

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, May 11, 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.

Are there any tributes?

TRIBUTES

In recognition of National Nursing Week

Hon. Mr. Hart: I rise today in the House in honour of National Nursing Week, which runs from May 10 to 16.

Monsieur le Président, je prends la parole aujourd'hui afin de souligner la Semaine nationale des soins infirmiers, du 10 au 16 mai.

I was surprised to learn that the Canadian Nurses Association decided to keep the same theme as last year, which was "Nursing: You Can't Live Without It!" This is an interesting choice, and I have given some thought to why they would retain the same theme. It is not from a lack of ideas, I'm sure. I suspect that they kept the same theme because it is an important point to make and it could clearly be one of their mottos.

Almost every single one of us has been tended by a nurse at one time or another, either at birth or during an operation or in the emergency room after an accident. Nurses have looked after our children and our parents, our grandparents, with calm professionalism behind a very human face. Nurses are there for us from birth to death. Beyond the very intimate care they provide, many of them work behind the scenes on such things as health policy, mentoring programs and recruitment drives. They work in public health, striving to improve the overall health of the population, whether they are looking at diabetes prevention or immunization.

Nurses notice us, Mr. Speaker, because they want to make sure they catch the subtle signs that indicate a problem. They see not only the small ailments that afflict us, but also the greater societal ones that can cut our lives short.

We are lucky here in the Yukon to have the high calibre of nurses we have. These professionals work very hard in all aspects of health care — from the nurse in charge of the health centre, to the operating room nurse in the hospital; from the nurse organizing mentorships, to the nurse overseeing all community nurses. I'm deeply grateful to the Yukon nurses wherever they may work or volunteer for the contribution they make to Yukon society. I invite all members of this House to join me in thanking them.

Around the world nurses are celebrated on May 12, the date of Florence Nightingale's birth.

Je suis profondément reconnaissant envers les infirmières et les infirmiers du Yukon pour leur contribution à la société yukonnaise, tant dans le cadre de leurs activités professionnel-

les que de leurs activités bénévoles. J'invite donc tous les membres de l'Assemblée législative à se joindre à moi pour les remercier et pour célébrer la Journée internationale de l'infirmière, le 12 mai, jour anniversaire de la naissance de Florence Nightingale.

Upon reflection, Mr. Speaker, I believe every day should be Nurses Day.

Réflexion faite, Monsieur le Président, je crois que nous devrions rendre hommage aux infirmières et aux infirmiers tous les jours.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to National Nursing Week. National Nursing Week runs from May 10 to 16, and always includes May 12, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday and International Nurses Day.

La Semaine nationale des soins infirmiers célébrée une fois par année coïncide avec l'anniversaire de naissance de Florence Nightingale, le 12 mai.

Florence Nightingale is best known around the world as the "Lady with the Lamp" who nursed British soldiers during the Crimean War and turned nursing into a profession.

This year's theme — "Nursing: You Can't Live Without It!" — reflects the immense value of Canada's largest group of health care providers.

Le thème de cette année — *Les soins infirmiers: on ne peut s'en passer* — reflète l'immense valeur du plus grand groupe de fournisseurs de soins de santé du Canada.

National Nursing Week helps us honour our local nurses and raises awareness of the nursing profession.

La semaine nationale des soins infirmiers nous permet de d'honorer cette profession ainsi que le travail exceptionnel des infirmières et infirmiers du Yukon.

It allows us, as Yukoners, to acknowledge and to understand and appreciate the significant contributions nurses provide to our health and well-being on a daily basis.

The nursing profession is a cornerstone of our health care system. Nurses are the backbone of every respectable health care facility. They work in emergency rooms, hospitals, community health centres, public health clinics, medical health clinics, in schools, senior assisted living centres, as flight nurses, home care nurses and in correctional institutes. They serve with passion for the profession and with a strong commitment to patient safety.

Nurses are essential to the health care system. We value their compassion and commitment to their profession, and their continued efforts to promote health and wellness and their role in primary health care.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to all our Canadian Forces nurses who are courageously serving overseas and contributing to the global effort to bring peace, stability and development in areas of conflict.

National Nursing Week is an opportunity to celebrate Canadian nurses for their provision of outstanding patient-centred care and dedication to advancing the health system. We recog-

nize and value all of our nursing professionals from all levels of health care.

La Semaine nationale des soins infirmiers est une occasion de célébrer les infirmières et les infirmiers canadiens pour l'excellence dont ils font preuve en fournissant des soins axés sur les patients, ainsi que pour leur détermination à faire progresser le système de soins de santé.

On behalf of all Yukoners, please accept our heartfelt appreciation, for your dedication, your contribution to our health, our families and our communities. You make a difference in someone's life every day.

You deserve recognition and our thanks not only during National Nursing Week, but every day of the year. Thank you for being there.

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cardiff: I rise on behalf of the NDP caucus to pay tribute to nurses everywhere. This celebration began in 1985 to coincide with the birthday of the mother of nursing, Florence Nightingale, and is recognized internationally. In Canada, we also celebrate this week as National Nursing Week.

The International Council of Nurses is a federation of more than 130 national nurse associations representing millions of nurses worldwide. It is operated by nurses and has been working since 1899. The ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

This year the theme of the ICN is "Delivery Quality, Serving Communities" and their emphasis in practice is chronic care.

Sixty percent of the deaths in the world are due to chronic diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases and some cancers. Eighty percent of these illnesses occur in low- and middle-income countries and they are preventable.

Nurses are involved in every facet of the health care delivery system. The moment we are born, a pediatric nursing specialist greets us in the world. Throughout our lives, we rely on nurses to care for us in many different ways and in many different medical situations, from the doctor's clinic to the surgical ward.

In our last days, a palliative care nurse will likely be at our side providing compassionate care. There are several nursing professions working in the Yukon, including nurse practitioners, registered nurses, certified nursing aides and licensed practical nurses. They are in acute care facilities, continuing care, home care, extended care, public health facilities and clinics.

The Yukon Registered Nurses Association is active in education and promotion about nursing and disease prevention. It approves nurses for licensing and it monitors standards of practice. They have long promoted a seamless health care system and pointed out the advantages of a collaborative clinic to alleviate the financial and physical demands on the Yukon health care system.

Nursing is a challenging profession. It is hard physical work and demanding emotionally. Nurses work around the clock and on holidays. Nurses also face danger. The rate of

assault of nurses is twice that of police officers. The aging workforce is very noticeable in the nursing professions and the shortage of personnel makes it even harder work.

Health care is a complex and rapidly changing system. Nurses must blend educational knowledge, research skills and technological expertise with practical experience. Ethical decision-making and critical thinking are also needed to provide a high standard of patient care. Nurses contribute effectively to wider changes needed in health and social policies, as well as structural changes locally, nationally and internationally. We pay tribute to our nursing professionals for the devotion that they show to their calling and thank them for making our lives healthier and happier.

Speaker: Are there any further tributes?

Introduction of visitors.

Returns or documents for tabling.

Any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to set aside any funds from fines resulting from convictions in the case of *Director of Occupational Health and Safety v. Government of Yukon, William R. Cratty and P.S. Sidhu Trucking Ltd.* and contribute these funds towards the building of a permanent memorial for workers injured or killed on the job in order to:

(1) remember and honour workers injured and killed on the job;

(2) educate the public in our shared responsibilities for workplace safety; and

(3) address the inappropriateness of the Government of Yukon paying itself a fine and accepting fines from its co-defendant in the case.

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motion?

Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Off-road vehicle use

Mr. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, we are looking for clarification from the Environment minister on his position on consulting with Yukoners about ATV use. Last fall this House passed a motion to form a select committee to, and I quote: "Conduct public consultations for the purpose of receiving the views and opinions of Yukon residents and prepare a report making recommendations on the safe operation and use of all-terrain vehicles."

The mandate of the select committee was clear, and the Environment minister voted in favour of its work. Could the minister confirm that he voted for a select committee to consult with Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Lang: We all voted on the floor here to have an all-party committee on the safety effect of ATVs in the territory, so it wasn't just the Minister of Environment. It was all of us in the House here, voting to have a committee put together and have it go out and talk to, consult with, Yukoners.

Mr. Fairclough: I think the minister could have spoken for himself. When he voted to form this committee, the Environment minister said, "...I am in favour of putting together a select committee to go out and ask the public at large about legislation involving ATVs." Those were the words of the Environment minister.

Somewhere between now and then, he changed his mind. Maybe it happened during his most recent move from back-bencher to minister. It wouldn't be the first commitment that he has forgotten while upgrading his office.

Yesterday the minister said that he didn't think the government should be involved in ATV regulations. He said, "...it's something that is best regulated by the individual." What happened in the last six months to make this minister do a complete 180 on ATVs?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I remind the member opposite again that the House is putting together a committee and we're going to go out and discuss the safety issue and safe use of ATVs in the Yukon. We all agreed to that in the House, not just our side of the House, but all of the members in the House have agreed. I look forward to doing just that — going out and speaking to Yukoners.

Mr. Fairclough: I didn't realize there was a change in portfolios on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Environment said it was something that was best regulated by individuals. He should be answering the questions.

Now the Environment minister doesn't know the responsibility of the position he has. Many Yukoners are concerned that off-road vehicles are damaging the environment and many do not want to be over-regulated, but yesterday the minister told the House that the government shouldn't be involved in ATV regulations and the public, Mr. Speaker, wants their voice to be heard.

The minister doesn't think he should be involved in the Peel, the largest area ever recommended for environmental protection. He doesn't think he should be involved in McIntyre Creek or even with pesticide regulations. All of those used to be priorities to the minister before his promotion to the job he has.

Is the Minister of Environment scrapping the select committee on ATVs — yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would like to remind the member opposite that ATV use is utilized right through the territory, so it's very important we go out and talk to Yukoners. There are more people using ATVs than hunters. People use them for recreation. There are different uses in different areas of the territory. It's going to be a very important discussion as we move through the territory, Mr. Speaker, and that's exactly what we're going to do when we put the committee together to move forward.

Question re: Off-road vehicle use

Mr. McRobb: Time and time again, this government says one thing, yet does another. It's no wonder the public doesn't trust this government. We need answers on the latest case. Last fall, all government members voted in favour of consulting with Yukoners on ATVs. The government wanted to hear from the public about the use and operation of off-road vehicles.

Every government member voted to form a select committee to consult with Yukoners and report back to the House. In fact, this motion received unanimous support from all members in this Assembly. The government has yet to appoint one of its members to chair this committee or even call a meeting. When will the government finally live up to its word and call a meeting of this select committee?

Hon. Mr. Lang: We take it very seriously and we had a motion on the floor to do just that. We look forward to putting a person on that committee so we can have a meeting and move forward with the discussions throughout the territory.

Mr. McRobb: The minister didn't indicate when that would happen, did he? Let's remind the government members of their commitment on the record. The motion was introduced by a government member. He said, and I quote: "It is important that the committee listens to the concerns of all Yukoners." In addition, the Community Services minister said — and again I quote: "We need to hear how Yukoners feel about off-road vehicle use and what measures this government should be considering." Further, the current Environment minister said — and again I quote: "... I am in favour of putting together a select committee to go out and ask the public at large about legislation involving ATVs."

When will the government live up to its word and start consulting with Yukoners on this matter?

Hon. Mr. Lang: We look forward to putting that committee together and hope we get more support from the opposition than we've had on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*, which is out there at the moment. What we're looking at is safe use of ATVs. It is an important issue to Yukoners throughout the territory and we look forward to putting together and working with the committee to address some of these issues. We will do it. We committed to doing it and that's exactly what we're going to do.

Mr. McRobb: This government committed to consulting the public on this matter but, in more than six months, couldn't be bothered to do anything.

Last week it said the ATV select committee shouldn't even be formed until after other committees are done their work. The Environment minister thinks it would be too much work for the government to consult with Yukoners and implement regulations. In fact, he said, and I quote: "This being an issue that takes a lot more meetings than just one, I might add, is something that is best regulated by the individual."

Mr. Speaker, that's an about-turn. Two hundred people rallied last week to show what happens when the government side-steps consultation. The public knows this is an issue and this government said it was inside.

Why doesn't the government think it's important enough to get to work, strike this committee and start consulting on ATVs?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the Member for Kluane is now talking about changing one's mind. Let's look into that matter.

This House, along with that member, voted for a unanimous motion to form a select committee on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. To date, even though the Liberal caucus have designated an individual to sit on the committee, we simply just cannot get them to agree on a date or a time to meet. So that is an issue.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order. Order. Honourable members, somebody over there just said, "You're lying." That's inappropriate and every one of us in this House knows that. I think I know who it was, but I'm just going to take a pass on pointing out that member right now; however, I will in the future if that happens again.

Hon. Premier, you have the floor.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the Liberal caucus changed their minds on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. The same members — the Liberal caucus — voted unanimously in favour of proceeding with legislation for civil forfeiture. As soon as the public pressure became apparent on the matter, as the bill was before the House being debated and amendments were being brought forward from the Independent member and the Third Party, the Liberal caucus changed its mind. Then when the public exercised their right to a public demonstration, the Liberals changed their minds from consulting to never allowing the bill to see the light of day. Yes, there is a lot of mind-changing in the Liberal caucus.

Question re: *Human Rights Act* amendments

Mr. Cardiff: In questioning last week, the Minister of Justice said that the second phase of working on the *Human Rights Act* changes in legislation is underway and that the department is working on it. They have now had that report of the select committee for 18 months. By the time she receives the report, which she said would be December of this year, it will be two years from the tabling of the select committee's report on human rights legislation.

But the minister has been silent about the process for phase 2 — what the time frame is and what expertise is being consulted and brought to the table. Will the minister tell the House what the process is for phase 2, which recommendations are being considered by the department and which stakeholders will be involved in that process?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The tune has changed now from not consulting with Yukoners on the second phase to not handling it at all. We have listened to Yukoners. We went out; the member opposite was on the committee that toured the Yukon. We've heard the Yukoners' views. We are getting the report back and they are all the recommendations that were put forward by the committee. They are all being considered and that

will come back to us in this House by December, or back to me as minister by December.

Mr. Cardiff: Mr. Speaker, the minister was the chair of the select committee. The recommendations in the report were unanimous. It is her responsibility to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the report. I will ask about some simple, easily adopted recommendations that may allow the minister to give a better response. Recommendation 10 says that a "plain-language approach" should be used. Recommendation 11 wants a revision to the preamble to "provide greater guidance to the rest of the legislation." Recommendation 12 says that the act should "more strongly promote human rights and responsibilities, awareness, and education."

Can the minister tell us if work has been done on these recommendations?

Hon. Ms. Horne: It is still too early to forecast what recommendations will be carried forward. As I have said here many times before, each of the recommendations are being considered and the report will come back to me by December of this year. We are not going to rush the recommendations through. We want to make sure that the *Human Rights Act* is efficient and will follow through with Yukoners' needs.

Mr. Cardiff: Well, it appears that the minister is going to decide which recommendations to accept and which recommendations not to accept. Recommendation 16 may not be as simple. It states that funding of the commission and the panel of adjudication be removed from the Department of Justice.

This is extremely important since the members of the select committee all agreed that the commission should be at arm's length from the department, as with the Ombudsman and the child advocate. The select committee also agreed there should be more public discussion on some issues. It was clear, as it says in the report, that recommendations were only "the starting point of a process that will continue to move forward..." I'm quoting from the report.

Is the possibility of moving the Human Rights Commission out of the Department of Justice being looked into, and when will public discussion of these important issues begin?

Hon. Ms. Horne: To acknowledge the member opposite, this is exactly why we're taking our time with the recommendations that were put forward. They are complicated issues and we want to ensure that the act does serve Yukoners.

Question re: Forestry research

Mr. Cathers: Over the past couple of years, the research forest at the corner of the Hot Springs Road and the Mayo Road has been developed to showcase the research being done in forestry and at the agricultural test plots and, most importantly, to open it to the public.

Last year, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources was approved for federal funding to develop forestry research infrastructure at the research forest. There is over \$1 million in the budget for the project this year and over \$500,000 in next year's budget.

Will the minister please provide details of what work the department expects to be completed this year and what work will be done next fiscal year?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: The Government of Yukon is committed to building a strong forestry industry in the territory and being very good stewards of the land. To that end, we will certainly be doing a significant amount of research, not only throughout the Yukon, but also at the Gunnar Nilsson and Mickey Lammers Research Forest that the member is mentioning.

Yes, there have been funds allocated to enhance the research and education component of this. I would be more than happy, once we get into specific line-by-line negotiation and debate on the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, to highlight many of the expenditures. However, the member opposite can rest assured this government will be concentrating its efforts and its energies on expanding its research and knowledge of the forestry industry. We'll be working with this wonderful asset we have, which is located just outside of Whitehorse, in order to gain more knowledge on this important industry.

We'll expand on this, as we have been doing with the cold climate research centre — the Research Centre of Excellence — the work with Yukon College and also the work through the northern strategy, to build the knowledge and information base on this important field to Yukoners.

Mr. Cathers: I hope that when we get into debate on the department, the minister will provide a more detailed response about what that work will be.

Work at the research forest in the past couple of years has opened it to the public and allowed people, including my constituents, to enjoy it. They and other Yukoners are now able to use the trails and visit river viewpoints. Energy, Mines and Resources has also done work toward developing a little oxbow off the river into a day-use site and swimming area.

Last year, as the minister then responsible for it, I asked department staff to have the water tested regularly to determine if the water quality was suitable to allow the site to be developed for swimming. The test did confirm that the water quality was fine. Will the minister please tell me what work is being done this year to develop the day-use site and swimming area? I know fencing work is being done this season. Will there be any other work on the ground to develop this site or is that still at the planning and design stage?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: I appreciate the work that was done in the past by the Member for Lake Laberge in looking at expanding the swimming-hole opportunities in his riding. I want to confirm for the member opposite that it will be this government's focus to use this facility as a research centre and a place to gather important data and research on that.

I appreciate that there are initiatives such as swimming holes in the territory. Living at Marsh Lake myself, I know of the pleasure of going swimming a couple of times a year in Yukon's waterways, but the focus of the research centre will be just that: research and gathering a greater understanding of our flora and fauna issues. I expect we will be working very closely with Yukon College, with the Research Centre of Excellence that has been established there. This is an excellent tool that we have at our disposal to gain information about boreal forests here in the Yukon. It is close to Whitehorse. It's a tremendous

asset that we will continue to do work in, in order to ensure that we have a strong resource and education component close to Whitehorse.

Mr. Cathers: I hope the minister was simply emphasizing the main objective of this facility and not indicating that the plans — which have been underway in fact for a few years — to make this area more accessible to the public, open a day use and swimming, and increase the public connection to the research that's being done and the feeling of ownership of the research and the facility as a whole — I hope he's not indicating that that is no longer an interest and that we can look forward to more information about the swimming area being developed in the future.

I would also emphasize to the minister that opening the research forest to the public so people can enjoy it and better understand that research is very much supported by Forestry branch staff and that public use, understanding and appreciation are key to that facility. It also reduces the vandalism by having more people there, watching the facility, understanding the research.

Would he please clarify that?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Yes, I can confirm to the member opposite that this government is very committed to conducting appropriate research. We are committed to enhancing our research capacities and capabilities here in the Yukon. The investments made in Yukon College and the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the Research Centre of Excellence are just a couple of examples of that.

Our focus on this facility will be on research. We will also have some opportunities to welcome and engage the public in the area. We will be doing work with providing additional information on that, but I do want to confirm for the member opposite that it will focus more on public information and the transmission of information rather than on the installation of things like waterslides.

Question re: Yukon Energy Corporation, board recruitment

Mr. McRobb: It's necessary to ask questions again, because this so-called open, accountable and transparent government avoided answering them yesterday. Despite the fact that dedicated staff, whose job description includes recruiting appointees for board and committees, are on this government's payroll, it spent \$50,000 hiring an Outside consultant to do that job. Whom did the consultant find, Mr. Speaker? A former Government Leader.

Yesterday we asked straightforward questions in the public interest, but this government's response is typical whenever it doesn't have an answer — blame the messenger. The public deserves an explanation. Why was it necessary to spend 50,000 taxpayer dollars to hire an Outside consultant when a simple phone call would have sufficed?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, to blame a messenger one would actually have to have a message. In this matter, the Member for Kluane's so-called message is inconsistent with the facts. The Yukon Development Corporation is a Crown corporation and it conducted a process to do something that is a

marked departure from the past structural situation with the corporations and indeed its governance.

In fact, the members opposite not that long ago were taking issue with the structural issues at the boards. Mr. Speaker, the Yukon Development Corporation and its appointed members and chair have done their job. How demeaning to make the suggestion that after intensive surveys and analyses and interviews of people to serve on the Yukon Energy Corporation's Board, the Member for Kluane says, "Oh, it was just a former government leader."

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, is this the same government that campaigned on being fiscally responsible? How is spending 50,000 taxpayer dollars on an Outside consultant to make a simple phone call being fiscally responsible? Is that a prudent expenditure? As it turned out, this is a government that truly is going for broke.

Yesterday the Premier held up the government's energy strategy and he did again today, as if this whole idea was somehow part of that strategy. He threw out terms such as "structural change" and "governance" which have nothing to do with throwing \$50,000 out the window instead of making a simple phone call.

Why did the government spend 50,000 taxpayer dollars instead of making a simple call?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Actually, being fiscally responsible is what this is all about, because you want to ensure that you conduct the process to get the best available people to serve our public utility.

Once again for the member's benefit, those duly appointed Yukoners who have dedicated themselves to serve on our Crown corporation — the Yukon Development Corporation — conducted a thorough process of interviews and assessments to find people to serve on the Yukon Energy Corporation's Board.

The member opposite suggests they should just have made a simple phone call. I think the members of the Yukon Development Corporation Board are doing their job, unlike the Member for Kluane, who continues to negate the fact that he has an obligation to the Yukon public to do his job. If he did, the member would actually support those hard-working citizens who serve on the Yukon Development Corporation Board and the processes they conduct.

Mr. McRobb: Well, well, Mr. Speaker, what a difference a day makes. Yesterday, the Premier called this Assembly an institution of the highest order — of the highest standard. That's what he said.

Well, if he really believes that, then he should show enough respect and answer a straightforward question. A \$50,000 contract was given to an Outside consultant to recruit board appointees when this government's available staff could have made a simple phone call. The Premier continues to hide behind officials. He often said that the buck stops at his desk. He said that on several occasions. Well, he should live up to his own words and practise what he preaches. Again, why did the government spend 50,000 taxpayer dollars instead of making a simple phone call?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, there're all kinds of ways one could respond to the Member for Kluane about his

assertions. I think the fact of the matter is that the member has a problem with the board. I think the Member for Kluane and the Liberals in this House actually take issue with the Yukon Development Corporation's board, its members and the processes they conduct. Why doesn't the Member for Kluane live up to the station and the standard of this House and admit it? Admit that the Liberals have an issue with the Yukon Development Corporation, an issue with its appointed members, because they have issues with all matters, as far as we can understand. The real facts here are the Member for Kluane and his Liberal colleagues just simple do not like the Yukon Development Corporation and its board members.

Question re: Yukon Energy Corporation/ATCO

Mr. McRobb: Several unanswered questions also remain about the Premier's secret parallel negotiating process with a private company from Alberta to sell out Yukon's energy future. We know the former chair of the Yukon Energy Corporation Board, who resigned over this issue, raised lots of questions. We know the Yukon public raised lots of questions. We know the former Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who resigned over this issue, raised lots of questions. We also know this government is trying hard to sweep this whole matter under the carpet, but it won't sweep that easily, Mr. Speaker. There's only one way this government could possibly be fully accountable, open, and transparent on this matter. Will the Premier call a public inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Well, Mr. Speaker, that would be the last thing the Liberal caucus and others would want to see because they would then have to testify under oath. The member's colleague is a chair of the Public Accounts Committee, who seems to have great difficulty in looking into this matter, as the government so openly has stated, "Please, Public Accounts Committee, go ahead, review the matter."

Furthermore, the member opposite tabled evidence. The Member for Kluane and the Liberals in this House actually tabled evidence that is contradictory to the statements the member is making today. The member knows the evidence he tabled clearly shows the government's position was not to sell assets. Furthermore, witnesses before this House testified that there were no secret negotiations.

On the matter of openness and transparency, I don't know how much more open you can be than having witnesses before this House answering the member's questions.

Mr. McRobb: Oh, Mr. Speaker, this government lost the public trust about a year ago after it was revealed the Premier had engaged in secret parallel negotiations with a private company from Alberta to sell out Yukon's energy future. We know that several of the Premier's colleagues backed his secret negotiations while others stood by and allowed it to happen. Either way, they are all in it together.

The public we serve has a lot of unanswered questions about the extent of the Premier's secret involvement in these negotiations — negotiations for which he had no mandate from the public. We know the Premier's negotiations were top secret. Well, it's time to expose this secrecy. Let's get the answers. The Premier should have no problem testifying under oath. Again, will he call a public inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, speaking of “all in it together,” here we have the Liberal caucus once again providing this House with information that is not factual, and their own evidence points that out. Once again, we have the members making statements in this House that witnesses before this House clearly provided information to the contrary of the statements being made by the members opposite. They’re all in it together. They’ve changed their mind on civil forfeiture a couple of times in a two-day period.

Yes, the Liberal caucus is all in it together. Mr. Speaker, the matter of trust — it is an important issue for us elected people in terms of our public. The Liberal caucus is all in that together too, considering the information they bring before this House.

To the question of an inquiry, why doesn’t the Leader of the Liberal Party convene the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee and get to work?

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, is this the same government that promotes itself as being “open, accountable and transparent”? The reality is quite the opposite: closed, evasive and secretive. The Premier lost half the YEC board, his former right-hand man and the public trust over this scandal, yet he remains in hard denial.

Other ministers played a role, and the public wants to hear from them under oath about what they knew and why they didn’t try to stop it. The president of the Energy Corporation recently told this House that the Premier’s negotiations went far beyond rationalization. What’s the Premier hiding? Is he not willing to testify under oath in a public inquiry? Is that what this is about?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: You know, Mr. Speaker, now I think we know why the member has such an issue with the Yukon Development Corporation and its board members. The majority of those board members are the ones who didn’t quit.

I think the Member for Kluane has great issue with that fact — that those members of the board stayed and did their job. And here are the facts of the matter: the result of their efforts and the work of Energy, Mines and Resources and others has resulted in a significant investment in Yukon’s energy infrastructure. Obviously the Member for Kluane takes issue with that, too.

We’ll continue to do our work. If the member wants a public inquiry, get out there in the public and start making some formal accusations. Show some intestinal fortitude instead of hiding in here behind the immunity of this House.

Speaker: The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Notice of opposition private members’ business

Mr. Cardiff: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 14.2(3), I would like to identify the item standing in the name of the Third Party to be called on Wednesday, May 12. It is Motion No. 1092, standing in the name of the Member for Mount Lorne.

Mr. McRobb: In the interest of dealing more productively with other matters on the Order Paper, we will not be calling a motion for debate tomorrow.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 1065

Clerk: Motion No. 1065, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Hart.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to review policy and program options dealing with chronic inebriates by:

(1) forming a multi-disciplinary task force of front-line agencies comprised of representatives from the departments of Health and Social Services, Justice, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, Emergency Medical Services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Salvation Army to work with First Nation governments, social agencies involved with individuals with severe alcohol problems and addictions, physicians, the private sector and other organizations, both at the territorial and national levels, who have experience in addressing these issues; and

(2) investing \$201,000 under the northern strategy funding to develop a socially inclusive program dealing with chronic inebriates, examining all aspects of the problem, including facilities existing and needed, land-based treatment programs, scope of programming, legislation, current research, costs and access to cheap intoxicants.

Hon. Mr. Hart: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated previously, I have stood in this House and discussed this issue on several occasions, so therefore, today, I will read into the record my issue with regard to this motion and allow members here more than sufficient time to respond and get their items on record.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced a motion calling for the review of policy and program options dealing with the chronically inebriated by forming a multi-disciplinary task force made up of members with experience in dealing with individuals who are addicted to alcohol; and to invest \$201,000 from the northern strategy funding to develop a socially inclusive program that would deal with these individuals.

This matter has been brought to the forefront by two recent tragic events — the inquest into the death of Raymond Silverfox and the death last week of Robert Stone. Let me say at once: these were human beings, our fellow Yukoners. They loved and were loved. They were fathers and husbands. They will not be remembered for the way they died, or for their terrible dependencies. They will be remembered by the people who mattered to them, for the way in which they contributed to their lives. That includes, Mr. Speaker, my staff who did their best to assist them.

Alcohol played a major factor in the death of both of these men, in that both men had consumed high levels of alcohol prior to their deaths.

Mr. Speaker, public drunkenness has been on the rise in North America since the 1970s. During that decade, public inebriation was decriminalized by many legislatures and various rulings from courts, under pressure from civil rights activists and lawyers who argued that arrests were not solving the problem.

Unfortunately, here in Yukon, we have tended to rely on the police and the criminal justice system to manage the issue.

Public inebriation carries many costs to society. For years, numerous studies have documented the link between alcohol and violent behavior. More recently, scholars have begun to focus upon the connection between alcohol and criminal behavior.

According to a recent report by the National Centre on Addiction and Substance Abuse in the U.S., 21 percent of state prison inmates and 11 percent of federal inmates incarcerated for violent crimes were under the influence of alcohol only, at the time they committed their crime.

Aside from the human costs of homicide, suicide and disease, alcohol consumption also imposes dollar costs upon society. Problems associated with alcohol and other drugs cost this territory millions annually in terms of crime, social welfare programs, emergency and hospital care costs, support for non-government agencies who support these individuals; lost productivity, and so on, to say nothing of the suffering of individuals, their families and their communities, and sadly in too many cases, unnecessary deaths.

A 2006 Report from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse looked at the increase in the cost of substance abuse over a 10-year period, from 1992 to 2002. Another eight years down the road, and we can only imagine what those costs are today.

Alcohol abuse is a huge burden on both the health system and the justice system. In 2002, the cost of alcohol abuse on these systems alone was estimated at \$14.6 billion, up from \$7.5 billion 10 years earlier.

The number of deaths due to alcohol at the national level, increased 19.6 percent over 10 years; acute hospital days increased 160 percent in 10 years. This is at the national level. We have all read recently about the number of Yukon beds and emergency room visits by those individuals who are severely addicted to alcohol.

The biggest single direct cost driver associated with alcohol addiction is health care. This includes the cost of acute care or hospital or emergency room services, psychiatric hospitalization in some cases, specialized treatment, ambulatory care, doctors' fees and drugs prescribed to treat a substance abuse problem.

Things have changed. The 2006 report looked at both the acute and long-term impacts of alcohol abuse, including vehicle collisions and liver cirrhosis. In 1992, the largest cause of alcohol-attributable deaths was vehicle collisions, followed by alcoholic liver cirrhosis. In 2002, that was reversed, with cirrhosis leading the charge, according to the report titled *Cost of*

Substance Abuse in Canada 2002, by the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse.

The motion before you today for debate quite simply is a public call to seriously consider the options for dealing with the people in our communities who are struggling with alcohol dependence, and in particular those whose visible dysfunctions put themselves and others at risk.

We recognize that the alcohol dependence we see among this very small segment of our population is not simply a justice problem. It's not a criminal act, although it can be considered criminal when some have become so dependent they will commit crimes to get what they crave. Some see only that aspect of the problem, or the more obvious unpleasantness of public drunkenness. Indeed, many have become so inured to the behaviour that we no longer see it for what it is — desperate behaviour by desperate people who are enslaved by their addiction.

Alcoholism or alcohol dependence must be restated as a health issue and a societal issue, one that cannot be viewed or solved in isolation, and not one that is fundamentally criminal.

I have spent a good deal of time this past week thinking about this motion, discussing the issue with professionals, and considering solutions to the issues and problems that it identified, and I have come to realize that we may need to amend the motion.

This motion should not be so much about the chronically inebriated as it should be about the acutely intoxicated; and there is a difference, Mr. Speaker.

We are talking about people, Mr. Speaker — people who are acutely intoxicated. I have consulted with medical advisors on this, and we have discussed the need to ensure a client-focused, respectful approach to solutions is needed. Individuals who are acutely intoxicated need assistance in the moment; they are at risk in the moment. Those who are chronically inebriated face a long-term systemic problem, and at any given time could also be acutely intoxicated and could also benefit from aid, but of a different kind.

Our call for the establishment of a task force to review the issue is the next concrete step in finding solutions. Our medical advisors would like to have these solutions that we are debating today focused on acute issues.

Yes, we have the data from the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan*. We also have data from the 2005 Alcohol and Drug Survey. We have a lot of information available to us. What we need now is to pull together representatives of Health and Social Services, Justice, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, Emergency Medical Services, the RCMP, and the Salvation Army as a start.

We need to talk to doctors and nurses, and counsellors. We need to involve thoughtful people at the local and national level — First Nation governments, the City of Whitehorse, social agencies and front-line workers who are involved with individuals with severe alcohol problems and addictions and the private sector. I believe an important aspect of looking at addressing this issue is speaking to individuals who are afflicted with this addiction.

The second part of the motion calls for the investment of \$201,000 from the northern strategy funding to address the issue.

We need to use this to help us create a solution that is truly socially inclusive. We need to examine all aspects of the problem, including existing facilities and how they may better be deployed, as well as those that are needed to meet existing or future needs.

We need to look at land-based treatment programs and their ability to meet some aspects of this problem; we need to look at the scope of programming, legislation that exists and legislation that we might need to put in place, current research on best practices and the control of access to cheap intoxicants.

We are not the first jurisdiction to confront these issues. We do have the opportunity, however, to have the task force advise how best to employ other initiatives we have underway, such as the social inclusion strategy, the creation of a 10-year FASD plan, and the wellness strategy, to put forward strong respective supportive solutions that will ultimately benefit all Yukoners now and in the future.

The next steps that we take are important for future programming and policy making. We must make our decisions based on a comprehensive analysis of costs, both financial and societal and, above all, upon elemental principles of human decency.

The poet William Blake wrote that, if one is to do good, it must be done in the minute particulars. General good, he said, is the plea of the hypocrite. This motion is not about high-sounding and ultimately empty phrases. We want to put the task force to work to solve this problem, and that will mean careful attention to detail and, Mr. Speaker, real action. Real Action will result.

Alcohol addiction is an enduring problem that must be addressed on all fronts. It is a phenomenon that is unsurpassed in its complexity and we need to recognize the need for diverse solutions — not merely a new drunk tank in a new location, for example — but solutions that are built on a strong foundation of creative, effective and responsive thinking that will assist our fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, my colleague the Minister of Justice will propose amendments to strengthen the motion and to reflect what we heard from our medical professionals, and what we might hear from members opposite.

I look forward to the comments of the members in this House. I put forward the motion and hope that the members opposite support this motion so that we can move forward on this issue.

Mr. Mitchell: The motion really has two portions. The first says that this House urges the Government of Yukon to review policy and program options dealing with chronic inebriates, and then it lists a series of government departments, non-governmental organizations, both at and beyond the territorial level, to deal with it and, second, to invest a specific amount of money — \$201,000 — from the northern strategy. The minister has also indicated that his colleague will amend

his motion because he has rethought it somewhat since last week.

In the one hour since we started sitting this afternoon we've all heard emergency sirens go by this Legislative Assembly. It's more than likely that by the time we conclude today's sitting at 5:30 p.m., we'll hear those sirens go by at least two more times. And we now know statistically that it's most likely that at least one, if not more, of these emergencies will be alcohol-caused or alcohol-related.

So the problem, as the minister has clearly outlined, is very real and very prevalent in Yukon. The problem, as the minister has stated, is a human problem because it impacts our friends and neighbours and families, and it's a financial problem because it also impacts the resources that we have available to deal with all other issues in Yukon, insofar as the government can spend money.

The solutions, however, may be a little less obvious, but they're certainly not obscure or impossible because, as the minister also stated, this problem exists across North America and it's becoming an increasingly more prevalent and serious problem.

Now, we've heard a lot in recent days about this problem. It has been in the news in one fashion or another because, as was again pointed out this afternoon, first of all, the catalyst for there being this much debate within a short period of time in this Assembly has no doubt resulted from the recent coroner's inquest into the tragic death that occurred to Mr. Silverfox in December 2008 and the second very tragic death that occurred some nine days ago in our detox facility — Mr. Stone.

It is, I guess, only human that we react most to human tragedy when it becomes immediate, because we have all known about these problems, no doubt, since long before we were elected here. So the problem is not new, but I guess the focus is newer. If we come up with any good, progressive solutions based on this new emphasis, then perhaps there will be some benefit to their fellow Yukoners from the tragic deaths of those two individuals, both of whom dealt with issues of alcohol abuse and both of whom were eventually consumed by it either through their own actions or, in some cases, the actions of others.

Our system shows that incarceration is not the solution for intoxication of chronic inebriates. It also shows that we've been hearing lately from the head of the Yukon Medical Association that the medical system is being severely taxed by these individuals as well. Recently, the head of the Yukon Medical Association has spoken out publicly about this. He has spoken out about the fact that the emergency room at Whitehorse General Hospital is often overwhelmed by dealing with chronic inebriates. In an interview in the *Whitehorse Star* on May 4, under the headline, "Right now, we're in a desperate situation," the good doctor said, "Emergency room patients at Whitehorse General Hospital, there to be treated for severe intoxication, are overwhelming doctors, burdening the system, and ... endangering staff and other patients."

"Right now, we're in a desperate situation," the head of the YMA "said today of what emergency room doctors face each day and the lack of a facility to handle the city's chronic sub-

stance abusers.” He went on to say that there are 30 individuals who, each year, visit Whitehorse General Hospital’s emergency room more than 200 times and use ambulances like taxis. “Sometimes these individuals are coming in not once, but two and three times a day. This is quite a problem, and these individuals need help.”

“On average, one in four emergency room patients at Whitehorse General are severely intoxicated,” the president added, “which translates to between 15 and 20 such cases every day.”

According to the RCMP from this same article, “... prior to Silverfox’s death, the police called EMS or took a cells detainee to the hospital 174 times.”

“In 2009, that number skyrocketed to 417, and has surpassed 135 hospital visits or EMS calls for service fewer than five months into 2010.”

What we’re seeing is that our traditional medical system is overwhelmed dealing with this problem, to the disadvantage of the ability to care for other patients, and we’re seeing that the police are also overwhelmed by this problem. Certainly we know, based on recent events and simple common sense as well, that the RCMP are not really set up to deal with this problem. They are set up to arrest criminals. They are set up to try to keep the rest of the community safe from those who would commit harm to them and they are not really well-established for simply keeping people safe from themselves. Certainly, they are not in the position to provide treatment options to people other than to refer them to other agencies. In an article about health care utilization of chronic inebriates, from — I won’t read all the names, but from the adult services department in Minneapolis, Minnesota from 2002, from the Academy of Emergency Medicine: “Chronic inebriates often use emergency services, including the emergency department (ED), because they lack other resources or access to primary care. Because of their complicated medical needs, which are often exacerbated by acute intoxication and related illness or injury, a relatively small number of acutely intoxicated chronic inebriates can stretch ED resources and contribute to ED overcrowding in emergency rooms.”

So this is in fact a common occurrence in North American cities, and Whitehorse is no different, and Yukon is no different. In fact, we may be worse based on some Canadian statistics for alcohol consumption.

This scenario is what San Diego’s Serial Inebriate Program has researched and started on. A summary of the San Diego problem — the impact of 529 specifically identified individuals — homeless, alcoholic, usually with other medical and mental illnesses as well. From 2000 to 2003, 308 people, or 58 percent, were transported by EMS 2,335 times — sounds kind of familiar to what we’re hearing in Yukon. 409, or 77 percent, amassed 3,318 emergency department visits; 217, or 41 percent, required 652 hospital admissions, resulting in 3,361 inpatient days. Health care charges totalled \$17.7 million.

As a result, in San Diego, they started the Serial Inebriate Program. It was started in January of 2000 by the City and the County of San Diego. It was inspired by the San Diego Police Department and the city’s medical director for emergency

medical services. It was described as an “innovative effort now involving the City and County of San Diego, the San Diego Police and Sheriff’s Departments, the San Diego County Superior Courts, San Diego County Health and Human Services and Mental Health Systems, Inc. The program serves as a problem-solving effort to reduce the number of chronic, homeless alcoholics going in and out of Detoxification Centers, County Jail, and local emergency rooms through intervention and treatment.”

So it sounds familiar to what the minister speaks of, which is a cross-jurisdictional, cross-departmental and multi-organizational task force to try to address the problem.

The goals of the Serial Inebriate Program are to slow or stop the revolving door cycle of chronic alcoholics going in and out of detoxification centres, county jail, and emergency rooms; to divert this population off the street and into county-funded treatment programs; to significantly reduce the uncompensated costs, time constraints, and manpower burdens to San Diego County’s health care, law enforcement, and judicial infrastructure caused by homeless, chronic alcoholics; to give people who routinely live on the street an opportunity to create a stable mainstream lifestyle.

“Since its inception, SIP has secured tangible results that have improved the lives of program participants while reducing the burden taxpayers incur through police, hospital and emergency costs. 32 percent of clients entering the Serial Inebriate Program complete the program. Moreover, a study by the San Diego Police Department’s ... showed that individual arrests were down 12 percent, total arrests were down 33 percent, and arrests per person were down 25 percent for Serial Inebriate Program clients.” It goes on to talk about other savings.

How does this program work? Well, it works, but we’re not saying this is how one for the Yukon would work, but it’s one example.

In reviewing the literature — and there’s no lack of articles to review — there are some other pieces of information that are somewhat shocking. In an article on what’s available in Yukon — and this is an article that talks about all jurisdictions, from Canada’s drug rehab centres in the Yukon based on what’s occurring across the country, from the Canada drug rehab referral service — it says, “In Canada studies have been conducted by CCSA, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, which relay the following rather alarming facts regarding addictions to drugs or alcohol. Approximately 1,900 or 6.1 percent of people from the Yukon are binge drinkers, who regularly consume a harmful amount of alcohol and are dependent on alcohol. The same studies indicate that 1.8 percent or 550 from the Yukon are dependent on illicit drugs.”

It goes to say that, “There are approximately 2,500 people from the Yukon in need of detoxification, intervention, and drug rehab or alcohol rehabilitation programs, coupled with short term or long term after care.” It says, “There are no detox facilities and only 1 residential facility which can accommodate approximately 40 addicts bringing the total number of available Government funded beds to approximately 40 beds to be divided amongst the 2,500 that need treatment. Of the 11 facilities located in the Yukon 8 are out patient programs that offer

very little support to alcoholics and addicts. This is scarcely enough treatment to make a serious dent in the current addiction problem plaguing the Yukon Territory.”

Well, I am not going to pass judgement on what the article says because it is someone else’s article and we do have programs that do help people here, but clearly we’re not doing enough or we wouldn’t be coming back to constantly talk about this issue.

If we look in the budget, for the detox admissions total, based on a 10-bed capacity, the 2009-10 forecast was 518 and the estimate for this year is 543. For the 28-day in-patient treatment patient at the Sarah Steele shelter, the forecast for last year was 78 and the estimate for this year is 81. The numbers are significant but they are not close to matching the number of people who have been identified among our population as having the problems.

Another piece of information that talks about Whitehorse, Yukon, alcohol and drug rehab programs provides alcohol and drug prevalence rates, and this again is one that provides the information across the country.

For Yukon: alcohol, heavy frequent use in past year — Canadian average is 7.1 percent and the Yukon average is 10 percent. It goes on to say: cannabis use in past year, Canadian average 14.1 percent; Yukon 21 percent; cocaine and crack, Canadian average 1.9 percent; Yukon three percent. So we’re more than holding our own in substance abuse.

There was an article in the *Yukon News* on Friday, January 15, 2010. The reason I’m quoting from it is because, although we’ve had a tragic death recently and we’ve been reminded recently with a coroner’s inquest of the tragic death in December of 2008, the problem was identified long before this week, this month, this sitting. This article says, “Addiction treatment programs at the Sarah Steele building are in high demand — the centre is always full. The Yukon is a lush. And every year it’s getting worse. On December 23rd, the Whitehorse liquor store sold \$191,000 worth of booze. Christmas Eve was almost as lucrative, at \$163,000. And New Year’s Eve was the runner-up at \$144,000. In just three days, that’s half a million dollars worth of alcohol. People are either drinking more or celebrating more, said liquor store manager ...” and it identifies the individual.

“The liquor store broke records this year, with sales up 10 percent. Assuming the price of alcohol has gone up two or three percent, that is still a seven percent jump in consumption, he said.”

I know that we’ve often debated these numbers in Yukon and the minister responsible has often reminded us that it is not only a dollar figure — that the dollars may reflect rising costs, whereas the volume doesn’t always go up. No matter how we look at it, I think the minister will agree, we are consuming our fair share. I am not going to get into whether it is more than last year or not and that will save the minister some time in his response. It does go on in this article to say that when the liquor store manager’s “... regulars suddenly disappear he’s never sure if they’ve moved, had health problems or gone to treatment. But given the territory’s slim addiction-treatment op-

tions, Murphy doesn’t have to worry about losing too many customers.”

And it goes on to talk about the 28-day treatment programs at the Sarah Steele centre: “Each program can accommodate 12 clients, and women and men’s programs run alternately, with a two-week break between programs. A quick call to Alcohol and Drug Services on Thursday found the next women’s program doesn’t start until March 21. The next men’s program begins February 7. ‘And they’re always full,’ said the receptionist.”

In talking about this, the article says, “And even addicts who do manage to finish the four-week program often end up back at the counter, because there’s no transition housing available after the program ends.”

“‘The aftercare component is absolutely vital’, said Canadian Centre of Substance Abuse research and policy analyst Rebecca Jesseman, from Ottawa. In fact, many people argue the aftercare is more important than the 30-day treatment itself.”

So the only after-care available at Alcohol and Drug Services is one-on-one counselling after the 28-day program ends. For clients returning to communities outside Whitehorse, that counselling takes place over the phone. Well-intentioned though it be, I would imagine that it is very difficult to make long-term inroads with someone who is struggling with substance abuse with counselling that is done over the phone.

So we think we have heard it in this House before, and we hope that one result of today’s debate will be that the government will move toward establishing some longer term residential programs so that we can try to end the cycle of repeat participants whom the police deal with, the emergency room deals with, the Sarah Steele centre deals with.

I would ask the minister: why this government chose early in its mandate to cancel the existing alcohol and drug secretariat because that was a government secretariat, that was established in the spring of 2001, exemplifying the government’s commitment to more effectively addressing alcohol and other drug problems in the Yukon. There was an executive director hired in mid-September of that year, and there was an accountability plan outlining the commitment of the secretariat, in conjunction with other partners to reduce the harmful effects of substance abuse on Yukoners.

The programming areas for which the secretariat was responsible were the provision of detoxification, treatment and prevention services delivered both directly and in collaboration with a wide variety of partnering agencies, territorial government departments, municipal governments and First Nations.

So in fact, the Yukon government had established a secretariat to do the sort of cross-departmental, cross-agency and First Nation collaboration that they’re now talking about in this motion to examine and review policy and program options and perhaps reinstate them. It said that the implementation of the recommendations of the September 2000 review of alcohol and drug services would ensure that the extensive consultation process would be undertaken at that time and subsequently result in improved programs and services.

This is all from the accountability statement of the secretariat that then existed. I guess this is a problem that we see in government because governments change, and one government comes in and decides to change or end a program of a previous government and tries a new program. Then the next government comes in and changes again. The problem is the same and the solutions are probably fairly similar.

We know that from the publicity that came out of the recent inquest and the recent death, there was much discussion publicly by the president of the Yukon Medical Association and there was debate in this House about the fact that people who are chronically inebriated and heavily intoxicated have unique medical problems and that they're sometimes difficult to diagnosis. There is concern with having people treated in facilities that don't have the medical expertise there, which would indicate that if we establish a separate detoxification centre of some sort, we're either going to have to establish it and have highly trained medical personnel on-site or it's going to have to be established in close proximity to the existing hospital so the expert medical attention can be provided on very short notice, without competing with the other duties that are going on. That's why the head of the YMA was calling for an enlarged and improved emergency room.

One of the solutions that has been tried elsewhere — and it has been mentioned previously in this House, I think by either the Member for Mount Lorne or the Member for Whitehorse Centre; I'm not sure who raised it in previous debate — is that of wet or damp shelters. I will quote from an article on what's done in Alberta, from AADAC policy and business planning on wet and damp shelters: "To address the needs of people who are homeless, and to respond to issues related to public inebriation, wet shelters have been opened in a number of jurisdictions. These facilities allow alcohol consumption on premises (in managed doses or in specific areas). They are meant to accommodate people who are disadvantaged and would otherwise avoid accessing a shelter or similar service, sometimes because they would have to relinquish their alcohol (i.e., individuals will often drink every thing they have, rather than 'wasting it' before entering a drop-in or overnight shelter). Those who choose not to enter a shelter often run the risk of exposure to extreme weather conditions, assault on the street, alcohol poisoning, or the substitution of non-beverage for alcohol products. Although evaluation of wet shelter services is still limited, studies have shown that they help clients reduce their overall alcohol consumption, improve hygiene, nutrition and health status, decrease time in prison, provide connections to community services including stable housing options and reduce per client expenses for emergency services."

Mr. Speaker, we're all familiar with the safe-injection sites, for example, in the City of Vancouver. We are familiar with the programs that are done under the auspices of Many Rivers, including the van that now is available five or six nights a week. There is distribution of "safe crack pipes", which is a term that seems like an oxymoron — a safe crack pipe — but it's done because of the principle of harm reduction. I guess the example would be that these wet shelters are a form of harm reduction. The goal eventually might be to have everybody quit

binge drinking and severe intoxication but the secondary goal would certainly be to at least try to prevent too much harm from coming to those people who are still struggling with these addictions.

Two Canadian cities are cited in this report. The managed alcohol program in Ottawa is a 23-bed shelter for homeless people addicted to alcohol. Clients are provided alcohol on an hourly basis. A similar program exists at Seaton House in Toronto. It's a 140-bed facility for men living on the street who have difficulty accessing shelter services due to difficult behaviours, mental illness or severe alcohol and drug problems. Clients are provided beer while staying at the annex and can exchange non-beverage — for example, mouthwash and Lysol — for beverage alcohol. Although these programs are often referred to as "wet shelters", both have specific criteria for admission and are more comprehensive in the scope of services offered than a traditional shelter. That is, they provide medical, mental health, and social service on-site or through direct referral.

The other ones that have been talked about — I believe there's one in Winnipeg and certainly the Seattle experiment that was started by an advocate, an executive director by the name of Bill Hobson. I'll quote from the project 1811 Eastlake — its part of a movement called "Housing First".

I will come back to that, because this issue of housing — these issues, we keep treating them, as I have said before, in silos. We talk about affordable housing one Wednesday in motion debate and then we talk about the problems of how people are treated in cells on another Wednesday, and then we talk about dealing with chronic inebriates on a third Wednesday. All the evidence indicates that having affordable housing and some place to call home does improve one's chances for ending the cycle of alcohol abuse and severe and chronic inebriation.

Back to the article from the *Seattle Times*, it said that the home for alcoholics was a harder sell than it was for other housing projects. DESC Executive Director Bill Hobson said, "It was perceived that we were opening a party house where individuals addicted to alcohol were going to be allowed to drink, run amok and generally set their hair on fire. That didn't happen. Right from the start, the benefits of their approach started showing up, and a University of Washington study released this week" — and "this week" refers back some time ago to when this article was published — "gives the project even more credibility and may help spread the Housing First approach."

Briefly, the project involved chronically homeless alcoholics. These were people who had been homeless for at least the past three years and were among the most costly, in terms of the government services they used. Ninety-five were housed in the project. Another group on a waiting list was used for comparison. For each resident of 1811, taxpayers were saved \$2,449 a month in the first half-year and the savings kept going up the longer people were in the housing. There were fewer trips to Harborview Medical Centre, fewer nights in jail. Not only that, alcohol consumption dropped by one-third.

The article says later that the participants had gone through treatment programs an average of 16 times without changing

their habits before this program. Having a home matters. The solution was there all along. No wizardry necessary. All we had to do was open our eyes and see it.

Another article — this is from the Substance Abuse Policy Research Program referring to this same program in this description — sorry, it was published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, or JAMA.

“The study found that the program saved taxpayers more than \$4 million over the first year of operation. During the first six months, even after considering the cost of administering housing for the 95 residents in a Housing First program in downtown Seattle, the study reported an average cost-savings of 53 percent — nearly \$2,500 per month per person...” So it does say that there are ways to do better.

It goes on to say that the findings suggest that stable housing provided to people who are still drinking and addicted to alcohol can reduce their use of crisis services and ultimately their consumption of alcohol. And the Housing minister, I can see, is paying close attention.

The two are related and the solutions will likely be a joint solution.

I have a lot more information on this, but I’m not going to read it all because I know there are others who want to get into the debate, but it’s something that’s also being looked at by the City of Anchorage. As I’ve said, there has been much done also in Winnipeg.

One thing I do want to mention, in terms of the Main Street project in Winnipeg: they have something called “Operated in cooperation with Winnipeg Police Service, the Intoxicated Persons Detention Area (IPDA) provides a safe and secure environment for individuals detained under the *Intoxicated Persons Detention Act*.”

This 20-unit facility closely monitors individual detainees for up to a maximum of 24 hours or until such time as they are deemed safe to be released into the community.

It goes on to talk about video surveillance, so this is not a treatment program or a detoxification centre in the same sense as the others; this is really a safe detention centre, as opposed to using cells. It’s closely supervised and also has the availability of medical expertise — just another way in which this can be done. Elsewhere in the Main Street Project they have Mainstay, which has 28 rooms designed to allow for up to 34 residents at any one time.

I’ve got enough articles here that if I wanted to I could read from them all afternoon, but I think that the point has been made and others will no doubt want to get into the debate. We would support the first part of this motion, which is the multi-disciplinary task force, but we would hope that this time we set something up that carries forward and doesn’t just carry forward for awhile until another issue seems to have grabbed our attention.

In terms of the second part of the motion “investing \$201,000 under the northern strategy funding to develop a socially inclusive program dealing with chronic inebriates, examining all aspects of the problem including facilities existing and needed, land-based treatment programs, scope of programming,

legislation, current research, costs and access to cheap intoxicants.”

I believe this was first announced some seven months ago, which does beg the question of why are we incorporating it into a motion now when it was previously announced that this was going to be done. One would have thought from the previous announcements that it was already being done, but if this source of funding will support moving forward, then so be it. Good.

I guess, in conclusion, we know there is a problem. I think we have all known it for a long time, and the temperature on the problem has been raised due to recent events. If the minister has his colleagues’ support in moving forward expeditiously with this cross-departmental approach, then we wish them all success in doing so, and we hope that we won’t have to debate this sort of thing too many more times because we’ll actually have accomplished some improvements and helped to find a better solution for the people who are currently suffering and the people whom the emergency medical personnel see on a constant basis and the people whom the head of the Yukon Medical Association spoke of impacting so heavily on other services. Let’s come back to this House next year and talk about the successes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hardy: Yesterday I was sitting in a chair outside my house in the afternoon. A vehicle pulled up and stopped and the people in the vehicle commenced to drink quite a bit. The language got quite animated — enough so that I could hear it quite easily. It was in front of my house.

The day before, I was woken up at 2:00 in the morning with young people on the trail that runs by my house. Their volume and their language was very distressing. This is a common occurrence in many of our communities in which people drink, and drink large quantities of alcohol. It’s a situation we’ve had for many years.

As a matter of fact, it’s a situation we’ve had since humans discovered alcohol — or learned how to make alcohol — so we’re looking at over a thousand years; yet today in our society we’re still trying to find solutions to the problems that arise from the severe consumption of alcohol and the addictions that people develop when they drink.

Ursula Franklin is a Canadian woman who’s very well known in the world for many aspects of her life. Recently at a Massey lecture, she talked about the language of oppressors. I want to make it very clear that no one in here is an oppressor, but it was an interesting perspective that she took. She’s a social activist but she’s also a geologist; she has other degrees — as a chemist — so it’s very interesting that she also engages in a very strong social activist role. The concern she has is that the people who are being oppressed can often take on the language of the oppressor, which does them no good. Listening to it, it made me reflect back upon government after government, over many, many years, changing the language and how they deal with people. I saw it many years ago in Social Services, in how they stop talking about people and more about customers or clients.

That is incorrect. Now, I do understand that there might be a change in the language that is used in this motion. I am hoping that there will be some movement toward that. I have to say and put on record very clearly that I find the term “chronic inebriates” one of those changes in how we describe a person as very inhumane.

It takes and it strips the person of their human dignity, and I don't think anybody means it to be that way, whether the language came forward from a department or a study, whether the minister said it or not, whether myself recognizing that's what was being used, and whether the member who just spoke before me used it. The fact is that these are human beings and this is not the way they want to be labelled — as “inebriates”.

So we need to be very careful on our language, and we need to ensure that we put in place language that speaks to the dignity of a human being, language that recognizes that these are people who have severe addictions.

In the motion, it is very interesting because the first part of the motion says, “individuals with severe alcohol problems and addictions”. In the second part of the motion, it says, “chronic inebriates”. I don't understand why the change, why the labeling in that sense. They are still individuals with severe alcohol problems and addictions. I hope that, in the course of today, an amendment will come forward that may address that.

Each of these people we are trying to help have addictions that they cannot stop, and there is no question about it, the approaches that we have tried to make them stop or help them stop, in most cases — a very high percentage — have failed. At some point, we do need to recognize that the addiction is greater than what we as a government, we as a society, are capable of dealing with, and we must accept the fact that this person has an addiction that overwhelms their strength as well as confounds the ability of the society to assist them to stop.

When we get to that point, then we are able to help them — when we recognize that. There have been many examples listed. It was only a week or so ago that there were some questions asked in the Legislative Assembly when we talked about wet shelters, damp shelters and different approaches that are being used in many of the cities across Canada, as well as around the world. We recognize that this is an addiction that these people will have to live with for the rest of their lives so how do we help them manage that addiction to allow them to become part of society again and not be an outcast because of that addiction?

I believe when we as a society are able to do that then we will be successful, not just on the severe alcohol problems people face, but on many fronts. There are things that we cannot stop but there are ways that we can change the behaviour or manage the behaviour and the addictions that people face in their life.

The solution is not always jail. The solution is not always a complete withdrawal from society, from the addiction. So maybe we need to recognize in our society — because this is a thousand-year old problem — that this will always be with us and how best do we manage it.

I believe that the motion by the minister is good on one level. I would like to make a correction here. I just noticed it. I

never noticed it earlier. But the preamble to the part of the motion, just before the first part, also uses “chronic inebriates” and again, I don't understand where that has come from, but I do hope we deal with that.

But, if the approach that is going to be used by the multi-disciplinary task force is recognizing the fact that people are so addicted they can't break the cycle that they're in and we must find solutions to help them, then I think we will be successful. If all it is, once again, to try to find ways to get them to stop, I suspect we will be back here in 10 years having the same discussion all over again with a very little success rate.

Now, there has been a lot of discussion around land-based treatment programs. I think that's part of the package that needs to be offered. Programming, legislation, current research, costs, access to cheap intoxicants — all those are part of what needs to be researched. The list of people who will be involved in regard to the multi-disciplinary task force needs to be expanded a little bit. I don't see nurses listed on there, just as one example. Yet, nurses are often at the front line in dealing with people who are over at the hospital getting assistance on a regular basis.

We heard about that very recently too, and I won't go very long on that. I believe I only have 20 minutes, don't I? Thank you. I don't have a lot of time to go into all this, and I don't think people in the Legislative Assembly need me to do it because this is a situation we have talked about for so many years and one that truly needs a focused response to it.

We should have some timelines around the motion, if possible, understanding this task force will be engaged with the communities outside of Whitehorse. Maybe these are some of the questions that the minister can answer when he stands up. Maybe he has answered them already. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to hear his response, as I had to take care of some other issues, so I was out of the Legislative Assembly for a bit. I believe I'm allowed to acknowledge myself being out — thank you — and I will admit to it openly.

I remember a few years ago, I think it was four years ago, that we did a substance abuse summit and we had guest speakers and many people involved.

I hope that the work that was done and the recommendations that were brought forward are part of the work that will be used by the task force to continue to build on. There have also been other reviews that have been done, such as a Yukon drug and alcohol survey — the evaluation by Corliss Burke, which I think was a very good evaluation and something that needs to be part and parcel of what we're talking about today — and the community consultations that the Yukon Bureau of Statistics has engaged in regard to this. We need to look at how it ties in with our Justice department and connect all the departments in dealing with chronic addictions, recognizing the costs to our society, the cost to the individual, the cost to the families, and the costs, of course, to the communities and all people around them.

We need to do it with compassion. We must see people with addictions as human beings with rights, just unfortunately addicted — seriously addicted — to a substance that destroys lives, that causes huge hardship in families, that often is some-

thing that influences our children and the actions of our children and we see a cycle go on and on from generation to generation.

What we need to remember is that, though we talk about shelters, though we talk about people with severe alcohol addictions, we are talking about those who we see obviously, as I started my talk, the ones who pull up in front of my house, the ones up in the trail, the ones who are obvious, the ones we see on the streets, the ones who are being cared for by many of the NGOs in town or attempted to care for them, to ensure that they have safe housing or a place to stay at night.

Though we see those, let's not blind ourselves to the fact that it's happening within families. It's a serious problem. There are a lot of hidden issues, a lot of hidden drinking, tragedies that exist that we don't see on a regular basis. It could be within our neighbourhood, it could be our neighbours who are struggling, and their family struggling, with it.

Let's not fall down the trap of thinking only of the very obvious ones in our society who cannot break the cycle of this addiction, but the ones who are hidden, as well. When we plan and design these programs — prevention, detoxification, treatment, after-care, management — that we may be doing it for many of our neighbours, many of our friends. We must take away the stigma that it's something to be ashamed of, but the recognition that it's an addiction and there is help available.

It is so important to remove the stigma of shame in order to help somebody to move forward. As long as they feel the shame of their actions, many of them will stay hidden and try to hide it from everybody else.

So language is important, how we deliver the programs, who we talk to in developing the programs, who is involved in all that and then finally the total commitment that we can make as people who are elected to represent and help our society, the decisions that we make that ultimately will address many of the challenges that we face in our society, especially around this very tragic situation that people find themselves in and how it affects our society as a whole.

So ultimately we want to bring them back into this society and be part of it, whether they still need assistance with their addictions for the rest of their life or not, but make sure that they are part of our society and respected within it. I know that is extremely important. I know that is extremely important because I see it every day and I talk to those people and it is absolutely astounding sometimes learning their background and yet seeing where they are at that moment and thinking, what happened and where did it go wrong, and why can't they make the change and why do we not have things in place that will bring them along and assist them?

So I see my time is up. I look forward to the work that is going forward on this. There are many details that I would have liked to have known more about. I am sure they will be coming out. I believe everybody in this Legislative Assembly wants to see a change in the situation. Hopefully we can work together and make that happen. Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I would like to open my comments today and thank the Member for Whitehorse Centre for his

thoughtful comments on Motion No. 1065. I do think it is imperative that we put this motion's focus in the context of a broad response. This motion is focusing on a small number of individuals whose addiction issues bring them into contact with many different agencies within our common client undertaking.

I would then like to talk about our government's response, including what we are doing in the Department of Justice to respond to this issue. By far, the largest driver of crime in the Yukon is substance abuse. If we are going to create a better quality of life, we must address substance abuse and the substance most abused is alcohol.

Four years ago, we committed to Yukoners to implement the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* through initiatives relating to four strategic directions: harm reduction, prevention and education, treatment and enforcement. Let me share with you some of the areas our government, through this budget, supports.

We have been and are continuing to work on increasing our support in communities for initiatives related to after-care, treatment, harm reduction and prevention. We have increased our training for staff who work with offenders in communities or at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. We provide counselling for children in homes where there have been incidences of violence. Our goal is to break the generational cycle of abuse so the children of abusive parents are shown a better way to resolve conflict.

We are working with community partners in the area of addiction issues to provide counselling, support and after-care. We published a resource directory for Yukon communities to develop an inventory of programs, services and resources related to substance abuse and the social supports that are available in each Yukon community.

In partnership with Health and Social Services, we are continuing to implement the in-patient alcohol and drug treatment programs offered at the Sarah Steele treatment centre. Along with Health and Social Services we are working with First Nation governments to develop more treatment centres and programs throughout the territory in order to support the operation of the Community Wellness Court.

Mr. Speaker, my department has been very focused and thus very effective as a result. First we did the consultation on corrections, and then we developed the new correctional philosophy, then the new *Corrections Act*. Work is now underway to support the new philosophy and the new act in terms of a new correctional and treatment facility, as well as a land-based treatment option. We have developed the Yukon Community Wellness Court to deal with offenders with drug or alcohol addictions, symptoms of FASD and mental issue. This court provides a therapeutic alternative that supports offenders so they don't re-offend.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that is deeply important to me. It was for this reason that I gave notice of Motion No. 832, that this House urges the Government of Yukon to explore the concept of a multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with the complex needs of chronic substance abusers. Simply housing people for a few day or months is not going to deal with their substance abuse issues. In many cases the trauma that they ex-

perience was inflicted over a long period of time. We aren't going to undo years of systemic institutional abuse in 12 hours, 24 hours or even 28 days. We have to do treatment and programming.

On December 3, 2008, I spoke to Motion No. 496 regarding the Prime Minister's apology to residential school survivors. At that time I said the following, "Indeed, we have a great deal of work yet ahead with those who have been affected negatively with drugs and alcohol to escape the indignities, degradation and low self-esteem. We cannot take back or magically erase those atrocities, but we now have to move forward and not prolong the pain." Each one of us has experienced pain in our lives, but some of us shoulder a much heavier burden than others. Mr. Speaker, I meant what I said in December 2008, and I meant what I said the other day when I spoke about the trauma inflicted by residential schools. I can understand why some people turn to alcohol to deal with pain. My goal, Mr. Speaker, which is shared by my colleagues on this side of the Assembly, is to move forward.

Since taking office, Mr. Speaker, addressing substance abuse and the devastating consequences it has in our society — especially our families — has been my guiding priority. As I said in my reply to the throne speech some three and a half years ago, the fact is that we have people in our communities who have substance abuse problems. They have problems with addictions to drugs and to alcohol. These people are our neighbours, our friends and our families. We will not tolerate inappropriate behaviour, but the solution is not to build a bigger warehouse so we can lock more people up for longer periods of time; the responsible thing is to help these people. I can tell you that, in the Department of Justice, we have been reforming the way we do corrections to focus more on offender accountability, treatment and healing. We have come completely reworked the way we do corrections. We conducted an extensive consultation on corrections. We developed a new philosophy of corrections. We then developed a new *Corrections Act* and a new correctional and treatment centre. We developed and implemented the Community Wellness Court, which is directly aimed at helping people with multiple issues like mental health, FASD and addictions.

An in-depth wellness plan is tailored to the needs of the individual client following several assessments. The wellness journey can take up to 18 months before sentencing and may include the following: individual or group therapeutic counselling and treatment; assistance with employment, housing or other basic needs; medical assistance, including psychiatric services; assistance from agencies, such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon, Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services; intensive supervision and support by a probation officer working closely with a client on their wellness journey; and working on building family and community supports.

The budget allocated for the Community Wellness Court is \$574,591 per year. This includes staff, salaries and contract resources. A year ago, we approved funding to extend this pilot project for another three years. We have also been working with First Nations to address their concerns. In our platform in 2006, we committed to work with First Nation governments,

communities and NGOs and others to provide access to land-based camps, treatment centres for inmates at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and offenders supervised in the community.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a long-term goal of our government. I was pleased to see the announcement on Friday, May 7, that plans for a traditional land-based healing program are now underway following the signing of a \$300,000 northern strategy trust fund agreement by the Yukon government and the KDFN.

The aim of the land-based treatment camp will be to help people with addictions by using traditional as well as modern healing techniques and by reconnecting participants with the natural world.

The project builds on the therapeutic community resource feasibility study that was conducted jointly by KDFN and the government, and was supported by the northern strategy trust fund in 2007. In my travels, both as minister and as the MLA for Pelly-Nisutlin, I have spoken many times, including with First Nation leaders, about the need for land-based treatment. Perhaps because our territory's population is so small, it seems like we know most of the people who pass away from alcohol. As I said the other day, I can think of people who have died far too young because of substance abuse.

Helping those struggling with addictions connect with treatment is personally very important to me. I can understand some of the pain that they carry and I want to see them find the help they need to find health, hope and healing. From a government perspective, I think it is fair to say that managing people with severe alcohol problems is taxing the social, legal and health services system in the Yukon.

Several years ago, our government undertook to look at the way resources were assessed. What we found was that a small number of citizens absorb a great deal of government resources. In looking at this issue, I didn't want — and I still don't want — to see a system that creates a lifetime of dependency. I wanted to ensure that we help individuals enter and migrate through the system and exit our social safety-net system.

We see the same individuals accessing government services provided by the justice system, the social services system, the health care system and our housing support network. Based on our direction, officials in Justice and Health received joint funding from the northern strategy trust to undertake research on alternative for dealing with chronic inebriation.

The overarching objective is to find effective approaches that will reduce criminalization of substance abuse problems, reduce alcohol and drug abuse and its negative effects in our community. As we have been talking about chronic inebriation, the reality is that the chronic part is often years or decades long. Many Canadian jurisdictions are trying to address the root causes and the revolving-door reality of people with chronic alcohol and drug abuse.

Looking forward, I firmly believe that this is one issue that is so very broad. It cannot be the initiative of only one department or of only one agency. We need to continue to build on the multi-disciplinary approach of drawing up the talents of

many agencies, which is the approach we have taken with this substance abuse action plan. In my conversations with my colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services, we have spoken often about the ways to address this issue. I know that he has been speaking with members of the medical community who have advised him that, given the complexity of the broad issue of chronic inebriation, a task force on the smaller aspect of the issue would be more effective.

The Minister of Health and Social Services and I agree that we should focus our discussion on acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves or others. We should have the task force send a report to the minister on their activities.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Ms. Horne: I move a friendly amendment which is as follows:

THAT Motion No. 1065 be amended by deleting the words “chronic inebriates” wherever they appear and replacing them with the words “acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves or others”; and

By adding the following clause after section (2):

“THAT the task force provide a report to the Minister of Health and Social Services on or before December 31, 2010, and that the Minister shall table that report at the commencement of the 2011 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly.”

Thank you.

Speaker: The amendment is in order. I’ll read the motion into the record.

THAT Motion No. 1065 be amended by deleting the words “chronic inebriates” wherever they appear and replacing them with the words “acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves or others;” and

By adding the following clause after section (2):

THAT the task force provide a report to the Minister of Health and Social Services on or before December 31, 2010 and that the minister shall table that report at the commencement of the 2011 spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly.”

Mr. Inverarity: I’m not quite sure where to begin on the amendment. My intention was to speak to the main motion and maybe, in the interest of time, I can speak to the amendment, along with covering off some of the points that I had regarding the main motion, thereby moving things along today.

I guess where I’m at is, if we look at the motion itself — I had a brief conversation with the member from the Third Party here just before the amendment was tabled, and they were looking at something along the same lines. I’m a little concerned about acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves and others now as opposed to the term “chronic inebriate.”

I found it interesting and, while I appreciate the position of the Leader of the Third Party, who had found that the term was perhaps not as wholesome a term as could be found, I’m not sure that “acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves or others” is necessarily as good a description as could

be used. On the other hand, I don’t think “drunks” is an applicable word, either.

So I think we need to come up with some — I guess in the interest of doing things — term that basically refers to people who are acutely intoxicated. I would say that if the member had said “acutely intoxicated persons at risk,” I probably wouldn’t have any problems with it because that would certainly lend itself to being all-encompassing.

I know that in the research I had done today in preparation for this motion that the term “chronic inebriate” appears quite frequently in discussions of this topic to our neighbours to the west of us, Alaska. In fact, it’s so well used that not only do the police refer to individuals that they’re picking up as chronic inebriates, but those that are being picked up refer to themselves as chronic inebriates. The term over there has a positive connotation as opposed to just being called “intoxicated persons” or “drunks” or whatever you want to call them.

The first one is an interesting way because really what we’re trying to deal with here are people who have drunk too much and may be at risk of harming themselves but may not be. Frequently — and I know that in the discussion of wet houses, as they are sometimes called — and the leader of the opposition referred to today — that a lot of these individuals aren’t harming anybody, other than their physical body in terms of drinking, but you know a lot of times they are quite placid.

On the second issues with regard to the amendment that the task force provide a report to the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it goes on with a timeframes and everything else, I am actually quite pleased to see also, as I was going to bring up that particular issue myself. These open-ended motions that we have a tendency to get into can get lost within the discussions and I think that it is important that we set some time limits on this so that we have goals and objectives that we can certainly achieve — and that is always a positive thing to do, Mr. Speaker.

I think that as we get into this particular motion, I mean in terms of both the first and second, overall, I would say that it is probably acceptable. As I said, I think the issue around harming them themselves and others could have been dropped because the individuals are at risk.

Just as I may get into this motion, I’ve talked about the chronic inebriate term. I think we need to come up with something, if we’re not happy with that particular one, and find some purpose behind it. I think what I might do — I’m not sure if there are other amendments coming forward, so what might be adequate at this time, because I do want to speak on this to a larger issue to address all the points that have been brought forward, both by the Minister of Justice and the other individuals here, so I might save my general debate for what might be considered the main motion, as amended. Perhaps if it’s amended again, we can deal with that.

So I don’t think I’m going to speak at any length to the larger issue of the primary motion.

Mr. Cardiff: On the amendment, I think the amendment improves the motion, Mr. Speaker. We had intended to bring forward an amendment ourselves. We felt that the term

— that there had to be a better expression than using “chronic inebriates.” I think it speaks to the fact that, as my colleague said earlier, these are individuals. They are individuals with severe addictions to alcohol and drugs.

But I do have some questions. The other thing about the amendment I believe addresses one of the other concerns that we had, and that was the time frame for the review. This basically tasks the task force with doing its work within a set timeline. I think it’s important that there is a timeline on the work because this is important. As has been mentioned before, there is some urgency to this issue and there’s much work that has already been done through the substance abuse summit and the substance abuse action plan. There were other reviews of programs and services that deal with alcohol and drug addictions here in the Yukon.

I believe the opportunity — and a lot of the work that the task force might be doing; I’m not suggesting this is what they should do, but this is something they could do. It might be a good starting point — is to review work that has been done in the past 10 years here in the Yukon on this very issue.

Some other concerns — I notice the representatives who will comprise the task force are listed in the body of the main motion. I feel it would be beneficial to include others.

I’m not going to propose an amendment to the amendment or an amendment to the main motion on this issue but I think that it is something that needs to be considered in conducting this review. Number one is the individuals themselves, because the individuals who have severe alcohol problems or addictions are often the ones who can tell you the most what is going to help them. I just think that you need to delve a little deeper. There are other professionals such as nurses. I raised this previously with the minister, I believe, in another discussion we were having in budget debate last week. I would be interested in knowing from the minister — and I may have to ask at a later time — exactly how the task force is going to carry out its work.

That’s not clear in the motion or the amendment as to how they are going to carry out their work. Are they going to involve those who are directly involved in the programs that are going to be reviewed? I’m speaking about the patients, the individuals. Are they going to speak with the public and get their ideas? Much of that work, as I said earlier, has already been done.

The other question I would have is, when we talk about acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves or others, do we include those with drug addictions or dual addictions? Some people are addicted to more than one thing. They’re not just addicted to alcohol. They may be addicted to other things. It could be prescription drugs, or non-prescription drugs.

It is my understanding that this is one of the areas where more work needs to be done. There are issues around the admission of persons with dual addictions into some of the programs and services that are currently available in the Yukon. How do we make this best address the need of our community and the needs of those who are, in many instances, most in need?

I’m going to leave it there with regard to that, but I’d like to know from the minister what range of program options the task force is going to review. Are they going to look at prevention? Are they going to look at detoxification and treatment? Are they going to look at the necessity for after-care?

When we look at things like prevention or harm reduction initiatives, the harm reduction approaches are somewhat newer than what has been practised previously. I believe that we need to look at things like detoxification. Most importantly I think we need to look at after-care because it is one thing — I think that is where, in a lot of cases, the current system seems to fall down. There is no follow-up with people who come in and who have sought treatment and who want to make a difference and a change in their life and in their lifestyle.

As so many people would tell you, myself included, it is pretty easy to backslide. It is one thing to try and kick an addiction, to get off a substance that you’re addicted to, but to stay off it is not an easy matter. It’s real easy to backslide and that’s why I think the programs that the task force is going to be reviewing and looking at and making recommendations on need to consider all of the options like prevention, detoxification, treatment and after-care.

As I indicated earlier, the amendment to the motion changes the term that we had a problem with — we had some concerns with — that being the term “chronic inebriates.” It has been suggested that we replace that with “acutely intoxicated persons at risk of harming themselves or others.” As I raised a little earlier, I wanted to ensure that this did not exclude people, that it still would include a full range of individuals and citizens of the community who require treatment, specifically around drug addictions and dual addictions.

As to the second part of the amendment, I welcome the setting of timelines and the fact that there will be a deadline and a report actually issued to the minister and that the report would be tabled at the commencement of the 2011 spring sitting. I guess the only thing I would ask the minister is: we all know that there is usually a fairly long time between the new year and the first day of the spring sitting. It could be as much as two and a half to three months. So what I would ask the minister is if he would agree to making the report available to members of the Legislative Assembly and the public as soon as possible and, if possible, before the spring sitting — it’s possible to make it available publicly, but still table it in the Legislature, as with other reports that we receive from time to time here in the Legislative Assembly.

We support the amendment with the proviso that we can get clarification that there’s no limiting of the programs that will serve individuals and it will be a broad look at treatment and after-care, harm reduction, prevention and detoxification.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you to the Premier for having the patience to let others speak.

On the amendment, I’ve listened to what others have said and I can see the benefit of substituting the words “acutely intoxicated persons” for “chronic inebriates”. I’m a little concerned that the qualifier, “at risk of harming themselves or others”, is a subjective description, and I don’t know how one de-

cides immediately whether someone is at risk of harming themselves or others. If we want to deal with the problems of people who are acutely intoxicated, then I think that would have been sufficient just to say that, but I'm not going to try to change it. The wording is all right.

I would just say that we're now getting to a report by the end of this year, at which point this government will have been in office for more than eight years in its two terms. We did previously have, with quite a lot of fanfare, the *Substance Abuse Action Plan* brought forward, yet here we are now, quite a number of months later, still trying to address this issue. I hope this leads to more than another report, because we all have a lot of reports on our shelves. We hope this actually leads to real action to make change.

Other than that, I do have a question for the minister when he's next on his feet, because in first describing this motion when he first tabled it, the minister said, "We will be looking at those possibilities to see if, in fact, Mr. Speaker, we can utilize some of those facilities. But it's very apparent that we will have to put some sort of legislation in place sometime in the immediate future in order to ensure we can deal with inebriates in a public place." I would be interested in the minister expanding on what he meant by the need for more legislation as opposed to what actions can be taken within the existing legislation, which might mean that they could occur sooner rather than later.

With that, we will be supporting the amendment, as we understand the problems with the term "chronic inebriates", and it is good that at least there is a timeline on this, albeit we'll be eight years into this government's term. Thank you.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question on the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Hart: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: Agree.

Mr. Nordick: Agree.

Mr. Mitchell: Agree.

Mr. Fairclough: Agree.

Mr. Inverarity: Agree.

Mr. Hardy: Agree.

Mr. Cardiff: Agree.

Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 15 yea, nil nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the amendment carried.

Amendment to Motion No. 1065 agreed to

Speaker: Is there any debate on the main motion as amended?

Mr. Inverarity: Okay, let's get into the main amended motion now. I alluded to some discussion about it. I guess we can now call them "acutely intoxicated persons" rather than "chronic inebriates", although I have to point out that virtually all of the information that I had done my research on continues to refer to them as individuals who are acutely intoxicated as "inebriates". I think that, as we get into the discussion here this afternoon, we will see that it's probably not that bad of term, personally. I would like to highlight some points actually that I'd like to discuss today.

First of all, last evening, I was out for dinner at a local Chinese restaurant with about 50 friends and as I was walking about the tables, an OR nurse stopped me and said, "Don," — and I'm not really sure about all this stuff about forming task forces and forming committees and looking at this, really what needs to be done is people need to come and talk to people on the front lines, the nurses. This particular one was an OR nurse and she says, "I'm confronted with this every day — people coming in who are intoxicated, who are brought over to the hospital." I'm sure that the RCMP has a similar point of view and they probably know the answers to these questions. Certainly, the ones that we're going to be raising through this task force may in fact have already been answered, and answered any number of times if one looks up some of the papers from other jurisdictions.

One that my colleague here cited earlier, which was a serial inebriate program that was done by San Diego — and just a brief look at some of the research shows that any number of jurisdictions have confronted this problem. This problem is not unique to the Yukon. However, what was interesting was that, in their particular program that they had — and I'll just read this here. I will paraphrase it a bit. It says that serial inebriate program or SIP is an intervention treatment program which offers homeless, chronic inebriates alcohol treatment and wrap-around services with transitional living and permanent housing placement assistance in lieu of jail — and that's really important to talk about: in lieu of jail.

As we get into this, it's important that these individuals don't belong necessarily in jail — not in total, but perhaps most of them don't. I'm quoting again: "... with the goal of reducing the number of people cycling through the detoxification centers, County jail, local emergency rooms and treatment. SIP is carried out through a collaboration of County, City and non-profit agencies."

When I say "great" — I don't know how you can refer to these numbers as "great", but they're significant in that by going through some sort of alternative program to arrest them and put them in drunk tanks, we can see some real benefit to introducing new and innovative ways of dealing with chronic inebriates. "Since 2000, the participant outcomes included the

following:” 32 percent of those who were taken in had completed treatment, EMS contacts — that is the call out for EMS individuals to actually pick up an inebriate — were reduced by 88 percent.

I mean, that is significant in terms of its savings, Mr. Speaker. Emergency rooms — and I know this individual I was talking to last night had some real concerns with it. She said that emergency room visits had decreased by 92 percent. I don’t know how you can get it any better than that — 92 percent — other than 100 percent, and that would be a nice goal to achieve, but I think 92 percent is significant.

Another interesting factor — by going through these types of inebriate programs, hospital costs decreased by 80 percent. We can see that by going through and looking at some of the task force things that the government has put forward in their motion could have some significant reductions to overall costs, not to mention the by-products of perhaps rehabilitating some of the inebriates and getting them off programs and making them a valuable part of the community again.

The last one, which I thought was interesting, was that they actually had an arrest decrease of 58 percent. Now, a 58-percent decrease compared to the 92 percent of hospital visits is still a significant number because not everybody is taken and put into holding tanks to get them sobered up, but I think we need to look at these issues in their entirety, Mr. Speaker.

The original motion, as amended — but I’m not probably going to be referring to the amendments — calls for forming a multi-disciplinary task force of front-line agencies. I would encourage the government to ensure that not only the senior officials from the list are included on it, but that those down in the trenches and those working in the hospitals and the emergency wards and those the police are dealing with on the street have some input into this whole task force. I think it is appropriate.

I would like to just talk a little bit about, actually, the task force itself. In my research, I came across a public inebriate task force report of 2010, so it is current. It is actually out of the State of Vermont, and it does a pretty good job of explaining what some of the outcomes are that we can expect from this task force. I am not going to suggest that we don’t do the task force, although I think that if we do a little bit of research, certainly we could come across a lot of the solutions that have already been identified.

We always look for made-in-Yukon solutions, and I think in doing that, we might be able to come up with some of the unique problems we have. Vermont, although it has winter there, doesn’t necessarily have the same winter we have, Mr. Speaker.

What was of interest was that it was largely laid out, in some ways, the same as the current motion we have in that it was tabled in their Legislative Assembly. They created a task force. I’m not going to go through it because I only have 20 minutes. It was made up of a list similar to the list that they had, but in fact I believe there was something in the neighbourhood of almost 30 individuals who comprised their task force. The task force was actually created in 2007, so they have been at it for three years.

If we can accomplish the same in six months, then I think we could be commended for achieving that, because they have spent the time and they have done the hard work to find out. The vision they had — and I will just read it: “Vermont aims to create an accountable community-based system of screening, services and supports that connects public inebriates with needed services. This system will be composed of a continuum of timely, interconnected and coordinated components with multiple entry points and appropriate placement options throughout the state in the form of social detox and shelter beds.”

What was really interesting as I read through this report was that they identified four domains or areas that needed to be covered. What was really identified was that the whole state had to participate. Those counties that didn’t participate were brought onboard after the task force. They set this up statewide and it turned out to be a fairly productive and fairly useful process.

The four domains of concern that originated were a “Lack of cohesive statewide standardized care policies” — and I alluded to that just a moment ago; they brought it forward and made it statewide. “Insufficient distinction between four groups of inebriates with divergent needs” — I’m going to talk a little bit about that more specifically here because it’s important to look at chronic inebriates or — what was the term? — “acutely intoxicated persons” fall into actually four different types of groups. They aren’t all the same. Then the other two points were: “Lack of regionalized placement options for persons in need of services” and “The impact of last year’s change in Statute, prohibiting public inebriates from being lodged at Department of Corrections facilities after July 1, 2011”

They passed a law that says, “As of July 1, 2011, we will no longer incarcerate chronic inebriates.” That’s a progressive step. They’re saying they don’t belong in jail, or at least the ones they were referring to who don’t fit the standard or category — the four domains — would not be going.

They had a number of recommendations and I’m going to come back to the actual recommendations, but I want to talk a bit about these improvement domains. One was a cohesive standardized care policy. The problem was a lack of cohesiveness statewide, so the state took on the whole project and said, “We’re going to do this statewide. We’re not going to leave it at the county level or within interjurisdictional levels”, and that’s fairly significant.

Then he talked about appropriate triage for services across the state. “Insufficient distinction between the four groups of inebriates with divergent needs.” They identified four different types. Of those, one was, “Inebriated, but not incapacitated persons: no mandate for services under the statute.”

The second was “Medically unstable, due to physical or mental issues, or co-occurring diagnosis: need mental or mental health placement.” So you see the difference between a person who gets inebriated everyday and needs help and someone who may have mental health issues that compound or in fact may even be part of the reason they continue to drink. Then they talked about incapacitated — and there are two groups of “Incapacitated, medically stable, and cooperative persons: main-

tained at supervised public inebriate shelter bed.” So if you are incapacitated and you’ve had too much to drink but you are medically stable and you are a cooperative person then you could be put into a public shelter that has a bed in which to sober up. Then they talked about “Incapacitated, medically stable and also exhibiting aggressive, uncooperative, and/or unpredictable behavior: protective custody should be available as a placement option of last resort.” So we see that, in fact, we have four different types of individuals who may fall into these acutely intoxicated persons at risk and that is why I brought up “may be harming themselves or others”, because some aren’t and some don’t need the level of care that others deserve.

I think it’s important and perhaps the task force can identify those individuals.

Also, the third domain was regionally appropriate placement options, “...Lack of comprehensive, regionalized placement options for all groups in need of services. In areas with placement options (social detoxification and shelter beds), the diversion rates can be as high as 80%, whereas in areas without such options they linger...” around nine percent. They go up a little bit higher but you can see we have nine percent on one hand, if you don’t do anything, and 80 percent on the other, so clearly intervention is something that should be looked at here.

The last one is what they call inebriate statutes, and they refer to “...No entity outside of ...Corrections ... has been identified as having the statutory authority to establish a secure placement. The percentage of persons entering the system who are actually in need of secure placement is significantly lower than the current number of placements would suggest.” In other words, there are very few people who actually need to be put into place. So it’s important that if you’re going to be belligerent or difficult to deal with, it may be that you’ll be placed where you’re not going to be able to harm yourself or others. That should be looked at.

It says “Ensure that persons meeting all of the following criteria are referred to Corrections.” So, they have identified individuals who could, in fact, go into Corrections, if they’re going to be acting that way. Lastly, as I said a few minutes ago — and I know I’m running out of time here — I’d like to just touch briefly on the recommendations of this particular task force.

I know the minister’s going to be really anxious to get these and perhaps later I’ll refer the document to the member, because clearly they’ve done a lot of the hard work and they’ve identified it, and it might make this current task force go easier, and certainly within the time frame that has been selected, if they do that. The recommendations were to “Ensure individuals that are incapacitated are appropriately screened at each stage of the process in all areas of the state, leading to appropriate triage for services and community based diversion resources.” Here it is all-encompassing, but you have to fit into this criteria — one of the four stages and you will get the appropriate treatment. “Provide adequate training to law enforcement, corrections, emergency department personnel, first responders, public inebriate screeners, and treatment providers to ensure uniform procedures are observed throughout” the state.

I think that should be a goal that we have; that everybody is trained in the same way, so that they are all dealt with in the same manner. Provide a screening capacity in the county — well, they referred to an area that doesn’t have screening. I have already suggested that we look at having it throughout, so I’ll pass on that particular point, but it is important that any county or any part of the Yukon that doesn’t have adequate facilities get those facilities.

Allocate sufficient resources to meet the standard of care by screening social detox and shelter beds and secure placement beds for the population, as indicated in domain II. Regionally appropriate capacity for follow-up treatment, as needed, could be met by nine two-bed public inebriate bed units at an estimated \$180,000 per unit. And then amend the previously enacted legislation to restrict the use of corrections facilities to house only those incapacitated persons meeting all of the criteria identified in the improvement domain — those are the people who are belligerent or difficult to get along with and socially hard to manage.

We see that from time to time. If we look at the acutely intoxicated individuals, we will see that they are truly individuals and they need to be dealt with individually throughout the whole process. I think it’s important that we achieve this goal. Then the nurse who stopped me last night said, “You need to talk to us; we have solutions to these problems; this issue needs to be solved and needs to be solved fast.” If we can do that then we can certainly accomplish the goal of reducing this problem and creating a whole and well community.

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: Mr. Speaker, I just felt it was important for me to say a few words with regard to this motion and I do not have to research this topic. I lived it for many years, so I know what I’m talking about. I know what it’s like to be a chronic alcoholic, as I started using alcohol probably at the age of almost nine years old until the age of 32, so I know what it’s about and I know what it’s like to wake up sick every day, wishing you were dead. I know what it’s like to wander from day to day and wonder if this is going to be the day you die.

What are we looking for? Another drink. I know what it is like to wake up with a hangover and look for another drink so you don’t have to go through the sickness of sobering up. I know what that feels like.

I also have to disagree with the Member for Porter Creek South because, without any discredit to any professionals, if they knew the solutions, we wouldn’t have this problem today. It is as simple as that.

I also want to state that I feel sad sometimes when I think about all of my friends from grade 9 who aren’t here today. I have at least five friends from the grade 9 class who are not here today and they died from alcohol abuse. Some froze to death. Some were killed in car accidents. Some drowned. Some committed suicide. That is about the only solution we had as a chronic alcoholic — death. That was the only answer and it seems like the only logical one when you are suffering from alcohol addiction.

There is not much of a light out there for people who are suffering from this addiction. I want to say today that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and I'm part of the proof, standing here today in this Legislative Assembly.

I got help; and it was through traditional knowledge, values and beliefs. It was through traditional teachings that I am here today. Otherwise I believe my life would have ended at the age of 32, when I quit drinking, because I was so near to death then that I was doomed to die — I would have said, probably within two days of the day I sobered up. I don't think I had much longer than that.

So it's fortunate that I'm here today to be able to speak to this, to be able to say to everyone out there who's listening today that there is hope; and as long as the governments of the day are willing to take these kinds of bold steps, to face these issues head on and be sincere about what they want to do, there will be hope for a lot of the people who have extinguished all hope of ever recovering from anything.

I know I might have sounded like a broken record to a lot of people over the last 30 years and all my pleas for a land-based treatment centre to deal with addictions, because I know that's where it's at. I know that it's going to be something that's going to be very popular in this territory. I'm very pleased to be a part of it with the Yukon Party and Kwanlin Dun taking on this challenge, because it's a big one. I know that the rewards are going to be great. They're going to give people in this territory the opportunity to make a conscious choice of whether or not they want to straighten their lives out. Even to be able to think that there is actually going to be a place in the Yukon that a lot of the healing can take place is a good thing.

I know that over the past years the conventional system has not worked. I know a lot of people who went to treatment Outside but never went through the whole program. I know that there was a lot of criticism over the years of why should we have First Nation things in the treatment centre?

I say that you need to look around at all the institutions that are full of First Nation people, like jails and a lot of the children who are in care. We have to have a strong voice in how we deal with this issue of addictions.

Sometimes it takes a tragedy to make this happen. We had two of them, the two gentlemen who passed away. It's a sad thing that that had to happen. But in our traditional way, we believe — and I strongly believe this as an elder — that they gave up their life so that something positive can happen. That's the way I view it. It's sad that it happened, but there is always a positive to everything so negative as that. If there is something put in place that's going to deal with the acute alcoholism problem that we have, then their lives are not gone for nothing.

Another traditional belief that we have is that a lot of the people who suffer from addictions give up a normal life so that others can see what addictions can do to you — spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally. So I know that for many years a lot of First Nation people wanted to be able to deal with these issues but just have not had the opportunity or the means to do it. I believe that it is getting very close.

I know I have met several times with the Kwanlin Dun steering committee, which is actively putting a program together today. They have a rough draft done. I have reviewed it. I feel happy when I see it. It makes me feel really good to see something put on paper that I believe is going to work. I think something everybody must realize and understand and appreciate is that addictions are across the board; they are not specific to any particular race. It is right across the board. Anyone can suffer from it and everyone has suffered from it.

So I do support this motion and I'm very pleased that it has come to the floor. I'm sad about the deaths that took place, but I'm happy that this positive initiative is going to transpire from that. Thank you.

Speaker: If the minister now speaks, he'll close debate. Does any other member wish to be heard?

Hon. Mr. Hart: I'd like to thank all the members in the House for their comments with regard to this motion. Again, it's a very sad state that we're in with regard to this motion, but we feel that it's a very positive process in which we can move forward and try to look for a solution to prevent similar situations happening in the future.

There were a couple of comments made from some members. I'd just like to briefly go over a few of them, and then do a quick wrap-up. I did state earlier in my comments that public inebriation carries many costs to society. The biggest single cost associated with alcohol addiction is the health care system. That includes acute care for the hospital, emergency services, hospitalization, doctor fees, drug fees, and everything else associated with treatment of substance abuse.

We also recognize that alcohol dependence that we see is in a very small segment of the population and it's not just simply a justice problem. Alcoholism, or alcohol dependence, must be restated as a health issue and a societal issue, one that cannot be viewed or solved in isolation, and not one that is fundamentally criminal. I did indicate that in my opening address with regard to dealing with the issue on a societal basis, as well as an individual basis, and it being a non-criminal issue.

There were also some other issues with regard to inclusion. I did indicate we would be looking at all the studies that already were completed previously here in the Yukon, also in Anchorage. We're also looking at the other facilities. The member opposite came up with an example of one. I'm sure we'll also be looking into that one as well.

The task force is well aware of the information that is out there. They are also well aware of the time limit in which they have to work. I also indicated previously that we need to talk earlier to our doctors, our nurses and our counsellors.

We need to involve thoughtful people at the local and national level, First Nation governments, the City of Whitehorse, social agencies and front-line workers who are involved with the individuals with severe alcohol problems and addictions. I did indicate we were dealing with those and I also indicated that we will be having interviews with those who are affected by alcohol addiction. I did indicate that in my first process.

We need to scope out the programming. The Leader of the Official Opposition talked about legislation. I said we need to look at the scope of programming, legislation that exists and the legislation we might need to put into place in order that the current best practices and the control of access to cheap intoxicants are there, that we can control that aspect. Now, that is in there. It's very explicit. I tried to make it as — just for the members opposite, I thought I would retouch on that.

I will wrap up, though, by saying that, again, I am generally very happy with the comments made by the members opposite. I look forward to the results of this task force, as I indicated earlier. I want this task force to have the ability to go out and do its job.

I don't want to infer what process they should use to come back to this Legislature or to me with a report. I want them to give us recommendations and options on what we can do as Yukoners to assist those individuals who are addicted to substances, whether it's alcohol or drugs, and a solution we can come to. I look forward to that report as much as everyone.

The Member for Mount Lorne asked about the availability of the report prior to the sitting in the Legislature. I'm sure that once we are in possession of this report and it has been viewed and we get it cleared through the task force committee, I can probably provide the member opposite with that as soon as possible.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question on the motion as amended?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Hart: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: Agree.

Mr. Nordick: Agree.

Mr. Mitchell: Agree.

Mr. Fairclough: Agree.

Mr. Inverarity: Agree.

Mr. Cardiff: Agree.

Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are 14 yea, nil nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.

Motion No. 1065 agreed to as amended

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Mr. Nordick): Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 20, *First Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We're now in Department of Education, Vote 3. Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Bill No. 20 — *First Appropriation Act, 2010-11* — continued

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 20, *First Appropriation Act, 2010-11*, Vote 3, Department of Education.

Mr. Rouble, you have about 14 minutes left.

Department of Education — *continued*

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, yesterday, as we wrapped up for the afternoon, we were discussing the Hold Fast report from 2007, its recommendation and then recent work done to update the issues concerning this report. Following receipt of the 2007 report, the Department of Education took some significant action on the recommendations that were put forward by the Copper Ridge school advisory group and the consultants who had conducted the work. One of the recommendations that was put forward was that the decision concerning whether or not to build a school in the Copper Ridge area as well as what grade configuration on any potential school it should have, should be delayed for up to five years. That recommendation was agreed upon.

An additional recommendation was that, in order to address the population pressures experienced at Elijah Smith Elementary School, the Department of Education immediately review and revise the school catchments boundaries of Elijah Smith Elementary School and Takhini Elementary School. That was also done.

An additional recommendation was that the Department of Education immediately begin a comprehensive review of all schools in Whitehorse. The review should consider factors including school programs, student population shifts within Whitehorse, as well as determine if, where and when elementary and secondary schools should be constructed. The intent is to ensure that discussions related to one school, such as F.H. Collins, or an area such as Copper Ridge, take into consideration the impacts of all schools in Whitehorse. On that issue, Mr. Chair, that activity and recommendation has also been done.

As a follow-up to the Hold Fast report, the Department of Education also began a comprehensive study of secondary level programming in Whitehorse area schools to plan for future secondary programming facilities.

The document, *One Vision, Multiple Pathways: Secondary School Programming Process Final Report* was released on October 29, 2009. Also, it was recommended that decisions to build, rebuild, or refurbish the schools occur only after the review is complete and a comprehensive long-term plan that addresses Whitehorse's future infrastructure needs has been developed. Hold Fast Consultants also recommended the department combine the review of F.H. Collins Secondary School with the comprehensive review of all schools in Whitehorse. That has also been done.

I should note that following the recommendations from the Hold Fast report, the Government of Yukon undertook the secondary school programming study. That has then led to the work with the building advisory committee that is working with the architects now on the design of the new F.H. Collins replacement school. That, Mr. Chair, is indeed an item in this budget with the \$2.7 million allocation to bring forward the next stage of architectural designs, drafting documents, and all of the planning and design work necessary.

Also, as we concluded yesterday, I made mention of the Demographic Adjustment Advisory Committee that was formed in the last few months. Members will recall that I committed to re-examining the situation of looking at the Copper Ridge area, the population pressures in our schools, and we created the Demographic Adjustment Advisory Committee to do just that. It included the assistant deputy minister of the Public Schools branch, Whitehorse area superintendents, four members of the Association of School Administrators — four principals, if you will — the director of programs and services, facility project managers, four representatives of school councils, representation from Kwanlin Dun and representatives from the City of Whitehorse planning unit.

I put forward the following recommendations: (1) to maintain the present philosophy on attendance areas — the process of working with neighbourhood schools should still be followed with the option of student-parent choice upon request and with approval; (2) that we should develop a three-to-five-year enrolment projection for schools to allow the department to be proactive in efficient use of facilities and to apply the student registration process and procedures to all Whitehorse area schools; (3) to review attendance areas and designate school destination schools for students who cannot be accommodated in their area; (4) to improve management of the Elijah Smith Elementary School attendance area; and (5) regarding the management of the Catholic school system, to include an increase in capacity of Christ the King Elementary School, to approximately 320 students, and to provide options on how to do so by this spring.

Also, they recommended that we take action on the management of transportation systems, including creating a transportation advisory committee to advise the department on improvements. We are continuing to work in this area with the Yukon Association of School Councils, Boards and Commit-

tees and hope to see the transportation advisory committee populated with the appropriate people as soon as possible.

Also, there was a recommendation regarding communication and implementation and that we focus on communication of the revised kindergarten registration and student transfer dates and disseminate this information widely. We have certainly done this — these recommendations have been put forward — and the Department of Education, both from a departmental approach and from a school approach, have responded to this.

We will attempt to accommodate students at Elijah Smith; however, if there is no room, whether it be in a particular class or grade, or coming into kindergarten, they will be redirected to Takhini Elementary. This has been past practice but it has now been formalized and communicated more directly to the public and parents.

Also, parents have been informed of the new kindergarten registration process through rolling ads, through ads in the newspaper and also through public announcements.

We recognize that we have significant unused capacity in some of our Whitehorse-area schools. That has been identified by the Auditor General of Canada. She has recommended that we take a look at fully utilizing the capacity that we have and that, where necessary, we adjust our catchment areas. That has been done in the past.

As well, we will continue to follow these practices in a more proactive nature at a school-based level. We recognize that there are growing areas in Whitehorse. We will continue to take a look at the different school catchment areas. We will closely monitor the enrolment levels and the capacity levels for Whitehorse area schools, and take action where appropriate. We will continue to make this an issue to bring forward to Whitehorse area school councils, including those that are directly affected, such as Elijah Smith, Takhini Elementary and Christ the King. We will continue to look at options that are available to us. Members will recall that we have provided an additional portable at Elijah Smith Elementary School and, where appropriate, we will take additional action.

I can confirm for all members that the department has closely looked at this idea, is closely monitoring all of the student enrolments and is taking appropriate steps necessary to manage Whitehorse's school enrolment in a productive manner for students and in an efficient manner for Yukon taxpayers.

Mr. Mitchell: Well, I appreciate the information the minister has provided. Much of it I was familiar with, but I have to admit that I was not familiar with the Demographic Adjustment Advisory Committee and their recommendations.

It would appear that Hold Fast is an aptly named consultant because basically what they said was to hold fast for five years. However, some things have changed. First of all, I just want to put on the record that a number of members of the original Copper Ridge school advisory group told me that a major consideration for them was that they were concerned because they were told at the time — and I'm not certain whether it was by the department or by the consultant, but they were led to believe that any decision to build a new school anywhere in Copper Ridge, Logan, Granger, Arkell, et cetera

— west of the highway area — would severely impact the cross-cultural experience that exists and is highly valued at Elijah Smith Elementary School. I'm not convinced that is an unavoidable outcome.

One would believe that we could have had two schools if the numbers supported it, each including a cross-cultural experience based on the enrolment in the area.

Be that as it may, some things have changed. One thing that has changed that has been expressed as a concern by some, but not all, parents is that Takhini Elementary, which has been for some years now the overflow school — whether it was officially designated or simply most parents were directed there — now has the single-sex classroom or same-sex classroom experiment in a number of grades. Now some parents find that to be very productive and a good educational experience, but others don't want that experience. So they're in a bind because that is the overflow school.

One possibility might be to see whether some of the students who are currently enrolled in Elijah Smith, whether their families might prefer to enroll them in that particular experience and that might free up spaces in Elijah Smith. I'm just looking toward flexibility, Mr. Chair. That might be one option that would free up some space in the neighbourhood school.

I know that the Member for Whitehorse West has heard this frequently from her constituents. I've heard it from mine. Regardless of the excess capacity elsewhere and recognizing the Auditor General's recommendations, nevertheless it is understandable that parents in an area want to see their children go to school close to home and they want to see them able to play with their next-door neighbours or children who live in the same building, if it is a multi-residential unit. That is only natural that they would want that.

So again, for the minister, it is clear that nothing is going to change overnight. I just want to urge the minister to seek the balance between the need to use the excess capacity elsewhere, which we do understand and appreciate, and the desire for my constituents for more of them to be able to send their children to a neighbourhood school — and it is not simply Copper Ridge; it is also Granger, Arkell, Logan; it was Hillcrest. I think it still is but I'm not certain if children are now being directed elsewhere with the change in catchment area, and obviously McIntyre as well.

With that, I will allow the minister to respond and again, I recognize that there has been a lot of time spent on it. One thing the minister could clarify when he's on feet, when he talks about the transportation advisory committee, there used to be a Whitehorse area school busing advisory subcommittee of the parent advisory councils.

I served on that, actually, for a period of time in the mid-1990s. Is this a successor committee to that? Is this something that has a different mandate, or is this simply the same idea? With that, I will let the minister respond.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, I will address the member's last question first.

Unfortunately, recent busing committees have not been active. We are doing our best to re-engage parents and our Association of School Councils, Boards and Committees members

to again re-engage in looking at issues regarding busing. By the same token, we have been engaging with members of the Yukon Association of School Councils, Boards and Committees on a number of different issues, whether issues such as the demographic adjustment or the staffing allocation or the secondary school programming review. We have been working very closely with this very dedicated group of volunteers. We certainly appreciate that there are only so many of them who have a finite amount of time. We will continue to work to engage them on a school busing committee, because it is an issue that affects all schools in Yukon.

I believe 60 percent of Yukon students are involved in taking a bus. That is certainly one of the challenges that we, as a fairly small jurisdiction face — small by population standards, that is, but large by geographic areas. Even in the City of Whitehorse, which has the greatest population density, it is a challenge — and I would suggest an almost impossible challenge — to have the breadth of school opportunities that parents are looking for always within walking distance of an individual's residence.

It would be a challenge to have a public school and a Catholic school and a French first language school and a French immersion school or a school with a particular focus on a particular program all within walking distance to all students all of the time, especially given the nature of Whitehorse — the layout of the city — where it has seen changing population trends in the different subdivisions throughout the community.

We recognize that these changes in demographics are a normal part of neighbourhood developments. When we put in infrastructure, we do have to look at the long-term needs of the whole community and the population projections for the whole community long into the future.

Building a school is a very optimistic endeavour to undertake. Not only is it a commitment to individuals' education and to the growth of students, but it's also a commitment to the community. I think that was certainly evident when we opened the school in Carmacks a number of years ago. While being involved in students' graduation is a tremendous honour for the Minister of Education, it is not quite as exciting and optimistic as being involved in school openings, because that's certainly a commitment to the future and one that I look forward to in the very near future with the Dawson City and Pelly Crossing campuses of Yukon College, I'm also looking forward to upcoming groundbreaking ceremonies for the F.H. Collins replacement project.

The member is correct when he mentioned that there was a fear that was conveyed from the Copper Ridge school advisory group of what would be an impact on Elijah Smith Elementary School if there was a new school that was put in the neighbourhood and how the different natures of those schools would translate into the culture and the feeling of the community school. That was an important point to take into consideration.

I have had other parents call me and say they wanted to have their students attend Elijah Smith because they felt that was the First Nation school in the Whitehorse area. It has certainly been the effort, direction and the hope of the Department of Education to build all schools throughout the Yukon to be

engaging for First Nation students, to recognize that there are many students of First Nation ancestry at all of our schools.

In fact, I don't have the statistics in front of me, but I think in the breakdown of students attending Takhini Elementary School, there might actually be a greater number of First Nation students there or students of First Nation ancestry than as a percentage of the population at Elijah Smith Elementary School. Unfortunately, I don't have those statistics at my fingertips, so I can't confirm that. What we are doing is working to build awareness of First Nation culture, language, histories and traditions into the curriculum of all schools. It is an important part of who we are as Yukoners. I don't want to see a day where we identify one school as "that is the First Nation school." I would like to see all schools welcoming all students. But the member is correct. That was a fear that was brought forward by the advisory group and one of the considerations that was certainly taken into account by the variety of people that we have had involved in these areas.

We do take the input that we have received from our advisory groups and from organizations such as the Auditor General — and their assessments — very seriously. We will continue to carefully monitor this situation and make the changes that are appropriate.

For example, if that means specific tweakings of catchment areas or looking at where new subdivisions go in and how that will affect the mix, we do our best to ensure that the students that are attending schools are grandfathered in there. We certainly try to accommodate families that have older children already in the school. That is an important consideration. Then, if there are parents who do feel that their child would be served better by attending a different school, then the process is for them to then write a letter to the Department of Education requesting that their child go to the different school. We then check to see if there is capacity at that school and if they can be accommodated in that school. Often there are discussions back and forth with the school administrator. We try to work with parents wherever we can, in order to find appropriate solutions that meet the needs of their children. We do recognize that having the freedom to go to schools other than the specific school in the catchment area does create some challenges, but that is the situation we face.

We have certainly tried to work with a variety of people to overcome those challenges, as they're presented before us.

Mr. Fairclough: The minister said the catchment areas for the schools will be tweaked again this year. I would just like to know when that's going to be done and when the public will be notified as to the changes, so they can make decisions for their children.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Are you speaking about in the future? In the future, that is one area that we could look at to re-define. We don't have any plans today to make additional changes to the catchment areas; however, that is one of the aspects that we would look at in the future to ensure we have an efficient use of our school facilities. That is one of the initiatives we have undertaken in recent years — also to increase the population of the Golden Horn Elementary School, for example, which saw a significant decline in student population.

There was a change — past tense — in the catchment area that then allowed other students to attend Golden Horn, which took some of the pressure off of the other schools close by. But in the future, should activities like this be undertaken, they would involve significant discussions with the school, with the school council, with parents or people who have an interest in this. I just mentioned that as a potential area — a tool that could be used in future in order to ensure that we are providing appropriate opportunities for students and that we are responsibly utilizing the facilities we have in our community.

Mr. Fairclough: The minister said this tweaking of the catchment areas would be done sometime in the future. What we're experiencing right now is that some schools are at their capacity. The minister mentioned — I believe the other day or it could even have been on Thursday — that we have a large percentage of reduction in the number of students in some of the schools here in Whitehorse.

I'm just wondering — the department must have plans as to when the tweaking of the catchment areas will take place. If it's not this spring and summer to address the issue in the fall, then are we seeing this throughout next year, 2011? How far down the road before we get adjustments made?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Yes, the member is correct that in the Whitehorse area, with the exception of a couple of schools, Whitehorse schools have somewhere between about a 10 and 45 percent unused capacity. This was highlighted in the Auditor General's report and one of the key recommendations there was to develop appropriate plans in order to best utilize our facilities.

The member will recall that one of the recommendations that I identified that came forward from the Demographic Adjustment Advisory Committee was to develop a three- to five-year enrolment projection for schools to allow the department to be proactive in the efficient use of the facilities. We are doing that work. We are looking at the enrolment projections. If in the future there is a need to change the catchment area, I have already indicated the process that the department would follow. We are not at that stage right now, Mr. Chair, and if it were to happen in the future, we would follow the appropriate steps in communicating the information to those people who are affected by it.

Mr. Fairclough: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am hoping that the debate will get a little more exciting, so that people can stay awake here.

Mr. Chair, I listened to the minister — I believe it was on Thursday, though it could have even been Tuesday — when I asked questions in regard to the francophone school board. The minister said that the school board gave a budget to the department of some \$30 million.

It raised the eyebrows of all the members on this side of the House. We didn't know exactly what was included. I do find that included in that budget is an amount of dollars identified for a high school. I just want to know: what negotiations is the department having with the francophone school board on this? Is there any interest at all in building a new high school, I guess, for the French community? Is this just a budget that has been handed to the minister? I just want him to perhaps correct

the record that the \$30 million plus did include a high school through the francophone school board.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Yes, I will certainly agree. The \$30,323,000 budget that was submitted by the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon certainly did raise some eyebrows.

The Government of Yukon is not in a position to respond as the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon would have liked on this budget. There were a number of different requests or points put forward for consideration, including the creation of a new school community centre that would expand some of the opportunities. However, it should be noted that the Government of Yukon, through the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon and l'École Émilie Tremblay, currently provide kindergarten to grade 12 education, that there is a high school component of l'École Émilie Tremblay, that there has been significant work in recent years to work with the francophone school board and to work with the school to develop programs, such as l'Académie Parhélie, to engage the French first language students, in order to make the school more attractive to high school students.

We have certainly been working very hard and very diligently in the last number of years to provide different options for high school students. There are a number of other issues that have also come forward. Many of these are captured in the litigation that has been brought forward from the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon. We continue to work with the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon to address many of their concerns for the approximately 170 students that do attend l'École Émilie Tremblay. I don't have the number of high school students at my fingertips, but we do have opportunities for French first language high school courses through that school.

Mr. Fairclough: In questioning the minister last week, that information was sent to me from the francophone school board to ensure that in fact the school board was not asking for \$30 million for operation and running their school but, in fact, in the total cost was \$25 million that was going toward the new school.

I just asked the minister whether he is in discussions with the school board. What interest is the minister paying to the school board in having a new school built? Is this something that is far down the road with the minister or is he addressing this with the school board and the federal government? What can we see as far as a commitment from this government toward this new school?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, I am very interested in ensuring that we have quality French first language education here in the territory. This is an issue that the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon has brought forward in their litigation. It is a matter that is currently before the courts and, as such, we will honour the court process and continue to work through that in order to reach conclusion on this and other matters.

Mr. Fairclough: I thank the minister for that answer. I've only got a couple more questions. To continue on with languages, I heard the minister talk about the department's

commitment to ensuring aboriginal languages in the schools. Perhaps the minister could let us know which schools do not have aboriginal language instruction. I think the minister has been notified, either by the principal or parents of students that go to Jack Hulland, that there is an interest in having aboriginal language instruction for the students there. It is presently not there in the school. Can the minister advise whether or not the department is going to work to ensure aboriginal language instruction is given at Jack Hulland Elementary School, and whether or not the minister has dealt with this issue already, and what can we expect for the upcoming school year?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, as I've said a couple of times, we endeavour to ensure that Yukon schools are representative of the Yukon communities they are in, and to ensure that we are working to educate Yukon students about Yukon's history, language, culture and social structures.

Yukon First Nation languages are an important part of the school component in the majority of Yukon schools. The list I have is not quite in the order the member opposite is looking for. I have the list of schools that do have the program. We have Tlingit courses being taught in Teslin and Ghùch Tlà in Carcross. We have Gwich'in language courses being taught in three courses in Chief Zzeh Gittlit in Old Crow, F.H. Collins and Porter Creek Secondary, here in Whitehorse. We have three Northern Tutchone courses being taught in Eliza Van Bibber School in Pelly Crossing, Tantalus School in Carmacks and J.V. Clark School in Mayo. We have one Han course offered in Robert Service School in Dawson City. We have Kaska taught in three schools, including Johnson Elementary School and Watson Lake Secondary School in Watson Lake and the Ross River School in Ross River. Southern Tutchone is taught in the St. Elias Community School in Haines Junction, Elijah Smith Elementary School, F.H. Collins Secondary School, Porter Creek Secondary School, Selkirk Elementary School, Takhini Elementary School and Whitehorse Elementary School.

We have a Southern Tutchone program that is pending for the Hidden Valley school and an Upper Tanana program is at Nelna Bessie John school in Beaver Creek. Of the Yukon First Nation languages, unfortunately we do not have a Tagish program offered. I understand that a school council has recently brought the issue of enhancing or bringing First Nation language courses to Jack Hulland school and the Department of Education is working with the school administrator on that. I understand that the First Nations Programs and Partnerships unit, which is a very important division within the Department of Education, is also involved and that we are working collaboratively with the school and the school council to look at the appropriate way of addressing that in that school.

Mr. Fairclough: I can send that information to those who have asked me to ask this question of the minister.

The Yukon achievement tests are being written right now in some, but not all, of the schools this week. There were discussions about gearing these achievement tests to Yukon. I'm wondering how many changes have taken place and whether or not we can expect, I guess, improvements in our performance of Yukon students as a result of this?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Yes, Mr. Chair, the Yukon achievement tests, or YAT as they're commonly referred to, are being administered now. These are standardized summative assessments that we use with Yukon students. These originate from Alberta and are given to students in grade 3, 6 and 9. The tests measure the performance of students' language, art and math.

It is just one of the methods that is used to gauge the progress of our students. It is always a challenge when one looks at one particular test or one particular instrument in isolation. I have often cautioned people in the past about basing their thoughts or opinions just on the outcome of one test. While testing is important, an assessment is important, and having some standardization of some of the expectations of educational outcomes are important, I also believe that it is important not to specifically teach to a certain test, that there are certainly other aspects of education that are also important to convey in the classroom.

There are the other issues of the meta-curriculum, if you will, that need to be addressed. Having said that, it certainly does not diminish the importance of literacy and mathematics skills. We will continue to use these tests.

It is an important tool that we can use to measure the progress of students in a longitudinal way from going from grade 3 to 6 to 9 and look at the impacts that different programs have had on their results. For example, we are now starting to see some of the impacts of having full-day kindergarten, impacts such as expansion of Wilson Reading or Reading Recovery program, and we can use these longitudinal studies to look at those kinds of impacts as students go through their educational career.

The department staff continues to use these as an important tool in order to make changes to curriculum, to make other recommendations for school programming issues, and also in an effort to learn from the results of the testing that we do in order to make changes to increase the educational outcomes for all students.

Chair: Any further general debate?

Seeing none, we'll proceed line by line in Vote 3.

Mr. Fairclough: I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 3, Department of Education, cleared or carried, as required.

Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 3, Department of Education, cleared or carried

Chair: Mr. Fairclough has requested unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 3, Department of Education, 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 \$129,503,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$11,910,000 agreed to

Department of Education agreed to

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I move that we report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. Taylor that Committee of the Whole report progress.

Motion agreed to

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

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I now call the House to order.

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

Chair's report

Mr. Nordick: Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 20, *First Appropriation Act, 2010-11*, and directed me to report progress.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I move that the House do now adjourn.

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

Motion agreed to

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

The House adjourned at 5:26 p.m.