these benches, signed such an agreement. That’s government side: 1; the Member from Kluane and the Official Opposition: 0.

A minister is being gagged and not involved — once again, that’s incorrect. Government side: 2; Official Opposition and Member from Kluane: 0.

His assertions on rationalization — once again it was clear that rationalization, as the government had said, had been going on for decades. As I said moments ago, it was far too long; it must be dealt with; something must be done in the context of reliable, affordable, efficient energy for Yukoners. Government side: 3; Official Opposition: 0.

A proposal that was unsolicited — that’s very much public knowledge. A proposal that not only Yukon received, but in all likelihood, the proposal received at that time by N.W.T. — very similar. Government side: 4; Official Opposition: 0.

Once again, the member has made references to negotiations. Even the witnesses yesterday confirmed what the government had said all along: no negotiation discussions. Government side: 5; Official Opposition: 0.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Speaker: Honourable members, I’d like you to join me in welcoming the former MLA for Watson Lake and former Speaker, John Devries.

Applause

Notice of opposition private members’ business

Mr. Cardiff: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I’d like to identify the item standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. It is Motion No. 992, standing in the name of the Member for Mount Lorne.

Mr. McRobb: Pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Official Opposition to be called on Wednesday, April 14, 2010. It is Motion No. 1022, standing in the name of the Member for Copperbelt.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Ms. Taylor: 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. Nordick): I will now call Committee of the Whole to order.

The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 18, *Third Appropriation Act, 2009-10*. Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

Bill No. 18 — *Third Appropriation Act, 2009-10* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 18, *Third Appropriation Act, 2009-10*.

Ms. Taylor, you had the floor yesterday.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When we left off yesterday, I believe there were a number of questions raised by the Member for Mount Lorne in regard to site assessment and remediation about which the Minister of Finance did articulate a number of initiatives. As the Premier outlined, a site assessment remediation unit was in fact established back in 2008. Certainly it was implemented for the purposes of the Yukon government environmental liabilities. This is a relatively new initiative. As I mentioned, it has not even been in place for two years. It was created for the purposes of identifying, investigating, assessing and remediating contaminated sites on property owned and occupied by the Yukon government. Of course, the sole objective was to remediate government-owned contaminated sites thereby reducing the government’s environmental liability.

The member opposite, I believe, had raised some questions as to whether or not all sites had been identifying, assessed or remediated. As the Premier outlined, yesterday, I believe it was, this is an ongoing task. It is a very important one and one which this government has taken on as a priority, to say the least. Not only have we formed the unit itself — initially it was to the tune about \$200,000 — we actually increased that funding to just over \$400,000, and now I believe it is up to well over \$600,000. It houses a number of officials to administer this unit on behalf of all government departments. It serves as a clearing house for identifying and providing the necessary assessment of our respective sites on government-owned land. A number of sites have been assessed and remediated as such, which in turn reduces the government’s overall liability. As the Minister of Finance did articulate yesterday, I believe there is to the tune of over \$7.3 million in liabilities identified. This has fluctuated. As I mentioned, I believe it may have been more in the last year, but because work was done to actually remediate the appropriate sites, that number has gone down respectively.

But there are dollars within the unit identified for assessments, which we contract with a number of different contrac-

tors throughout the territory, and various sites are identified by priority.

Again, the appropriate assessment is done. This is separate from the remediation, as was identified through the devolution transfer agreement, type 2 and type 1 mine sites, which is also housed within the main estimates, of course. Millions of dollars will be spent on the clean-up of the Faro mine site, which was agreed to by the Government of Canada, by Government of Yukon, I believe it was a couple of years ago if not longer. A tremendous amount of work is being done and over time remediation of all of our sites, specifically those sites administered through the Government of Yukon, will be done. That will reduce our overall liability, but more importantly will ensure the health of Yukoners in that the environment is not compromised when it comes to contamination from these sites.

In terms of ongoing expenditures, I'm sure the Minister of Environment can go on as to what is to be identified for assessment within the main estimates when we do come to that portion. In terms of addressing the member opposite's questions, I hope that explains some of the questions that he did in fact raise with the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Chair, I know that when we left off there was significant debate about a number of various expenditures housed within the supplementary, Bill No. 18, and we look forward to discussing that department by department — of course, two of which include Public Service Commission and Tourism and Culture, which I have spoken to also somewhat within second reading. We very much look forward to talking about expenditures when it comes to health care, for which I believe there is \$12.9 million identified for increased operation and maintenance, primarily due to increased requirements for administering health priorities within the Government of Yukon.

The Minister of Health and Social Services has already spoken to initiatives such as administration of H1N1 and administering that immunization, and medical travel and physician claims — again, ensuring that Yukoners have access to and receive the required health services. Some of this money also includes initiatives under the territorial health access fund, which we were very pleased to see renewed for an additional two years, as was announced by the Minister of Health. It also includes social assistance benefits, ensuring Yukoners are receiving financial supports as required and as appropriate.

There has been a significant amount of debate and discussion over reducing poverty in the territory, and very much so addressing the root causes of poverty, ensuring that we have affordable and accessible childcare, ensuring that we have affordable housing in the territory, and ensuring that we do have income-related support — whether it's through tax credits, seniors income supplements, which we've been able to more than double, or looking to initiatives such as the pioneer utility grant — another initiative we were able to increase by more than 35 percent and index it against inflation.

We have been able to work on a number of initiatives when it comes to substance abuse — safer communities and neighbourhoods legislation and the SCAN office, which has proved to be very effective in cracking down on drug and other addictions in the territory.

We have been able to build on commitments as outlined within the New Horizons project, which this week recognizes Education Week. The Minister of Education has been very much involved in ongoing discussions and looking to further implement recommendations as outlined within the New Horizons project in collaboration with our partners in education.

When it comes to also addressing other justice-related initiatives, such as corrections reform — when we talk about corrections we only have to look up to the hill, to the establishment of the new corrections centre here in the City of Whitehorse, and we're also looking to enhance treatment offered to Yukoners within and outside of the territory. A number of initiatives have been identified, but more importantly acted upon as outlined within a number of strategies that we have been able to work on.

The recent forum that was held in Whitehorse and will soon be carried on with consultations with all communities in the territory — again, to talk about poverty and how we can find strategic ways to reduce poverty and how we can address the root causes of poverty — is of utmost importance to the Government of Yukon and is of utmost importance to many organizations in all orders and levels of government, as was indicated and certainly reflected upon during the last number of days during the forum that was held.

It is a first step in being able to formalize a strategy, being able to identify the gaps and being able to also reflect upon the successes that we have today. I believe that our previous Member of Parliament, Ms. McLaughlin, made reference to initiatives such as the kids recreation fund as being a small success, but having great yields and great returns. This I know to be true. It's very important to be able to carry on with initiatives such as that and be able to build on those to ensure that we have services such as the community court, which is also deemed to be a good success in the territory. It's somewhat new, but it has resulted in ensuring offenders receive therapeutic assistance — those offenders with addictions and other related issues — so they receive the help they require.

Initiatives such as those — there has also been talk about addressing violence against women. There have been a number of very good initiatives identified by the Women's Directorate in collaboration with the women's community for women's equality funding for organizations, to funding of the domestic violence treatment option.

Again, it has been a holistic approach and has proven to be very successful, and has also been coined as one of the jewels in the north when it comes to delivering effective treatment in approaches to dealing with offenders — repeat offenders, that is.

There are a number of initiatives underway and we do have to take note of those. We have to celebrate the successes but we also recognize there is a way to go, as well. There will always be issues and there will always be items that require ongoing attention.

When it comes to housing, for example, we are very pleased to see another affordable housing initiative going up within the new Ingram subdivision. Again, this will complement other initiatives such as the family-focused housing initia-

tive going up in the Riverdale neighbourhood that will also help by providing over 30 units of anywhere from two to, I believe, three and perhaps even more bedrooms available for lone-parent families. This was but one area that was identified to be of urgent, pressing necessity that we needed to provide affordable housing for this collective of individuals. Likewise, we also recognize there is an ongoing need for housing, for housing supports when it comes to seniors and elders in the territory. We are able to also deliver that, with the Village of Haines Junction being able to deliver new housing supplements, as well as in the Town of Watson Lake, the Village of Teslin and many others.

All told, there have been — actually including the new 30-unit housing initiative going up in Riverdale, there will have been over 100 new units of affordable housing in the territory since this government was elected. There have also been policies adjusted by the Yukon Housing Corporation to ensure that those who wish to have housing, or those who are deemed as having priority to receive housing, receive housing. Victims of violence, victims of abusive relationships — there have been housing adjustments to the policy in Yukon Housing Corporation to ensure that those victims receive priority access to housing, made available through social housing administered through the Yukon Housing Corporation.

That's just but one example of how we have been able to make more housing available.

There is a new seniors facility up at the Yukon College residence, which has provided 48 units of affordable housing for seniors and elders.

Likewise, adjacent to that property alone, there have been additional housing units for family residences at Yukon College.

There have been a number of initiatives underway, and this supplementary budget reflects some of those expenditures, including \$2.85 million for corrections infrastructure, as we referred to earlier, with corrections reform.

There are expenditures in the Department of Health and Social Services, with the health access fund, and the list goes on.

Department of Tourism — when it comes to building upon economic success in the territory, last year's supplementary budget also includes expenditures for the continuation of tourism marketing initiatives, such as Destination: Yukon — again, building on the successes of other previous domestic marketing campaigns and bringing stability to those campaigns by providing ongoing annual funding for them.

Likewise, there are one-time expenditures, as well, housed within the supplementary, one of which includes renovations to the Guild Hall — again, making it more energy efficient, making it more proficient; making it more accessible to residents as a community space and ensuring that the venue continues to serve the community providing exhibit space, providing community theatre, providing an ongoing gathering space for residents and for visitors alike.

There are a number of great expenditures housed within the supplementary budget. I know that there has been a fair amount of discussion about the state of finances, and again, this

government is very pleased to be able to report another consecutive year of annual net surplus. If one were to extinguish or eradicate all government liabilities, at the end of the day, there is over \$60 million in the bank and that has afforded the Government of Yukon to make necessary expenditures when it comes to health, delivery of education initiatives, delivery of stimulus initiatives, but also, more importantly, long-term initiatives when it comes to infrastructure in terms of corrections, in terms of the Whitehorse airport terminal building, which we will be able to open in time for receiving our international flights, courtesy of Condor. Again, that is helping to build and grow the tourism sector and continue to diversify the tourism sector.

Mr. Chair, I will conclude my remarks here but, again, I am very pleased to be able to commend this budget and add to this debate.

Mr. Cardiff: Mr. Chair, I thank the minister for the attempt at a response and all the other useful information that she provided. The question that I asked — I understand that the assessments are an ongoing process and those were just about the last words out the Premier's mouth yesterday. It is going to be an "ongoing process" long into the future — quote.

The question that I asked is this: how many sites have been assessed? I'm talking about the sites that the Yukon government and the Yukon public are responsible for. How many of those sites have been assessed? How many have been remediated? I realize it's an ongoing process. It's a little bit of a numbers game here, and the government can do what it will with those numbers. If it wants to reduce the amount on the books — that's booked as an environmental liability — you go out and you do the remediation work. If you want, you can just not do all of the assessments and, therefore, you're not having to book the liability. I realize that it's a process that you have to go through, and it involves the Government of Yukon; the Premier said it involved the Auditor General and you need to do due diligence, because we don't want to be booking liabilities that the Government of Yukon is not responsible for. But you need to be doing the work; you need to do the assessment work and determine who is responsible.

If the Government of Canada is responsible, it's still necessary to do these assessments, to find out what the liability is, who is responsible for the liability and, most importantly, to protect our environment, ensure that the remediation work is done. So in my mind it doesn't matter — I think the unit and the work they're doing is invaluable. This reminds me of the MasterCard commercial — basically, it's priceless. You can't put a price on the work they're doing, because we're talking about assessment of environmental liabilities and things that have gone wrong — whether the responsibility lies with the federal government, because it was the regulator at the time, or whether the responsibility lies with the Yukon government. Regardless of whether it was pre- or post-devolution, the Government of Yukon still has responsibilities pre-devolution for environmental liabilities that it has created.

It may be that there are private sector companies or entities that have created environmental liabilities, and they're the ones that are going to have to book them. What I'm looking for is,

how many of these sites are we looking at? Does the Premier have an idea? I realize it's an ongoing process, but there must be a number, whether it's today or next week or last month, there must be a number somewhere of: (1) sites that have been assessed to date; (2) sites that have been remediated; and (3) an estimate of the number of sites in Yukon that remain to be assessed.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: First off, I just want to address the issue of the Auditor General. We have to recognize that this issue is not only an issue the Auditor General is monitoring for Yukon, it also includes the national federal government in how we account for these matters.

Of course, in the Yukon, that resulted in a report commissioned by the Auditor General, which is part of the process we're in. Then we established the unit, and the unit has been ramped up, staffed up, and we also do contract work in this work. It is as I said — and I want to emphasize: it's a revolving work. The member asked how many sites. Well, I can give the member a range. I believe it's over 50 sites but there is work yet to determine exactly the — first off, that they are indeed sites that are possibly contaminated or are they indeed contaminated? We have to determine that. We're in a range of 50, less than 70 — somewhere in there. We've done some work already. So first off, out of that range, we have already, as of 2008-09 — those are statements that are now public accounts, duly audited and the Auditor General has reported on this — we have recorded a liability of \$7.3 million vis-à-vis financial statements.

What have we done in the member's question in terms of remediation? I believe by the end of March 31, 2009, we have expended on remediation a total of \$1.8 million, out of that total amount. There are a lot of variables on where you get to that level of expenditure, depending on the site, and there are also some other issues I'll delve into with regard to that. Of course, the workplan for this year at the end of March 31, 2010 — so the 2009-10 budget includes about \$742,000 of committed dollars for remediation. But we continue to work on assessing and determining contaminated sites. There is a priority of assessment and/or remediation and it's based on these factors, so obviously a lot of work must be done before any determination is made. That means environmental risk is one of the factors, and its equal weighting as far as human health risk. Then there's human health risk, which has an equal weighting as far as environmental risk. There's a legal obligation, and that is direction from Environment Canada or other regulators that comprises that.

Future plans of custodial departments — in other words, plans for new buildings or structures. This is important because there are, in that range, potential sites that may not be contaminated and/or actual sites. There are the operational needs of custodial departments.

By way of example, there is Tourism's request that work at the visitor reception centre be undertaken in September to minimize disruptions during the peak tourist season. Well, we have to deal with those challenges too. If there is a contaminated site, when, during the course of the year, do we do the work? How does that relate to any disruptions of traffic flow,

public interest and so on? This is how it unfolds. So to suggest that we can determine and pinpoint exactly how many sites, what is the level of contamination and what remediation investments we'll be making at this time is inconsistent with the work that has to be done to get there. The best information I can provide the member is this: so far we have assessed and identified in a range of more than 50 sites; we have recorded environmental liabilities in that range of \$7.3 million and we have spent, as of March 31, 2009, \$1.8 million plus on remediation within all that context I articulated, and this year there will be \$742,000 in the mains to address further sites, but I don't know what sites those would be until those who do the work commit to whatever site they're going to work on.

Mr. Cardiff: I appreciate the answer. We're definitely making progress, anyhow, on this one. I understand and I look forward to raising these issues with the appropriate minister when we get into the mains, because I do have some questions.

I have no further questions, actually, but the Premier indicated that there are between 50 and 70 sites. Is it possible to get a list of those sites?

My preference would be that he could send it over or by legislative return, but could we get it before the end of this sitting? Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Frankly, this is general debate. I'd prefer that question to be directed to the Minister of Environment, so that his officials are available and could take the question and information being sought and go about it that way, instead of a third party passing this on. The supplementary does have the department up for debate, and the minister and his officials would surely respond to the member's questions.

Chair: Is there any further general debate?

Department of Community Services

Chair: Committee of the Whole will consider Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

Hon. Mr. Lang: As we open up the debate this afternoon on the supplementary for Community Services, I would certainly like to thank the individuals who work in the department for the hard work they do on a daily basis to present not only the budget or the supplementary, as we're seeing here today, but the day-to-day work in promoting healthy communities and by supporting local governments and community organizations and of course, the volunteer sector — a very important part of —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: On a point of order, Mr. McRobb.

Mr. McRobb: On a point of order, Mr. Chair, I would just bring the attention of the Committee to an e-mail we received from the Government House Leader last Thursday —

Chair's ruling

Chair: Order please. There is no point of order.

Mr. Lang.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We have this afternoon to discuss this very important department as far as

our communities are concerned and I certainly look forward to the questions or the explanations we have here this afternoon.

To make it very clear to the members here in the House, there were some major department accomplishments in 2009-10 and a lot of these are reflected in the supplementary. Some of the reminders we have, Mr. Chair — the year 2009 fire season had one of the highest average fire danger ratings on record, yet fire crews were very successful in protecting homes and infrastructure with only one cabin being lost and no serious injuries — a compliment to the wildfire department within the Community Services. It was a very large season for them, and certainly as it reflects, it had the highest average fire danger rating on record here in the territory, so I send a compliment out to them.

Of course, the completion of the Yukon government master pandemic coordination plan incorporated a health response, a human resource response and a critical infrastructure response. That was another very important piece of work that was done internally in the department with the support of other departments, Mr. Chair, and certainly the pandemic coordinated plan is something we can work with out into the future. With the questions about the flu epidemic and all the other questions we had, it was very important for us to work with the Department of Health to make sure that we coordinated our response and, of course, we worked with them on how we would handle something like this in the future. This was the first time an issue like this had been brought forward to a government of the territory. Again, it was a very important piece of work that was done internally. We all know the pandemic was not the issue that we thought it was going to be, but again, it was work well done so if, in the future, anything like this were to happen in our community again, we would have the plan ready and we can move forward with that plan.

Moving forward, another commitment we made was the drivers' licences, and we're moving forward with replacing the existing Yukon driver's licence and issuing new general identification cards. That will be done here by this summer, and hopefully we can have them out in the hands of Yukoners in the fall.

We had to deliver the framework for the Building Canada fund. Base funding was established and this will see \$183 million in federal funding flow to priority infrastructure in Yukon over the next seven years — again, a partnership with the federal government but a big job for the Department of Community Services as we work with our partners — First Nations, municipalities, unincorporated communities — to put a plan together that could be agreed to by the federal government and us in how we move forward. That again was a lot of work that was done this year within the Department of Community Services.

On October 1, the KDFN broke ground for its new cultural centre. Another good-news story came out of that: we entered into an agreement with the First Nation for a new Whitehorse public library, which will occupy leased space in this new complex once it is completed.

That's another good news story for the Yukon, another job well done by the Department of Community Services, of course

with our partnership with Kwanlin Dun First Nation. We are looking forward this summer to seeing more of that building rise up out of the foundations that exist there today. The estimated cost of this project is \$22.4 million, with the Yukon government committing \$7.4 million in support of this project. It's another good investment for Yukon and certainly for the First Nation. I look forward to the completed cultural centre. Of course, all Yukoners look forward to a brand new Whitehorse Public Library facility on the waterfront that will complement not only the waterfront, but the Yukon's lifestyle, and it certainly will give the Whitehorse Public Library a new breath of fresh air, a modern building and a modern facility to service all the Yukon. Certainly, that department does a stellar job in all of our communities and we all know how important our libraries are for the fabric of our — whether it's our municipalities or our unincorporated communities, the library is a very well-used institution in the territory.

We completed a number of MRIF project approvals, including the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations cultural centre — another great news story for the territory. The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations cultural centre will be built in the town of Haines Junction. They, in partnership with us — there will be a brand new information centre situated in the new cultural centre and Parks Canada will be part of it. So it's another good-news story, not only for the First Nation, but for Yukon as a whole, because all of these investments on the ground enhance the communities they're built in. We're looking forward to working with that First Nation to get the cultural centre up and running and we're certainly looking forward to the opening of our new information centre in the Kluane area.

The Canada/Yukon gas tax agreement continues to contribute to healthy Yukon communities by supporting long-term planning and sustainable infrastructure. Mr. Chair, 57 municipal gas tax projects have been approved to date — three for Carmacks, seven for Dawson City, four for Faro, two for Haines Junction, 10 for Teslin, six for the Town of Watson Lake and 25 for the City of Whitehorse. As you can see, Mr. Chair, the Canada/Yukon gas tax agreement has touched all of the communities, mostly in the territory. So it's another investment on the ground in partnership with the federal government.

I would certainly complement the federal government for this progressive support of our territory and look forward to the extended — by the way, Mr. Chair, I see another 13 gas tax projects have been approved with our partner First Nations. There are two for Carcross-Tagish First Nation, five for Kluane First Nation, one for Liard First Nation, two for Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, one for Na Cho Nyäk Dun, one for Selkirk First Nation and one for Ross River Dena Council. Again, the gas tax is being invested throughout the territory — whether it is with our municipalities or our First Nations. Yukon government has signed an extension, Mr. Chair, for the gas tax funds from 2010 to 2014 in the amount of another investment of \$60 million. So I look forward to that extension. Our communities do need this kind of support and certainly I look forward to those investments being put on the ground.

Another job we've done inside Community Services is that we led a highly successful inter-agency flood preparedness and response initiative. In other words, Mr. Chair, we have taken on the flood issues. Not on a yearly basis, but intermittently through the years, we have floods like we saw in the community of Marsh Lake or in Upper Liard and, of course, in your area, Mr. Chair. Last summer, we saw some damage that was done at Rock Creek, which is part of your riding. We as a government have taken an inter-agency flood preparedness response initiative. In other words, how do we work between the government departments to get maximum output or maximum investment when we do have floods, and how does it work inter-agency-wise, so that we don't find ourselves duplicating or not having the direction we need to mitigate flood issues in our communities? That is very important, Mr. Chair.

Again, very exciting news for the City of Whitehorse is that Community Services is proceeding with the design engineering for a second Whitehorse emergency medical services building to enhance response times. As we all know, our ambulance facility at the hospital has met our needs over many, many years, but we need a larger central response area for our emergency medical services.

This government is committed to putting the investment on top of the Two Mile Hill, which will be a large investment by the government, and we look forward to moving forward once we get the design engineering done so we can move forward with that investment.

This will complement our ambulance facility at the hospital; it won't eliminate it. I've had people comment that this could be a closure for the facility we have at the hospital itself but I'd like to announce here today on the floor of the House that this investment will not impede or eliminate the need for the ambulance facility at the hospital. We all understand that a big part of our responsibility in the ambulance emergency medical services is the air arm of the medical evacuation, and I would see that would be very important where it is at, at the hospital. There are a lot of patients moving back and forth to the airport and, of course, moving on into the air ambulance and into Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton.

This would certainly complement the smaller building we have at the Whitehorse hospital but it was certainly facilitate the growth we have. Whether it is on the north highway or the south highway and the City of Whitehorse, the response question is always, "Can we get to the patient fast enough?" I think this will address those issues and answer those questions.

The department has been assisting municipalities with their municipal elections, and that, again, is a job we do on a regular basis. We did have municipal elections throughout the territory and we certainly look forward to meeting all the new individuals we're going to see this weekend at the Association of Yukon Communities convention in the City of Dawson.

Of course, another big investment we made was Hamilton Boulevard, Mr. Chair. The Hamilton Boulevard extension was opened and that was a large investment for us as a government. The need was there, Mr. Chair. For Hamilton Boulevard it's not only an access issue but it is a safety issue.

This government made the commitment and I was very pleased to be there to open Hamilton Boulevard and make it an integral part of our transportation grid in the City of Whitehorse.

Five communities will receive improved public water treatment systems with funding through the Building Canada fund. The communities are Ross River, Haines Junction, Teslin, Carcross and Marsh Lake. Again, we all understand that potable water has been an issue, not only in the Yukon but throughout the territory, and we are committed to improve our access to potable water. As we all know, we have new standards Canada-wide that have to be met, and we're prepared to do that with investing in this kind of infrastructure.

The solid-waste study — we committed to go out and do that. We've done that and a Yukon solid waste action plan has now been developed. That was done throughout the municipalities in partnership with First Nations, municipalities and unincorporated communities. I'm very pleased to be able to announce here today that the Yukon *Solid Waste Action Plan* is being worked on. Of course, you have to live in communities like Carcross and Tagish and see the investments we've made on the ground in those communities. I look forward to the improved management of solid waste throughout the territory.

We are also going to purchase three new ambulances to replace aging equipment and ensure rapid response. Again, Mr. Chair, we work on an ongoing investment basis on new infrastructure — ambulances, fire trucks and things like these that have to be rotated through the system and modernized. That, of course, is the investment we make on the ground when we buy new ambulances on a yearly basis.

There is a new investment in Watson Lake. It's an integrated emergency response facility. It is complete, Mr. Chair. It was built in the community of Watson Lake. I did have a tour of it and it certainly is a very marked improvement over what the individuals — the volunteers and the paramedics — had to work out of for the last three or four years. Again, I'd like to thank those individuals who worked on the ground in Watson Lake, who had to work around an infrastructure that wasn't up to the standard that the community should have. It was another good investment in Watson Lake and certainly it has been well-received by the community.

In Golden Horn there was another investment. A brand-new fire hall officially opened in September. It was another investment by this government into our communities to make sure that communities have modern fire protection and, of course, emergency ambulance facilities also.

In Carmacks, a waste-water treatment plant is now operational. It's in the process of being brought up to a certain level; it's going through a trial period at the moment, and of course that's a large investment.

The riverfront protection project was completed in the Town of Mayo.

These are only a few investments the Department of Community Services has made on the ground throughout the territory, and I look forward to the response and I look forward to being able to expand on this long list of accomplishments of the department over the last 12 months.

Mr. Elias: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the hardworking officials in the Department of Community Services, as well as the officials who are here today. In the interests of time and moving forward with the *Supplementary Estimates No. 2, 2009-10*, I'm looking forward to getting into the breakdown of each line item. Those are my comments. Thanks.

Mr. McRobb: I just have a few riding-specific issues for the minister. Earlier on he alluded to the importance of libraries. Fairly recently, I had occasion to visit the library in Beaver Creek and was updated on the mould situation in the library. The minister is familiar with this; I have mentioned it before. Can he give us an update on what has been done to alleviate this problem?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I certainly have been to Beaver Creek and gone through the facility. I'd like to compliment the volunteers in Beaver Creek — the individuals who run the community club in the very, very small community. They have done a stellar job, Mr. Chair, in maintaining the facilities. We have done an audit of the library. We have ordered equipment to alleviate some of the issues there and that equipment is on order and we will install it as soon as it arrives, Mr. Chair.

Mr. McRobb: All right. When is that going to be? When does the minister expect that equipment to arrive and the problem to be alleviated?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The equipment has been ordered. I'm very confident in the department and that we will have it as quickly as possible. At that point, we will put it in place as quickly as possible, so I can't give the member opposite a timeline, but I certainly have total trust in the department, which has ordered the equipment. Certainly, as soon as we receive the equipment, it will be installed, and issues they have in the community will be addressed.

Mr. McRobb: We understand the equipment has been ordered and will be installed soon after it's received, but the minister didn't provide any assurance as to when that might be. For all we know, it could be mid-summer, end of summer, next fall, winter — who knows. Can the minister give us an approximate time when this equipment will be installed? After all, we're talking about an unsafe environment, and the minister knows that. People are expecting a more definite answer from the minister. Can he provide it now?

Hon. Mr. Lang: We in the Department of Community Services did the audit. We assessed the issue that was brought to our attention. The department went to work, ordered the equipment that was necessary to alleviate the problem. The equipment is on order and the equipment will be installed as soon as it gets into our hands in the Department of Community Services. That's all I can say in the House today, Mr. Chair. I have total trust that the Department of Community Services will put it in as quickly as possible once they receive it.

Mr. McRobb: All right. So the minister doesn't know. Well, that's not too comforting. Let's find out what he does know. Let's ask him about another issue in that same community and it's one that, again, he is familiar with because I've raised it two or three times already this sitting; I raised it in previous sittings as well. That's the structural soundness of the

Beaver Creek community centre. He knows what I'm talking about. The hard-working volunteers have informed me there is a very good chance that the roof of the building could cave. The minister is searching for a briefing note on this.

He has the officials by his side. Can he tell us why there is no money in the mains budget and in the supplementary budget to repair this issue, this safety issue that puts people at risk in Beaver Creek?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I am glad the member opposite brought that up. I had a meeting with the president of the Beaver Creek association. She thanked me very much for the input I did into the RInC fund allotment to give them the resources, Mr. Chair, to fix exactly what the member opposite has been talking about in the House. The resources have been put forward. The chairman of the association met with me, complimented us as a government for our swift addressing of the issue. We did talk to the community itself at our community meetings. We understood their concern and we brought it back and worked on it as quickly as we could. The community of Beaver Creek is going to receive — the total cost of the project will be \$250,000 and they are going forward with that investment. They are looking at a \$35,000 — this is all done — upgrading the community centre, recreational complex, furnace replacement, electrical upgrade, kitchen and ceiling repairs.

This is a good-news story.

Mr. McRobb: I thank the hard-working officials in the department for allowing the necessary repairs to be done. It was obvious, in watching the minister, this was all news to him, so he just found out, as we did, about the good news. For the minister's information, the correct name of the local association is the Beaver Creek Community Club.

I would like to go down the highway a little bit now to the community of Mendenhall. This is another issue the minister is familiar with. The community well has been contaminated and I'm aware that officials from the department have been working with the community but, according to the supplementary budget and the mains budget, there's nothing in it.

It was identified in the long-term capital plan but, as has been discovered on the floor, there is no guarantee that future plan will ever be implemented. It's all pie in the sky. What's being done to provide safe drinking water to the residents of Mendenhall?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Another investment by our Department of Community Services. Mr. Chair, addressing the member opposite, the 2010-11 budget will see upgrades to the well, investment in storage tanks, a new filtering treatment system, and to build an addition to the facility to house new equipment. We are going ahead with investment in the community of Mendenhall to make their water potable and that investment is going to be made this year and we hopefully will have it done by this fall.

Mr. Mitchell: I have a couple of questions in general debate for the minister that are specific to the riding of Copperbelt as well. My first question pertains to the Hamilton Boulevard extension, which the minister relayed and I too agree that this is good that this project was finally completed. It's one that I've called for for many years since the majority of it actually

passes through my riding, although that wasn't mentioned at the opening.

The humps and bumps that have appeared at the end of the new extension closest to Falcon Drive, which apparently occurred due to settling in the subsurface ground — has it been determined yet who will pay for addressing this issue and also, in the interest of informing my constituents, when is the work planned to be done?

Hon. Mr. Lang: This Hamilton Boulevard has been an ongoing commitment by this government long before he was a sitting member in this House so I'll clarify that on the floor here today. This government, with the help of the great support of the Minister of Tourism, certainly put the investment on the ground to build Hamilton Boulevard. I'm glad he agrees with that investment and certainly I would like to thank the Minister of Tourism and Culture for the work she did, because she actually did the hard work. The member opposite understands that and Yukoners understand that, Mr. Chair.

As we move forward, Hamilton Boulevard is the responsibility of the City of Whitehorse. That doesn't mean we're not monitoring it and working with the City of Whitehorse, but that infrastructure does belong to the City of Whitehorse. We have retained a design engineer and a soils engineer to help determine a cause of this settlement. Surveys of the extent of the settlement occurred monthly until freeze-up last fall and will resume this month.

It's not that we're turning our back on the City of Whitehorse; we're working with the City of Whitehorse to resolve this structural shortfall that was discovered after the road was built.

Again, I remind the member opposite that I, as minister, am told that this settlement area is not an immediate safety concern at the moment. That doesn't mean it isn't going to be. Certainly, we're working with the City of Whitehorse to make sure — if there are any issues on which we can work in partnership with the City of Whitehorse, we will do just that.

Mr. Mitchell: To follow up, first of all, it's clear that I can only call in any official capacity for the work to be done since I was elected here. But if the minister wants to play that game, I certainly attended many meetings and spoke out over the 10 years I lived in Granger, plus the five years I've lived in Copper Ridge. So it's certainly an issue that many people, other than the Minister of Community Services or the Minister of Tourism, have cared about.

Again, just to clarify, the reason I'm asking this question of the minister and not of the City of Whitehorse, is because millions of dollars have appeared in Yukon government budgets, albeit the money came from MRIF or CRIF programs and from the Government of Canada.

Just to be clear, since this government did have a role in flowing the money through to assist for the payment of the construction, is the government not going to insist or ensure we get full value for the money expended, rather than the City of Whitehorse several years down the road having to reach into their pockets in order to effect repairs?

Hon. Mr. Lang: This is not in the supplementary but I see by the individuals in the department addressing this issue,

we have \$500,000 in the budget for next year to address what the member opposite is talking about. So we have partnered up on this issue. There is money in next year's budget so we can address these issues we find on Hamilton Boulevard, and we certainly want to rectify any situation that could be unsafe or could put an unfair burden on the City of Whitehorse.

We were a big part of the investment on the Hamilton Boulevard. We committed to do that; we did that. Now we have \$500,000 in next year's budget to address the issues the member put on the floor today. We are going to partner with the City of Whitehorse. We have committed money in next year's budget to do just that.

I look forward to working with our partner, the City of Whitehorse, to address these issues from construction of the Hamilton Boulevard.

Mr. Mitchell: I have a follow-up question on this, Mr. Chair. First of all, the minister doesn't need to remind me that these numbers are not in the supplementary budget. He opened the door by putting it into his introductory remarks, so that is why we're discussing it. The minister stood on his feet and talked about Hamilton Boulevard. Just to clarify, since the minister is now talking about \$500,000 to address this issue in the main estimates, is that money that will be recoverable from some third party, be it contractors, or is this simply the taxpayers having to spend new money to address something that should have been done properly the first time?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The \$500,000 is money that is put in next year's budget to address the issues. We have retained expertise to not only assess the situation that arose but also to work with us on — if there is an opportunity to recover, then we will recover the money. But in fact, we are committing \$500,000 to the project so that we have a contingency plan that can work with the City of Whitehorse.

We want to get this thing rectified as quickly as possible. If there is any question about recoverables, we'll work with that, but we certainly are going to work with the City of Whitehorse to mitigate the issue.

Mr. Mitchell: I'll accept the minister's responses on this issue at this point and move on. Also, regarding Hamilton Boulevard, will the government be defending the court action from Workers' Compensation Occupational Health and Safety regarding the rock shower that was provided to my constituents in Lobird, or is the government planning on accepting their responsibility and liability for that event?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chair, the member opposite knows that it's in court. I can't comment on that issue at the moment. It's in the hands of the judge himself. So until that decision comes down, I as a minister of the Crown can't discuss it here on the floor.

Mr. Mitchell: To the minister's knowledge, have all homeowners in Lobird at this point been fully compensated and the repairs fully accomplished in Lobird? We did have discussions in the minister's office while this was going on.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I am told that the question about Lobird Trailer Court — any of the deficiencies or damage that was done there has been rectified by my officials, so I can say to the member opposite, yes.

Mr. Inverarity: Just on the infill lots in Porter Creek South on 13th Avenue, I had tabled a couple of questions to the minister earlier on. I'm wondering if he is working with the city to determine what mitigation factors will be put into place so the residents along 12th Avenue and Spruce Street will be assured that, when the blasting — if there's blasting done in that area — their properties will be looked after and they won't have to go to court to have their mitigation work done.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Any work that we do in conjunction with our partnership with the City of Whitehorse, we try to mitigate any issues like happened on the Hamilton Boulevard extension. That wasn't planned; that was something that happened; that was an accident. We hopefully have learned from that accident how to improve what we do.

I say to the member opposite, yes, we're going to mitigate. We're going to work with the City of Whitehorse to make sure that kind of situation does not arise again. The individuals in that part of Porter Creek or Lobird Trailer Court are important to this government. These kinds of things shouldn't happen, and hopefully in the future they won't happen.

Mr. Inverarity: The specific request made by the residents of the area is that the department would actually include them in this mitigation or in determining how it is going to proceed and how it is. I think they recognize that the Hamilton Boulevard was a mistake. You have to appreciate that they don't have a whole lot of faith in the outcome of that considering some of the things that had to go on, including court cases. They would like to be assured that the department will include the residents along 12th Avenue and Spruce Street in that area and the school for that matter — Porter Creek Senior Secondary School — and ensure that they will be active participants in the plan for mitigation of that area if it's proceeded with. I have to question whether it is worthwhile proceeding, and perhaps it should be set aside as just some rough park land or something.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I want to make something clear on what the member opposite commented on — the Lobird situation. We worked with the deficiencies on the Lobird situation. We haven't gone to court with those individuals. We stepped up to the plate. The individuals who were affected by that blast, we worked with them immediately on rectifying their situation. For the member opposite to say those individuals at Lobird had to take us to court is not correct. As far as the member opposite talking about lot expansion in Porter Creek, I remind the member opposite, we have a partner called the City of Whitehorse. The City of Whitehorse is the lead on this. The City of Whitehorse will do the hard work of putting the plans together, having the meetings, doing all of those things. We are a very small part of any decision-making process inside the City of Whitehorse, Mr. Chair. I think what the member opposite should tell the individuals asking the question is this: talk to the City of Whitehorse and see how they can get involved.

Mr. Inverarity: Mr. Chair, I'm just responding to what I heard when the minister said that matters were before the court and he couldn't answer the question regarding Hamilton Boulevard — I'm not familiar with what exactly — and I

believe the department did rectify the errors on Hamilton Boulevard, so if I've misspoken, I apologize in that area.

However, specifically, the land in question behind 12th Avenue is actually owned by the Government of Yukon. I understand that the city has some say regarding the agreement about what goes on there. The fact of the matter is that the development of that area will likely fall to the Government of Yukon to actually do the work, much like what is going on with the agreement the government now has with Whistle Bend, where a lot of that work will actually be physically done by the government.

To just pawn it off to the City of Whitehorse is probably not the right thing. There should be some acceptance and some acknowledgement of the residents in this area, that not only does the government have some responsibility, but the city also has responsibility, and certainly the residents feel that they have some responsibility. They're the ones coming forth looking for assurances in this area that they won't be hung out to dry, but that they would be part of that process. They're not looking to do "not in my backyard"; they're looking for mitigation and they would like to see what's going to happen from a mitigation point of view before the blasting starts.

Hon. Mr. Lang: In our agreement with the City of Whitehorse, they do all the planning. They look at the zoning and they do all the work on the subdivisions, so they do the ground work there. We do the actual investment on construction, but if there is any question of blasting, which would come out of all this planning, there is protocol in place regarding what can happen at that time. So there are safety — what would you say? — checks and balances on that. The City of Whitehorse takes the biggest part of this when they do all the planning; they do all the zoning, if there are zoning changes that have to be done, so they are the lead on this and we put out the bid. We work with the contractors and this alleviates the cost of that to the municipality. We have checks and balances in place on whatever construction jobs we're involved in.

Mr. Inverarity: Perhaps the member could send a copy of that protocol over so we have a copy of it to ensure that the residents are looked after with regard to it. Again, the Government of Yukon owns the land, so to avoid future court cases or any court cases revolving around perhaps the work that the Government of Yukon would be doing, I think it would be cognizant on the government's part to ensure that those mitigation efforts are looked after. On that note, Mr. Chair, I'll sit down.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I remind the member opposite we're getting ahead of ourselves here. We're a long way from even deciding if there is going to be blasting. There is no engineering done. Is it a big project? Is it something the city would like to put out into the management or into free enterprise for development? All of these issues have to be addressed over time. But at the moment, we have no engineering drawings; we don't have any question on solid rock or how we would manage the rock. So again, we're getting ahead of ourselves here on this development.

I think what we have to look at is — again, I'd like to go back to — and I appreciate the members opposite and their

questions because it's important that we as government stand up here in the House and relay, not only to the House but, through the communication here in the House, to Yukoners on what this government is doing and the Yukon government is doing on a daily basis and, of course, looking at into the future.

What we've done, really, in a lot of things, if we were to look at the last eight years of Yukon Party government here, this group that we have here today, we certainly came a long way when you think of where we started in December 2002. We certainly look at the improvements we see in the fabric of our communities and certainly look forward to the investments we're going to make into the future.

The situation with Yukon public libraries is another responsibility of Community Services. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary in the year 2009, just behind us and, by the way, another investment we've made is we reopened a larger Teslin community library in a larger renovated space. So again, another investment this government did on the ground in Teslin to make sure our libraries are up to a certain standard.

Yukon Sport and Recreation: another responsibility of the Department of Community Services, a very, very dynamic part of the portfolio of Community Services and interesting to work with.

This government has increased operation grants to 33 Yukon sport and recreation groups to improve sports and physical activity in the Yukon — another large commitment this government made to Yukon, that we would put these investments on the ground; another job well done by the Department of Community Services.

Another investment, Mr. Chair: 32 projects are in progress or were completed under the rural electrification program to provide electricity and telecommunication services to Yukon — another source of revenue or investment the government has made to the homeowners so they can take advantage of this program so they can have electrification. Another project instituted by this government — I was here in the House when we decided to make the move — to date we've had 102 projects: 102 individual Yukon homeowners projects have been completed under the rural domestic water well program. This ensures Yukoners have access to safe drinking water. Imagine 102 projects; 102 homeowners who have access to potable water today that was questionable in the past; another investment by this government to the homeowners to make sure that they have potable drinking water.

We cannot forget about our other internal management things. We have 15 professional licensing acts proposed for amendments to meet Yukon's commitment to the agreement on internal trade and to facilitate labour mobility into the Yukon. This was an act, Mr. Chair, that was signed on to in the year 1994, and we are just doing the housework we have to do internally here to honour the agreement we signed so many years ago.

Another investment we've made, Mr. Chair, was the construction of the Burns Road subdivision. It was completed and, of course, the Ingram subdivision was substantially completed: so another investment for Yukoners so they have access to not

only commercial or industrial lots but they have the Ingram subdivision.

Improvements to a number of regulatory services were made such as, last year, amendments to the *Employment Standards Act*, *Registered Nurses Profession Act*, and, of course, *Medical Profession Act*, and development of a new proposed security transfer act.

All of those acts have been worked on internally in the department and have been acted on.

We established a new Safety and Training branch within Protective Services to deliver important safety training for Protective Services staff and volunteers — another commitment this government made. A lot of these things are not seen out in the general public; a lot of this is just homework and hard work we do internally that makes the government run better or more efficiently or makes the government more open and transparent to the general population. But this kind of work is very time-consuming and, of course, the Department of Community Services is committed to do the work it takes to keep the Yukon on a modern footing on a lot of these acts and commitments we've made in the past.

As I said earlier, the labour mobility act we signed on to in 1994 — and we're actually putting it into work right now. So we're trying to get ahead of the curve on some of these. There's a lot of work, Mr. Chair. It's not something that is done overnight. These individuals who work internally in the department not only have to look at our acts, but they have to look across Canada and a lot of this stuff is very, very time consuming.

The Sport and Recreation branch, as I was mentioning, participated in the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics with three initiatives that involved 14 athletes and coaches, demonstrated Arctic sports and Dene Games and supported seven youth ambassadors and six sports technical officials.

Now, as we talk about this investment that this government made for the Olympics, the seven youth ambassadors worked right in the Olympics and, of course, our sports technical officials worked in the sports. Those people come back to the territory and they become a source of revenue for the territory. When we host games ourselves, we have the kind of expertise we need. And we only have to look at what we host in the territory. For a population of 36,000, we have tremendous facilities here. We host world-class events here in the territory.

These kinds of investments, whether it's the athletes we send down — the Arctic Sports and Dene Games — I was at many of the venues they were at — a great investment. It was an opportunity for Yukoners to get out and participate in a Canadian celebration — the Olympic Games. Certainly, they come back with all of that excitement and all of that knowledge they garner working within such a wonderful Canadian celebration, the Olympic Games.

Again, I'd like to take two minutes and thank all the — not only the participants who worked hard to get to where they were so they could go to these games — but Sport and Recreation had the foresight to come to the government and say, "This is a good investment for the territory." I'd like to thank everybody in that department who worked so hard to bring these

people, to sell this kind of proposal to the government that there was benefit in doing just this. I think that if I were to look today at what we invested in during the Olympic Games and what we got out of it, well, it was not only well-received in Vancouver, but it reflected on us at the end of the day and we will benefit from this participation in our sports here in the territory. Again, a job well done.

We certainly went to work and through the year we had the implementation of a new electronic permitting reporting software system to enable building inspectors to create permits and reports on-site. In other words, modernizing the operation of government and this of course is modernizing electronic permitting processes so our building inspectors, our electrical inspectors, all of the individuals who go out in the field, can create permits and reports on-site, which is a modernizing process but it's very important for us to keep ourselves modern and be on a level of expertise that people in the territory learn to expect. This again is a good-news investment.

As we move forward this afternoon — I understand we only have a few more hours — I think what we have to look at is the department itself. As I look at the supplementary here this afternoon, Community Services, I really am impressed with the objectives of the department. Of course, those objectives come from the department itself. They're based on promoting sustainable, healthy communities by supporting local governments, community organizations and the volunteer sector; encouraging active living through sports and recreation and directly providing community services, planning and zoning, property assessment and taxation, infrastructure and land development — a massive piece of work when you think of the many levels of responsibilities we have in the department.

Mr. Chair, one of the objectives is to protect public safety through driver and vehicle programs to provide community educational opportunities through public library programs and to provide bilingual inquiry services to the public and the Yukon government departments. Again, this is another area that the Department of Community Services is responsible for.

The department has to support the safety and protection of the public through programs such as the application for minimum building standards, the electrical and mechanical codes, responsive employment practices and orderly and accountable professional and commercial activities — responsibilities the department has on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis. We also have to protect broad consumer interests through the provision of education information and enforcement services. Again, this is another responsibility the department has here in the territory. The department assists and enables communities and people to protect themselves from wildland fire. I was talking earlier about the size of the responsibility we found ourselves in in the 2009 fire season, which again I would like to say had the highest average fire danger rating on record, Mr. Chair.

You only had to be on Little Salmon or on the Campbell Highway to realize the threat of that fire. It was very, very deadly for the individuals who live at Little Salmon and Drury Creek. All of those investments were at a bit of a risk, but we didn't lose one of the buildings there. We lost one cabin and, to be honest about that, we didn't even know that cabin existed. It

wasn't on any of our maps; it wasn't something we as a department knew. So again, thank you to the wildland fire department or the individuals who kept us all safe through last year's fire season.

Some of the statistics here, Mr. Chair — we know that the economy is growing, but look at some of the statistics. These are some facts. In the year 2009-10, homeowner grants were paid to 7,520 Yukon households. They averaged \$417 each. That is quite an investment going back into the pockets of Yukoners.

The Building Safety branch completed 7,242 inspections for building, plumbing, development, electrical, gas and boiler and pressure vessels in the year 2009-10. The department was fairly busy. That's a 12-month commitment — 7,242 specific inspections.

In the year 2009-10, Motor Vehicles issued over 34,000 vehicle registrations and had over 25,000 active operator licences. That's quite a statistic, when you think we have a population of 36,000.

Last year, Community Affairs transferred a total of \$19.79 million to Yukon municipalities and communities. Almost \$20 million was transferred into the hands of our municipalities from the Department of Community Services.

We operate 20 solid-waste sites in rural Yukon and deliver water to approximately 500 customers in the communities of Carcross, Keno City, Old Crow and Ross River, so that is another commitment the Department of Community Services makes. We manage our solid waste. We put the plan together of how we're going to work with our municipalities and First Nations on managing the solid-waste issues in our communities.

In 2008-09, Corporate Affairs registered over 38,000 transactions related to corporations, partnership and business names, personal and property security, societies and securities. Again, Corporate Affairs, which is housed in Community Services — had 38,000 transactions. It's quite a number when you think of the size of our department.

Last year, Consumer Services licensed over 3,150 professionals and 178 insurance companies. Staff also issued 133 bingo and raffle licenses that enabled charities to raise over \$1 million. That goes directly back into our communities.

In 2009-10, Labour Services fielded 2,600 inquiries, 110 formal complaints and collected \$110,000 in unpaid wages on behalf of employees. Again, the department is going to work for Yukoners to make sure they're treated properly in the workplace.

In 2009-10, the Emergency Measures Organization supported eight volunteer search and rescue teams and trained 60 volunteers and 50 Yukon First Nation and municipal government personnel in search and rescue emergency operations. Again, this is another very important part of our responsibility in working with our partners out in the communities, whether it's First Nations governments or the municipalities or unincorporated communities.

In 2009, Emergency Measures Services responded to 5,033 ambulance calls in Whitehorse and 1,501 in rural communities

— another staggering figure when you think of the size our community.

We support, through the fire marshal's office, 17 volunteer fire departments throughout the territory, which responded to 765 fire and other emergency incidents in Yukon. Mr. Chair, these numbers are quite interesting because, as you know, we really don't think about the fire department until we need it. Every community in the territory certainly needs a volunteer fire department.

The Community Services Community Infrastructure branch is currently working on approximately 80 capital projects throughout the Yukon — again, another area Community Services is responsible for. The Whitehorse Public Library received 203,067 visits last year and the public library has added 15,957 new videos, books and other materials to their collection throughout the Yukon. Mr. Chair, again, that's another big investment by Community Services in our community and, of course, in the City of Whitehorse.

Yukon government, through Sports and Recreation, provided annual funding to 12 Yukon communities through recreational facilities, seven Yukon recreational groups, 27 sports governing bodies, 20 high performance and five elite athletes. Last year, 23 Yukon athletes placed in the top three in national or international competition. That speaks for itself, Mr. Chair.

Think about it: in our little community, we turned out 23 Yukon athletes and placed in the top three in national or international competitions. Again, I'd like to say to those individuals and the whole sport and recreational facility we managed in the Department of Community Services, a big thank you. Without that kind of background, these individuals wouldn't have the opportunity to excel the way they have. Anyway, I know my time is running short here. I have a lot more situations here that I'd like to mention on the floor, but I'll wait for some questions from the opposition.

Chair: Any further general debate? Seeing none, we'll

Hon. Mr. Lang: Could I say a few words? Thank you. I'd like to thank the opposition —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Mr. Inverarity, on a point of order.

Mr. Inverarity: We have cleared this and he has —

Chair: Order please.

Mr. Inverarity: Don't I get an opportunity to finish my point of order?

Chair: Order please. Mr. Lang, you have the floor.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I'd like to thank the opposition for giving me the opportunity to finish the department. Again, Sports and Recreation — it is quite astounding when we look at the figures and see the results of the investment we as Yukoners have made in our athletes. Look at swimming, at hockey and other sports we have — cycling. Zach Bell from Watson Lake is a world-class cyclist, born and raised in the Town of Watson Lake, and is now training in China, so all of this certainly benefits Yukon as a whole.

Last year, 17 Yukon athletes placed in the top three in the national and international competitions. Again, I am repeating myself on this.

Of course, May to July 2009 was one of the warmest and driest fire seasons on record. In other words, that caused the issue of the 2009 fire season. Mr. Chair, 119 forest fires burned, and 71 percent were caused by lightning. Again, those are important statistics because we have to remember to audit, manage and make sure that our fires are not only being managed, but are being assessed by the investigation arm of the Wildland Fire branch. The department has to put together causes too.

In 2009, the FireSmart program created 33 projects in Yukon communities to help reduce risk of fire. The FireSmart program was cancelled by the last government. It was seen by the last government as not necessary. Of course, the first thing we did was activate the Women's Directorate, then the FireSmart program. I think Tourism and Culture had taken a bit of a beating at the same time, and of course they had eliminated Economic Development. There wasn't much left when the Liberals were running the government, Mr. Chair.

We only have a few minutes here, Mr. Chair, but it's important that we look at what's happening in today's Yukon. This newsletter or information thing sent out by the Department of Community Services — again, I'd like to thank the department for doing such a thorough job on this. It has a very clear map on where the joint funding infrastructure projects are, community-wise. Beaver Creek road and drainage upgrades — that's an investment this government is making. Burwash Landing, Destruction Bay — again, a wellhead protection investment — again, Mr. Chair, concentrating on potable water. The small village of Carcross — resurfacing streets, highway, turning lanes, swimming pool staff residence — building a facility for their swimming instructor so in the summer the individual has a place to live; solid-waste transfer station, another investment this government has made; water system upgrades; waterfront projects done in partnership with the federal government.

The Village of Carmacks — waste-water treatment facility and getting that finally up and running; waste-water collection system improvements — again, those are ongoing issues that we work in partnership with the Town of Carmacks on. A new Nordenskiöld bridge, which was — last year during the flood season, the old bridge was badly damaged and this new bridge will be in place and another investment we've made as a government in the Town of Carmacks. The Nordenskiöld bridge, Mr. Chair, is an investment we made. You have to understand where the Nordenskiöld bridge is. There is a subdivision on the other side of the Nordenskiöld River so it is important that the Town of Carmacks has access to that and, of course, the general public.

The Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation has an investment on the ground for a water delivery fill station — another investment this government has made in partnership with the First Nation and, of course, the federal government.

Dawson City — of course, we're working on the Dawson water system study, with the First Nation on a wellness camp,

the First Nation community hall energy efficiency upgrade, sewage treatment plant, district heating system upgrade, Gold Field Road, Yukon College Dawson campus, water system improvements, Top of the World Highway upgrades, affordable housing — and, of course, the minister of Yukon Housing Corporation will be talking about those investments. That will be 19 more modern units in the City of Dawson. It is a replacement for the Korbo Apartments in Dawson, which are time-expired and are being torn down. This will replace those units.

Again, Deep Creek here, close to Whitehorse — we're building a water treatment plant there for the community of Deep Creek. The community of Faro — water and sewer pipe replacement and well motor upgrades; seniors facility — we're building a six-unit in conjunction with Yukon Housing Corporation for the seniors in Faro. We're placing the boiler in the recreational centre — another investment in partnership with the federal government and the community of Faro.

Haines Junction — the Member for Kluane talks about the investments we're making in Haines Junction. Well, let's look at the investments that are going into Haines Junction. We're going to upgrade an arsenic treatment water reservoir and pump system, so we're working with the community of Haines Junction to get the potable water up to an acceptable standard. What are we doing with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations? We're looking at their water supply and investing. Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Cultural Centre — again, I talked this afternoon about the investment in a new cultural centre partnership among the First Nation, Parks Canada and us. We will have a new information centre for the Kluane National Park and the Village of Haines Junction. In conjunction, we will be looking at a partnership with Parks Canada. Their offices will be there so it will be consolidated in the cultural centre, which will be very accessible off the Alaska Highway. That is another investment.

We're working with the municipality on fire hall energy efficiency improvements, so that's another investment we're going to do. Again, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations water truck shop, another investment we're going to put on the ground in Haines Junction. Haines Junction has got investments. We of course are working with the First Nation and the municipality to make sure that we maximize the investment on the ground with them — in partnership with them.

Marsh Lake is a community that is growing and, of course, we have made an investment, and we will continue with that investment — the Marsh Lake intake and water treatment and supply is going to be up and running, hopefully this summer. I'm certainly looking forward to that. That's not only going to give the community access to drinking water, but it will be another safety valve for the fire department and other commercial water haulers in the area. It's going to be a very big plus for the community of Marsh Lake.

Again, if we move further north to the community of Mayo — I was up there and went through the investment this government made to build a brand new recreational facility there. It is certainly a beautiful facility for the community of Mayo and is well used. Of course, the more investments, in partner-

ship with the community — we're working with the community on a recycling centre. They're looking at a new recycling centre, and then, of course there are the water system upgrades in the community of Mayo. Those are all investments we're making. Of course, as we talked about in the last 10 days, Mayo B has been an investment that has been questioned many times in the House.

The Member for Kluane was talking about Mendenhall and the lack of investment on the water side. I corrected the member opposite. This government is going to invest in the community water supply so that will be done. Then if we look at Mount Lorne, we're putting a new Zamboni storage building up, in partnership with the community. Of course the Annie Lake Road upgrade is another investment we're making to make the Annie Lake Road more accessible.

Old Crow — there is ongoing investment on the road upgrades, which is a commitment we made with the First Nation. It certainly needs the upgrade that the investment is going to bring forward. Of course, there is the solid-waste facility upgrade. Those questions have been an ongoing issue with the community and of course there are the drinking water investments we've made on the ground. We'll certainly complete this — and of course the investment with the federal government in conjunction with the First Nation on a new research station, which will be built in the community of Old Crow.

Now if we were to look at Pelly Crossing, Mr. Chair, the Pelly River bridge — corrosion protection. In other words, it's going to be repainted, which is another investment the government has made. This was a decision that was made through Highways and Public Works as we maintain the many bridges we have under the umbrella of the Department of Highways and Public Works.

Selkirk Public Works shop — that's another investment. Another investment is working with the college on the new Pelly campus — another investment made in partnership not only with us but with the federal government and Yukon College. So we're looking forward to that new infrastructure in the community. Again, we are working with them on their pipe water system. So we have addressed many of the issues.

A lot of the issues, Mr. Chair, are ongoing. Are these kinds of investments ever going to be complete? I don't think they will be. Our communities are growing and expanding and so all this infrastructure has to be put in place on a yearly basis.

Rock Creek was another thing I mentioned this afternoon — the question regarding the flood preparedness and the protection of the community of Rock Creek. The investment for a community water supply upgrade is very important for that community to make sure they have potable water.

Now Ross River, Mr. Chair, is getting a new water treatment system upgrade, including water and fire truck storage — in other words, a modern facility there — and we are investing in the community centre itself, Mr. Chair. Many upgrades were requested by the community of Ross River.

Tagish — the solid-waste transfer station, again, another move this government made to manage the solid waste within the Yukon. The Carcross-Tagish First Nation water treatment system is another partnership in, again potable water — another

investment in partnership with First Nations and the federal government.

The community of Teslin water treatment upgrades, secondary water supply and a new pumphouse — another investment we've made in the small community of Teslin. Also, road and drainage upgrades seniors facility and seniors accommodation in the community of Teslin. That will be eight units and should be completed, I think, by the end of this summer. The investment should be in the hands of the seniors of Teslin in the next four or five months.

Deadman Creek bridge is another investment under the Highways and Public Works maintenance program, which has to be done on a rotating basis. Recreation complex water closet replacement is — in other words, an investment with the community on their recreational facility. TTC First Nation residential oil spill monitoring — in other words, another thing we work on with the community — an environmental issue.

So, again, that's the community of Teslin.

Now, if we were to look at the community of Watson Lake, we have moved forward. I did a tour of the 12-unit seniors complex in Watson Lake. The contractor and the individual working on that unit have done a very good job. I look forward to having the opening and being able to be part of that.

The administration building and recycling centre upgrades, the swimming pool and pool liner repairs and upgrades — in other words, we're investing in the Watson Lake pool facility. They need a new liner and upgrades to the actual facility itself. Water and sewer pipe replacement — in other words, an ongoing investment for the community in the infrastructure for water and sewer.

Again, another bridge being assessed and worked on is Albert Creek, which is just north of Upper Liard. That's another investment by the Department of Highways and Public Works. We're working with the Liard First Nation on the Albert Creek subdivision. In other words, they've got an investment on the ground and we're working with them to expand the Albert Creek subdivision. Again, another partnership with the First Nation.

Of course, there is the ongoing question about potable water — a water quality program.

So, again, it's another partnership with the municipality of Watson Lake. Hopefully, as we move forward this year, we'll be able to see a majority of these projects brought to a finale.

If you were to look at Yukon-wide investments, we're implementing the *Solid Waste Action Plan*, which we worked on internally, in partnership with the municipalities and the unincorporated communities, and also First Nations. That is very important to the department. Transfer stations, recycling depots, composting and chipping equipment at landfills — in other words, how we are going to manage our landfills. That came out of the *Solid Waste Action Plan*. Yukon water and waste-water operational program — of course, the Grizzly Valley area transmission line upgrades, so that we can expand and put lots in there for Yukoners so they'll have access to lots in Grizzly Valley. Kluane research station forest research facility — the forest research facility will be managed by Energy, Mines and Resources. Of course, it's inside the Forestry

branch. As we move through — and I'm sure that with the long list of commitments on infrastructure throughout the territory, it's a lengthy document. Of course, this is a one-year commitment and we certainly look forward to getting on the ground and getting most of these projects up and going.

In the community of Whitehorse, the Valleyview water reservoir expansion is very necessary for the expanded lots we're doing in Whistle Bend. That is a commitment we made to work with the City of Whitehorse.

Kwanlin Dun cultural centre and public library — again, another good-news story and another great partnership with the First Nation. We are certainly committed to work on this \$24-million project to make sure that the cultural centre, the library — of course, this is the largest project we have actually seen on the ground on the waterfront here in the territory. We built a new children's receiving home and we are replacing the Livingstone Trail sewage and outfall pipe — in other words, another commitment in partnership with the city. Composting program improvements, bike racks and lockers, asphalt path, trail connections, transit bus replacement — another commitment with the municipality of Whitehorse. We consistently purchase buses and donate them back to the City of Whitehorse so they can run the transit system. We have been a partner in that.

The Marwell water and sewer upgrades, Hamilton Boulevard extension — which, again, we talked about this afternoon and affordable family housing — building again, thank you to Yukon Housing Corporation — 32 units; Ingram multi-family housing units — another six units. I'd like to thank the minister responsible for Yukon Housing. Of course, we'll be able to talk about these investments as we move forward.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Chair: Mr. Mitchell, on a point of order.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would suggest that the member is currently in contravention of 19(d) referring to "...reads unnecessarily from *Hansard* or from any other document..." and it's not pertinent to any questions that were asked this side of the House.

Chair's ruling

Chair: On the point of order, the Chair won't determine which documents are not pertinent or which documents are pertinent. The Chair, however, does see the member's point with regard to not speaking directly to the supplementary. The debate today has ranged fairly widely from both sides. Now that it has been brought to the Chair's attention, I would encourage members to speak to Bill No. 18, Vote 51, supplementary estimates for Community Services.

Mr. Lang, you have about a minute left.

Hon. Mr. Lang: If I strayed off the supplementary, I do apologize to the members opposite. They in turn have been asking me questions that did not pertain to the supplementary so I tended to take a lead from that, so if there was a misunderstanding, I apologize.

Of course our supplementary is very small this year and as we walk through it this afternoon we'll be able to see where the investments have been made through Community Services. I look forward to the questions we're going to have, but as I go through the supplementary budget — and it's important that we address some of the issues from the department's management — this is a very important document for us because it brings to light where the expenditures are. It also brings to light where the increases are and of course where some of the resources weren't spent for various reasons.

I've only got a few more minutes here, but I look forward to the questions from the members opposite and we can delve into the budget itself to explain to them where the resources were either spent or where they weren't spent and of course I have our Community Services staff here, who can answer any of the questions that the member opposite can bring forward.

Chair: Any further general debate?

Seeing none, we'll proceed line by line in Vote 51.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Protective Services

Protective Services in the amount of \$765,000 agreed to

On Community Development

Community Development in the amount of \$300,000 agreed to

On Total of Other O&M Programs

Total of Other O&M Programs in the amount of nil cleared

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,065,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Corporate Services

On Office Furniture, Equipment, Systems and Space

Office Furniture, Equipment, Systems and Space in the amount of \$234,000 agreed to

On Protective Services

On Fire Management

Fire Management underexpenditure in the amount of \$117,000 cleared

On Emergency Medical Services

On Watson Lake Integrated Emergency Response Facility

Watson Lake Integrated Emergency Response Facility underexpenditure in the amount of \$425,000 cleared

On Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Planning and Design

Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Planning and Design in the amount of \$60,000 agreed to

On Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Temporary Second Ambulance Facility

Whitehorse Ambulance Station Replacement — Temporary Second Ambulance Facility in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to

On Carcross Emergency Response Facility — Design

Carcross Emergency Response Facility — Design in the amount of \$25,000 agreed to

On Community Development

On Sport and Recreation

On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Camp Facility Upgrade

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Camp Facility Upgrade in the amount of \$13,000 agreed to

On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Carcross Recreation Office Renovations

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Carcross Recreation Office Renovations in the amount of \$20,000 agreed to

On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Watson Lake Swimming Pool Repairs

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Watson Lake Swimming Pool Repairs in the amount of \$16,000 agreed to

On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Carmacks Swimming Pool Repairs

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Carmacks Swimming Pool Repairs in the amount of \$42,000 agreed to

On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Beaver Creek Community Centre Upgrades

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Beaver Creek Community Centre Upgrades in the amount of \$71,000 agreed to

On Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Ross River Recreation Centre Upgrades

Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program — Ross River Recreation Centre Upgrades in the amount of \$113,000 agreed to

On Community Infrastructure

On Water Supply, Treatment and Storage — Ross River Water Treatment

Mr. Elias: Can I get a breakdown of why the \$700,000 wasn't spent for the water treatment in Ross River?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I am sorry, I didn't have the answer right at my fingertips. For the member opposite, we didn't have all the design work done so we had to push it out because of the timelines.

On Water Supply, Treatment and Storage — Ross River Water Treatment underexpenditure in the amount of \$700,000 cleared

On Water and Sewer Mains

Water and Sewer Mains underexpenditure in the amount of \$150,000 cleared

On Sewage Treatment and Disposal — Burwash Sewage Lagoon

Sewage Treatment and Disposal — Burwash Sewage Lagoon in the amount of \$150,000 agreed to

On Flood/Erosion Control

Flood/Erosion Control in the amount of \$400,000 agreed to

On Road/Streets Upgrade

Road/Streets Upgrade in the amount of \$300,000 agreed to

On Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund Projects — Carcross Waterfront

Mr. Elias: Can I get a breakdown of this line item, please?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chair, the \$464,000 increase is required to start work on phase 2 of the project of the visitor-based infrastructure gateway pavilion and of course the *SS Tutshi* memorial at the Carcross waterfront. Fifty percent is recoverable from the Government of Canada.

Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund Projects — Carcross Waterfront in the amount of \$464,000 agreed to

On Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund Projects — Whitehorse Waterfront

Mr. Elias: Can I get a breakdown of why the \$5.7 million wasn't spent in this budget?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The \$5.734-million decrease is because we've had some problems — not problems, but we've had some issues with permitting on the wharf itself. So it's a work in progress but we had to defer it to the coming year.

Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund Projects — Whitehorse Waterfront underexpenditure in the amount of \$5,734,000 cleared

On Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund — Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre

Mr. Mitchell: Just a breakdown, please, Mr. Chair, on what was accomplished in the year ended.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chair, this is a partnership with the First Nation. The \$3-million increase is required to start construction of the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre with funds transferred from Whitehorse waterfront project, and again, 50 percent of this investment is recoverable from Canada.

Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund — Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre in the amount of \$3,000,000 agreed to

On Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Haines Junction Water Supply Improvements

Mr. Mitchell: Just a breakdown of what has caused there to not be the amount fully expended. Were there delays in getting the project accomplished?

Hon. Mr. Lang: This was a municipally managed project. They have had some delays internally and they have deferred the project for 2010-11. Again, Mr. Chair, I remind the member opposite that 50 percent of this investment again is recoverable from the Government of Canada.

Chair: Is there any further debate?

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Haines Junction Water Supply Improvements underexpenditure in the amount of \$200,000 cleared

On Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Unallocated/Administration

Mr. Elias: Can I ask why the reduction?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The \$3,563,000 decrease was due to the end of the construction season. New projects will start again in the coming season through 2010-11. \$3,413,000 has been deferred to 2010-11 and \$150,000 transferred to the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation water supply fill station project. So again, it's another timing issue, weather issue. And, of course, the construction season, we have to remember, Mr. Chair, is 150 days in the territory so these decisions were made. The money will be spent but it will be spent in the year 2010-11.

Mr. Elias: Does the minister have a breakdown of the works that were supposed to be done with the \$3.5 million? Does he have a list of the projects under the municipal rural infrastructure fund that were supposed to get done?

Hon. Mr. Lang: There wasn't a list. It was money that was available that wasn't taken up on certain projects, so I can't give you a list of projects. It's money that was available but wasn't allocated because of the construction season.

Chair: Any further debate?

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Unallocated/Administration underexpenditure in the amount of \$3,563,000 cleared

On Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Mayo Community Centre

Mr. Elias: Can I get a breakdown, please?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think this issue of the \$84,000 decrease is due to the work Community Services has completed. I think it was the heating system or the artificial ice system. A lot of the work was done internally, so they didn't need the \$84,000.

Chair: Any further debate?

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Mayo Community Centre underexpenditure in the amount of \$84,000 cleared

On Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation: Water Supply Fill Station

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects — Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation: Water Supply Fill Station in the amount of \$150,000 agreed to

On Building Canada Fund — Carmacks Sewage Treatment

Building Canada Fund — Carmacks Sewage Treatment underexpenditure in the amount of \$275,000 cleared

On Building Canada Fund — Dawson City Sewage Treatment

Mr. Elias: Can I get a breakdown from the minister, please?

Hon. Mr. Lang: In addressing the member opposite, the \$4-million increase was required because the project is moving forward faster than anticipated; funding brought forward from 2010-11. Again, I remind the member opposite that 75 percent is recoverable from the Government of Canada.

Building Canada Fund — Dawson City Sewage Treatment in the amount of \$4,200,000 agreed to

On Building Canada Fund — Marsh Lake Intake and Fill System

Building Canada Fund — Marsh Lake Intake and Fill System in the amount of \$100,000 agreed to

On Building Canada Fund — Arsenic Treatment Upgrades Building Canada Fund — Arsenic Treatment Upgrades in the amount of \$340,000 agreed to

On Building Canada Fund — Carcross Water System Upgrade

Building Canada Fund — Carcross Water System Upgrade underexpenditure in the amount of \$350,000 cleared

On Building Canada Fund — Old Crow Roadway

Mr. Elias: Can the minister explain why the \$150,000 wasn't spent in this supplementary budget?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The \$150,000 decrease is due to the late start of this project and only the design of the project will be completed this year.

Again, 75 percent of this is recoverable from the Government of Canada.

Building Canada Fund — Old Crow Roadway underexpenditure in the amount of \$150,000 cleared

On Land Development

On Industrial

Industrial underexpenditure in the amount of \$688,000 cleared

On Residential

Mr. Elias: Can the minister provide a breakdown of this \$3.7-million decrease for this line item, please?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I certainly will read into the record these figures. Of course, the total decrease was \$3.727 million. They consist of a \$120,000 decrease for Dawson country residential; a \$400,000 decrease for Haines Junction urban residential projects, which was a timing issue; a \$400,000 decrease for the Haines Junction Willow Acres project due to delays; a \$871,000 decrease for the Ingram subdivision project due to early end of construction season — another construction issue; a \$1.987-million decrease for the Whistle Bend project due to regulatory approvals not progressing as fast as expected; a \$12,000 decrease for the Mount Sima Road and Whitehorse Copper project due to it being completed for less than budgeted. So that was a savings, because it was completed \$12,000 less than estimated. There was a \$9,000 increase for additional costs for the Copper Ridge project and a \$4,000 increase for planning of the Haines Junction rural residential project and a \$50,000 increase for planning of the Carmacks residential project.

Chair: Any further debate? Shall that line clear?

Residential underexpenditure in the amount of \$3,727,000 cleared

On Recreational

Recreational underexpenditure in the amount of \$480,000 cleared

On Total of Other Capital Expenditures

Total of Other Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil cleared

Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$6,845,000 cleared

On Revenues

Revenues cleared

Department of Community Services agreed to

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

Recess

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 18, *Third Appropriation Act, 2009-10*. We will now pro-

ceed with general debate on Vote 7, the Department of Economic Development.

Department of Economic Development

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: The Department of Economic Development really looks to an economy driven by a healthy private sector. It is expanding at a pace that maximizes opportunities for Yukon businesses and Yukon workers. It also envisions both a regional and economic growth throughout the territory that diversifies our economy. The department continues to support its strategic sectors and culture of entrepreneurship; it's encouraged and maintained.

I'd like to open by speaking to the supplementary budget. Some of the items that will appear in this budget are basically transfer programs from capital to operation and maintenance. Funds that have been transferred around at the direction of the Finance department include the enterprise trade fund, the regional economic development fund, the strategic industries fund, the film and sound incentives program, the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre — a variety of Yukon government funded projects there — the Technology Innovation Centre, which is now combined with the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre, the community access program and Industry Canada funding program. The community development fund has been moved around a bit and the economic infrastructure development program as well as technology programs — all of these have been transferred from capital to O&M, so this will certainly be reflected within the budget. With that, I'd like to open the debate today for questions.

Mr. Inverarity: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I think I'd like to thank the officials for coming today. It is always a pleasure to see folks here. I know it is a bit of hassle out of your busy day to come down here and assist the minister with the supplementary, with the budgets and debate and what goes on. It is not without notice, and we on this side of the House do appreciate all the efforts that the officials put into preparing these documents. This is pretty straightforward. I would think it doesn't require a lot of debate. I will ask one question. The minister did mention the movement of some of the capital expenditures into O&M. I guess, specifically, I was wondering if you could just elaborate as to where in O&M. It looks like most of it was put into business and industry development.

I guess, from a clarification point of view, that would be mostly what I'm asking — if that's in fact where they were going. Also, perhaps he might give us a little bit of background as to why that movement was made from capital into O&M.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: I think the member is probably talking more about the 2010-11 budget. Most of these transfers were done at the request of the Department of Finance, so it's probably better to address it at that point in time. But to give you an example, for instance, some of the operational costs for the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre — \$150,000 in operation costs from the Department of Education; \$502,000 from the northern strategy — capital costs to operations and

maintenance and the Technology Innovation Centre — capital costs to operation and maintenance to combine with the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre at \$251,000, for a total of \$903,000.

There were some other transfers along the way. The enterprise trade fund transfer from film and sound incentive programs to fund an increase in the number and amount of applications for business marketing, exporting and touring projects. There were some transfer savings from the film production fund contribution allotment back to the enterprise trade fund. So, there are a couple of examples there, but most of the real changes will occur in the 2010-11 budget.

Chair: Any further general debate?

Seeing none, we'll proceed line by line in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development.

Mr. Inverarity: I would request the unanimous consent of the Committee to deem all lines in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, cleared or carried

Chair: Mr. Inverarity has requested the unanimous consent of the Committee to deem all lines in Vote 7, Department of Economic Development, cleared or carried, as required. Are you agreed?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Unanimous consent has been granted.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$588,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$753,000 cleared

Department of Economic Development agreed to

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now proceed to Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

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

The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 18, *Third Appropriation Act, 2009-10*. We will now proceed with general debate on Vote 53, Energy, Mines and Resources.

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

Hon. Mr. Rouble: It's my pleasure to introduce the 2009-10 *Supplementary Estimates No. 2* budget for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has four primary objectives: (1) to responsibly manage Yukon's natural resources and ensure integrated resource land use; (2) to promote investment in and

responsible development of Yukon's mineral, energy, forestry, agriculture and land resources; (3) to provide strategic leadership for natural resource policy and planning; and to support and facilitate the implementation of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*.

This supplementary budget for 2009-10 reflects the work on these objectives. In this budget, the department's operation and maintenance expenditures have been decreased by \$485,000 and there has been an increase of \$1.4 million in the total capital budget expenditures. Changes in the O&M budget also include a reduction of \$589,000 in oil and gas and mineral resources. This overall reduction reflects a number of new initiatives and the reprofiling of \$1.5 million from O&M funds to capital for work on type 2 mine sites, of which 100 percent is recoverable from Canada.

New initiatives within the budgeted amount include various geological data and fieldwork projects led by the Yukon Geological Survey. Geoscience research contributes to the Yukon's geoscience database. It provides valuable information to enable stewardship and sustainable development of the territory's energy, mineral and land resources.

Another new initiative within this O&M budget is the funding required for a unique northern strategy initiative being led by Mineral Resources division. The division has begun to provide technical on-the-job training for up to five First Nation candidates. The project will provide the opportunity for trainees to work with experienced practitioners while learning technical skills, government procedures and gaining valuable experience in working with the public and with internal clients.

Mr. Chair, changes within the capital budget include a reduction of \$80,000 in Corporate Services due to the deferral of a technology project in the Yukon Geological Survey. This project will now commence in spring 2010. In addition, there is a decrease of \$400,000 in oil and gas royalties, reflecting adjustments made to price and volume projections at the Kotaneelee field.

Energy, Mines and Resources continues to contribute to the Yukon's government goal to build a strong and diversified economy that will benefit all Yukoners. We are doing this by providing leadership in energy policy, partnering with First Nation governments and streamlining Yukon's regulatory regime to provide certainty and to encourage investment. These efforts are yielding results and the foundation is being laid for a long-term sustainable resource sector in Yukon.

Mr. Chair, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Energy, Mines and Resources for their work. All of the projects and initiatives I have spoken of here today would simply not be possible without the continued hard work and dedication of the skilled staff of Energy, Mines and Resources.

This is a supplementary budget that builds upon our data collection; it builds upon our training and it also increases resources to clean up some of the mine sites throughout the territory, which are 100-percent recoverable from the Government of Canada.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my introductory comments for the 2009-10 *Supplementary Estimates No. 2* budget for the De-

partment of Energy, Mines and Resources. I look forward to some constructive debate from the member opposite.

Mr. Fairclough: I won't be long in asking questions in this department. The minister went through the supplementary budget in Energy, Mines and Resources here and I do have one question.

In some of the briefings we've had in the departments, we've quite often seen where capital line items have been moved to O&M. In one particular item here in this supplementary budget, it's the other way around and that is the type 2 mine site clean up. I just want to know why it ended up in capital. Is it just a project that's not going to be on the books? I assume that a lot of this type 2 mine clean up would have been ongoing and recoveries from Canada would be ongoing. Maybe the minister could clear up why it moved from O&M into capital?

The Government of Yukon is certainly working with the federal government on cleaning up type 2 mine sites throughout the territory. Of particular interest and attention, I'm sure by all members, is the situation in Faro. That's what this budget item is referring to.

Yes, there was a bookkeeping change in moving the funding from a capital expenditure to an O&M expenditure, but the net result is the same expenditure. It provides the same resources that are happening on the ground — the same work is being conducted. It was simply a financial management issue of profiling it as an operations and maintenance expenditure, rather than as a capital expenditure. As we've gone through the year and taken a look at how the money was being expended, it was identified that this was the best place for it. But, really, there is no net effect — the ultimate effect is still the same — \$1.5 million is being expended by the Government of Yukon to address this issue, and 100 percent of those funds are recoverable from Canada.

Mr. Fairclough: What I've heard from the minister is the opposite to his opening remarks, in that the type 2 mine site line item has been moved from operation and maintenance to capital, so it's the other way around. Normally, it is because we continue to see this type of work from year to year and it's moved from capital to O&M. That's what I heard the minister say. Perhaps I can go back and review the Blues. If it is different from what the minister is saying, perhaps he can clear that up and tell us why. I understand why it would be moved to O&M, but why would an O&M item be moved to capital?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, just to clarify and ensure we're all on the same page here, this overall reduction reflects a number of new initiatives and the reprofiling of \$1.5 million — O&M funds to capital for work on type 2 mine sites, and 100 percent of this is recoverable from Canada. The important point here to look at is the \$1.5-million expenditure. We are doing the work and making the investment, and the investment in this case is 100-percent recoverable from Canada.

We do a considerable amount of work with the Government of Canada throughout the year, identifying projects that are to be worked on. Through the course of doing this work, it came forward that it was best profiled as a capital project. That's why it has been reprofiled from \$1.5-million O&M to

capital. I don't want to go into a whole discussion about capital financing versus O&M financing or the nature of a capital investment, other than to say for the member opposite that this has been thoroughly looked at by all of the Finance officials. And due to the nature of the type of work that's being done, they have recommended this group profiling of it.

The important part to recognize is that the work is being done, funding is coming from Canada, and we continue to do the work necessary to remediate this site.

Mr. Fairclough: The minister has clarified something for me here about the \$1.5 million.

Can the minister give us more details as to what that money is, even though it is recovered from Canada? Because it is moved into capital, is that the end of this particular project? He referred to Faro once in his opening comments. Can he bring some details and clarity to that \$1.5 million?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, the Faro mine complex is the single largest liability in the federal inventory at approximate remediation cost of anywhere between \$450 million and \$590 million. Funding for the closure and remediation of type 2 sites comes primarily from the \$3.5-billion federal contaminated sites action plan.

Mr. Chair, in 2009, several community meetings took place to inform the environmental and the socio-economic assessment components of the Faro mine complex remediation plan which includes traditional knowledge from affected Yukon First Nations. The socio-economic assessment is a key element needed to support the planning and the execution of the final closure and remediation plan. Throughout this project, there will be an extensive number of different projects, different analyses and different investigations. Given the budget here of \$450 million to \$590 million over the course of years and years to come, I expect that there will be a very broad range of programs happening at this site.

Government of Yukon is responsible for the ongoing care and maintenance services at the Faro mine complex and it has secured Denison Environmental Services as the care and maintenance provider. All costs for conducting care and maintenance are provided by the Government of Canada under the Canada-Yukon type 2 funding agreement. Some of the services that are happening right now include environmental protection and protection of public health and safety. There's the collection and treatment of contaminated water.

There's site security that is conducted, as well as maintaining critical structures. There are early remediation projects that are being undertaken now to address specific environmental risks and to provide economic and capacity-building opportunities to affected Yukon First Nations and Yukoners.

There is significant work being done on the Grum sulphide deposit. There are numerous studies and examinations being done on stream management or watercourse management. There is ongoing work in sampling and additional data collection, as well as preliminary engineering work being done to look at the long-term solutions and the steps necessary to get there. Some of the activities in 2009, including direct employment and training opportunities, included relocation of the Northwest Waste rock dump, there was scrap steel cutting, and

there was the S-Wells Road realignment. Additionally, up-to-date care and maintenance, environmental monitoring results, water-quality data — those pieces of information are always being collected, and are available to the public on the Faro mine closure website.

I hope this satisfies the member's interest in this. If there are further engineering or technical questions, I can endeavour to answer those as well.

Mr. Fairclough: I asked the minister a question about the \$1.5 million that had been moved into capital and what that money was used for. The minister went on to talk a bit about Faro but there was no breakdown of what this \$1.5-million expenditure went toward — whether or not it was all used and totally recovered from Canada. That's what the minister said, but I did not hear the breakdown of the \$1.5 million, and that's what I'm interested in — not so much the technical part of it, but the money side of it, if the minister could answer that question.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: In addition to care and maintenance operations and some of the other data-collection initiatives I mentioned earlier, these funds were also allocated to cover the relocation of the Northwest Waste rock dump, the scrap steel cutting and the S. Wells Road realignment.

Mr. Fairclough: Mr. Chair, I didn't get any dollar breakdown on that at all. I don't know if the minister would have it. I've gone through this department and the minister has explained some of it to us. There is not a big change here. There is some reduction in revenues and recoveries from Canada with regard to the type 2 mine site from DIAND — \$1.1 million. The minister has gone through this. There is not much of a difference in this budget, so I will not have any more questions for the minister.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: I provided some specific information about some of the specific projects the member was interested in for Faro. I sense, though, that there might be a bit of concern about other areas and I just want to make sure that the member has had the opportunity to ask me the questions to find out about some of the areas that he is a bit more concerned about so that I could try to clear the air a bit more.

Mr. Fairclough: Mr. Chair, I asked that question and the minister gave his answer.

Chair: Is there any further debate? Seeing none, we will proceed with line-by-line on Vote 53, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

***On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures
On Sustainable Resources***

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, if I may, the northern strategy funding for on-the-job resource-management training for Yukon First Nations candidates in land management is captured in this expenditure. This is a very positive initiative that the Government of Yukon is working on with both of the areas that I am responsible for: Energy, Mines and Resources and Education. I am always encouraged when I can see programs like this. This is demonstrating the Government of Yukon's strong relationship with Canada, who funded the project, and its work with Yukon First Nations on northern strategy initiatives.

This was identified as an important issue, so we are taking steps to work with all our partners to identify the needs in our community and then, additionally, to prepare Yukoners for Yukon opportunities.

The skills the people are learning in this program will be very extensive and allow them to transfer into other renewable resource types of positions. They'll be doing work, I believe, through Yukon College on water quality testing, techniques like using electro-fishers, as well as safe practices in remote work sites, building on some of their on-the-job training skills for things like WHMIS certification and those types of things.

It's very encouraging to see the different departments throughout Government of Yukon coming to the plate and making the investment in Yukoners in working to ensure we are developing the skills at home needed to serve the needs we will have now and into the future.

Sustainable Resources in the amount of \$37,000 agreed to

On Energy, Corporate Policy and Communications

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, this is to be consistent and to implement much of the direction from the Yukon energy strategy. This is working with the Energy Solutions Centre to support a biofuel conference and training activity. We're looking at all of the alternative energy sources that make sense for Yukon. We certainly have an issue with having beetle-kill in the territory. It really makes sense to take a serious look and to investigate the issue of biofuels. This was a conference that was held that brought in experts in the field to take a more in-depth look at this. This is building upon Yukon's energy capacity and generating capabilities as well. It's building upon our natural resources and it's also another issue where we're building the skills and capacities of Yukoners to look after the issues that we have here in our backyard.

Energy, Corporate Policy and Communications in the amount of \$23,000 agreed to

On Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources

Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources underexpenditure in the amount of \$589,000 cleared

On Yukon Placer Secretariat

Yukon Placer Secretariat in the amount of \$44,000 agreed to

On Total of Other O&M Programs

Total of Other O&M Programs in the amount of nil cleared

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$485,000 cleared

On Capital Expenditures

On Corporate Services

***On Office Furniture, Equipment, Systems and Space
Office Furniture, Equipment, Systems and Space underexpenditure in the amount of \$80,000 cleared***

On Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources

On Assessment and Abandoned Mines

On Type II Mine Site Reclamation

Type II Mine Site Reclamation in the amount of \$1,500,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Capital Expenditures

Total of Other Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil cleared

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$1,420,000 agreed to

Chair: Are there any questions under revenues?

On Revenues

Revenues cleared

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources agreed to

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now proceed to Vote 52, Department of Environment. Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 18, *Third Appropriation Act, 2009-10*.

Department of Environment

Chair: We will now proceed with general debate in Vote 52, Department of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: It's a pleasure to rise and speak to the supplementary budget today. The major item in this supplementary budget is to cover the funds for the new animal research and rehabilitation facility at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve. Funding approval came after the department's main budget was completed for this fiscal year. We are pleased that we obtained the funds on behalf of Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society. The Yukon Wildlife Preserve provides a safe and healthy environment for the wildlife in their care. This financial support from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will enhance the preserve's quality of care provided to the injured animals and birds brought to them for rehabilitation. The remaining \$1 million is to be transferred in this 2010-11 fiscal year.

The other major expenditure is our climate change adaptation work in this territory. The Climate Change Secretariat successfully applied for \$125,000 in federal funding for the Arctic research infrastructure fund. This money will go to the Northern Climate ExChange to study climate change vulnerabilities of the Yukon's trees and forest ecosystems.

This project will increase our understanding of how Yukon forests respond to climate change. It will show us what forests will look like in the future and will make recommendations to ensure the sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

The rest of the supplementary estimates cover internal transfers from various programs.

For example, last year we identified \$75,000 as a contribution to the Northern Climate ExChange from the Environmental Programs branch. This contribution is now part of the Climate Change Secretariat's budget. We also identified a \$100,000 reduction in our information systems or computer projects. This money was turned back to help the government's

overall information technology initiative and was transferred to help the Community Services department's projects.

Overall, Mr. Chair, these supplementary estimates provide a modest three-percent increase in Environment Yukon's total forecasted expenditures when compared with their past fiscal year's original estimates.

Mr. Fairclough: I don't have many questions for the minister in regard to this supplementary budget. The minister pointed out a couple of areas that he highlighted. As far as the increased spending, one of them was the Yukon Wildlife Preserve and the other one was the adaptive capacity to climate change agreement of \$125,000, and that is right in the operation and maintenance — there's no line item for that.

I believe that number would be reflected in Corporate Services. The minister identified that and that's a recovery or revenue and a recovery from Canada, but I didn't see that as a line item in this supplementary budget, so is it covered under Corporate Services or is it under capital projects somewhere? Could the minister explain that one?

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: That would be covered under Corporate Services.

Mr. Fairclough: That would be under operation and maintenance so is the minister saying that we will have an ongoing line item for the climate change agreement on forestry? I just didn't hear the minister say that and perhaps he could tell us what the other amounts of money in Corporate Services are for.

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: I would ask the member opposite if he could repeat that request. I didn't quite hear what he was asking. Thanks.

Mr. Fairclough: The \$125,000 that the minister identified for the Yukon forest adaptive capacity to climate change agreement — that one line item is recognized under revenues, from recoveries from Canada under Corporate Services. That's recognized there, and the minister said that \$125,000 is reflected in the \$192,000 increase in the supplementary budget under Corporate Services.

So I ask whether or not we will continue to have this particular line item — because it is now reflected in operation and maintenance — and what the other dollar amount — the increase in Corporate Services under O&M — is for.

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: It's a one-time thing. The \$3,000 was for the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* and it's a 100-percent recoverable expenditure, to be reallocated from O&M to capital for purchase of operational equipment — skimmers, toboggans, that sort of thing. \$75,000 is for the Climate Change Secretariat and transfers the Northern Climate ExChange contribution from environment programs to the Climate Change Secretariat budget activity.

The \$5,000 refers to claims, implementation and aboriginal affairs reallocation from land claims administration to conservation officer services in support of the Turn in Poachers program.

Mr. Fairclough: The minister said that the \$125,000 that is identified and fully recoverable from Canada — from the Yukon forest adaptive capacity to climate change agreement — is reflected in Corporate Services in the \$192,000 in-

crease that he's asking us to approve here today. I wanted to know — the minister did say a few other numbers, but they just don't seem to add up to the amount of O&M for Corporate Services.

Also, the minister said that this is a one-time thing. So if it's only a one-time thing, why would it be recorded under O&M and not under capital?

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: Mr. Chair, this is only a one-time thing, so it really doesn't matter if it is in O&M or capital. It is recoverable.

Mr. Fairclough: Okay, Mr. Chair, what we've been experiencing in the briefings in the departments is quite often when we see a line — an action that government is taking — if it is ongoing it moves from capital to O&M. Normally, a one-time project would be listed under capital and the minister said it doesn't really matter. I can just take his word for it that I guess it doesn't really matter. It is operation and maintenance and it is one-time funding.

What the minister didn't do was list what else was under Corporate Services. He didn't give us a clear answer on that. It is \$192,000 under Corporate Services, under O&M expenditures, and perhaps the minister could clear that up.

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: They're basically interim transfers to the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*, the Climate Change Secretariat and the claims implementation and aboriginal affairs.

Mr. Fairclough: The minister identified the \$3,000 and it's listed under a different line item under capital expenditures, and it's still not totally clear. I'd like to know whether or not any of the money going toward the Yukon Wildlife Preserve was to purchase any reindeer?

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: The answer is no.

Mr. Fairclough: Mr. Chair, I saw that brought a little smile to the Premier's face. I have no further questions. There is not much change within the Department of Environment and if there is any information that the minister feels he needs to send our way with regard to clarifying some of the questions that I've asked, please do so. I thank the minister for his answers.

Chair: Is there any further general debate? Seeing none, we will proceed with line-by-line in Vote 52.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Corporate Services

Corporate Services in the amount of \$192,000 agreed to

On Environmental Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability underexpenditure in the amount of \$60,000 cleared

On Total of Other O&M Programs

Total of Other O&M Programs in the amount of nil cleared

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$132,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Corporate Services

On Information Systems, Equipment and Furniture

On Yukon Environment Information System

Yukon Environment Information System underexpenditure in the amount of \$30,000 cleared

On Office Furniture, Equipment, Systems and Space

Office Furniture, Equipment and Space underexpenditure in the amount of \$70,000 cleared

On Lands and Facilities

On Yukon Wildlife Preserve Animal Research Facility

Yukon Wildlife Preserve Animal Research Facility in the amount of \$929,000 agreed to

On Claims Implementation and Aboriginal Affairs

On Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA)

Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) in the amount of \$3,000 agreed to

On Total of Other Capital Expenditures

Total of Other Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil cleared

Total Capital Expenditures of \$832,000 agreed to

Chair: Are there any questions on revenues?

On Revenues

Revenues cleared

Department of Environment agreed to

Executive Council Office

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now proceed with Vote 2, Executive Council Office.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I am pleased to provide an overview of this supplementary request for the Executive Council Office. This supplementary budget reflects a decrease of \$2.9 million due mostly to the reprofiling of funds allocated in this fiscal year for the third intake of the northern strategy trust.

In the main estimates, a total of \$3.379 million was allocated to the northern strategy program as an estimate of the total 2009-10 requirements for projects that would be approved by the Yukon Forum. As the sponsor for projects was unknown at the time, the project was developed and the full funding amount was allocated in the Executive Council Office budget.

As members well know, the Yukon Forum approved the final expenditure plan in the fall of 2009. So this budget adjustment reflects those decisions.

For projects sponsored by a First Nation, the Executive Council Office retains the spending authority for these projects; for all other projects, for instance, those led by a different department, the funding requirements for 2009-10 have been reflected in the respective budgets of those departments. As such, in the Executive Council Office budget, spending authority requirements have been reduced by \$2.53 million to reflect the net spending authority required for only those projects sponsored by Yukon First Nations.

Also reflected in this budget is a reduction of \$122,000 in the spending authority required for three northern strategy projects. They are managed directly by Governance Liaison and Capacity Development branch. This reflects reduced requirements based on the progress to date for the two projects approved in the second intake in 2007.

The branch continues to work very closely with Yukon First Nations on both the land and resource management devel-

opment capacity project and the executive development program and are pleased with the progress on these projects.

Also in this supplementary estimate are three other noteworthy changes. The reduction in the land claims and implementation program relates primarily to revised costs associated with land use planning activities as part of implementation. Now, this makes sense, because it's this government — actually, this Yukon Party government is the only government that ever concluded a land use plan, and we've undertaken others. So it only makes sense and is logical that these kinds of changes take place. It's called "product".

As these expenditures are recoverable from Canada, a similar decrease in recoveries is reflected in this supplementary. The reduction of the Development Assessment branch of \$175,000 reflects a deferral of funds for phase 3 of the five-year review of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* into 2010-11. This funding will be used to support improvements to departmental YESAA processes that have or will be identified during the review process.

Now it's important to note that, first off, the statute we call YESAA is a very important asset to the Yukon. It has proven to be successful in terms of our regulatory regime as an instrument for that regime, and is now garnering great support and positive comments in terms of how Yukon goes through the regulatory assessment process. It's also a process that the government side does not interfere in, albeit the members opposite have, on many occasions, by convenience, encouraged the government to interfere. When circumstances arise, the members opposite, by convenience, encourage the government not to interfere. The point of the matter is that the government does not interfere. It allows due process to unfold as it should and must.

Chair: Order please. Seeing the time, the Chair will rise and report progress.

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Mr. Nordick: Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 18, *Third Appropriation Act, 2009-10*, and directed me to report progress.

Speaker: You have heard the report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole. Are you agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

The House adjourned at 5:31 p.m.